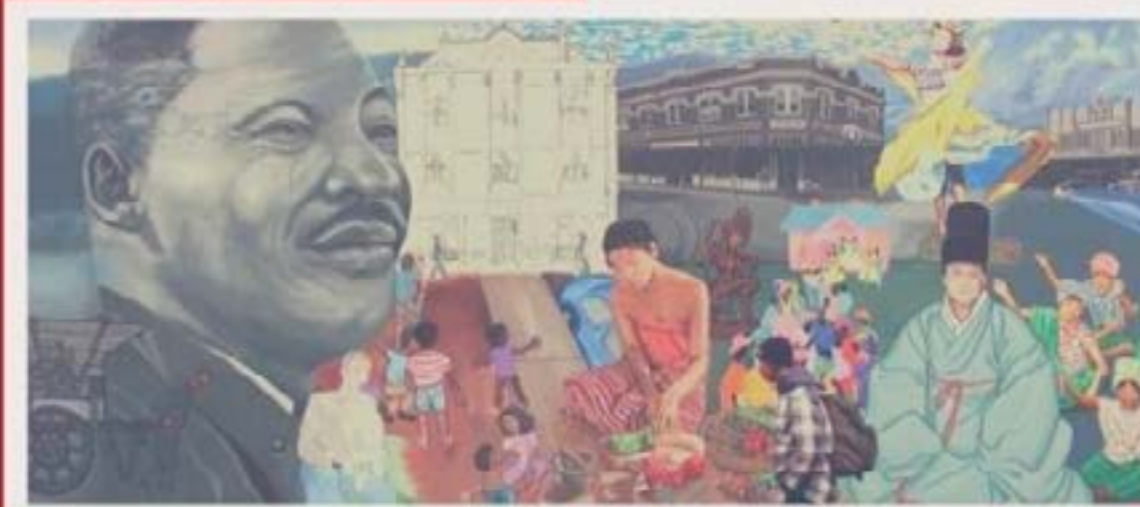


HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL

Aug-Sep 2020 | Hilltop Action Coalition | Volunteer Organized | Digital Copy at www.hilltopactioncoalition.org

Hilltop Business Crawl



Vote
for the People's
Choice Award!

Support
local Businesses
& WIN Prizes!

August 22-23, 2020

Brought to you by the Tacoma Housing Authority and Hilltop Action Coalition in partnership with The Community Market.

Here comes the Hilltop Business Crawl! The Crawl is an opportunity to connect with and support local Hilltop businesses and vendors impacted by Tacoma Hilltop Link Construction and COVID-19. The Crawl will spotlight businesses along MLK Jr. Way and S 11th ST and will also feature hand-made goods, artwork and food in vendor areas.

Community members will use the Hilltop Business Crawl Passport to engage with participating locations. Visit a business, show your support, and receive a 'Stamp' on your Passport. Once you have 4 stamps, return to Hilltop Action Coalition

and turn in your passport to win great raffle prizes from participating businesses! You'll also have the chance to vote for your favorite business for the People's Choice Award! Raffle Prizes will be drawn at the September 21st, HAC Monthly Community Meeting, via Facebook Live. HAC will also announce the People's Choice Awardee at this meeting.

To participate, cut out the Passport from the journal; print a passport online at www.activatehilltop.org; or pick up your passport at Hilltop Action Coalition anytime between 10am and 4pm on August 22nd or 23rd.

For more information, visit www.activatehilltop.org or <https://www.facebook.com/ActivateHilltop/>. All participants are asked to wear a face mask and stay socially distanced while participating. Come by and pick up free face masks, sanitizer and bottled water at the Hilltop Action Coalition office. Spin the Prize Wheel for a chance to win a Hilltop Business Crawl T-Shirt (logo below) or Hilltop Action Coalition coffee mug. The first 25 community members that come to HAC for their Passport on Aug 22nd and 23rd will receive a FREE Hilltop Business Crawl tote bag!



Hilltop Business Crawl Passport

How to participate:

1. Pick Up Your Passport at Hilltop Action Coalition office or print at home from activatehilltop.org
2. Visit Participating Hilltop Businesses on August 22nd & 23rd.
3. Collect 4 Stamps on passport & vote for your favorite business below.
4. Return Passport with contact info filled out to HAC office during Crawl hours, Sat/Sun 10am-4pm

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1 Hilltop Action Coalition
1116 Earnest S Brazill St
Sat & Sun
10am-4pm | 2 Mr. MAC's LTD
1124 MLK Jr Way
Sat & Sun
12pm-6pm | 3 Sam & Terry's Barbershop
11124 MLK Jr Way
Sat 9am-5pm
Sun-Closed | 4 Red Elm Cafe
1114 MLK Jr Way
Sat 7am-3pm
Sun 8am-3pm |
| 5 Love by the Slice
1112 S 11th ST
Sat & Sun
10am-2pm | 6 Lavonne's Room
1120 S 11th ST
Sat & Sun
12pm-5pm | 7 The Eleven Eleven
1111 S 11th ST
Sat & Sun
11am-8pm | 8 Hill-Top Loan Pawn Shop
1101 S 11th ST
Sat & Sun
12pm-5pm |
| 9 Manifesto Coffee
1003 S 11th ST
Sat & Sun
7am-5pm | 10 Goodfellas Barbers
1001 S 11th ST
Sat & Sun
8am-6pm | 11 Clarkcomm Wireless
913 S 11th ST
Sat 11am-8pm
Sun-Closed | 12 Bob's Bar-B-Q Pit
911 S 11th ST
Sat 11am-8pm
Sun-Closed |
| 13 Grit City Ciderworks
1016 MLK Jr Way
Sat & Sun
11am-10pm | 14 Johnson's Candy Company
924 MLK Jr Way
Sat & Sun
11am-3pm | 15 The TSM Shop
920 MLK Jr Way
Sat & Sun
12pm-4pm | 16 THA Vendor Area
902 S L ST
Sat & Sun
10am-4pm |
| 17 Tacoma's #1 Fried Rice
1201 S 11th ST
Sat 11am-7pm
Sun-Closed | 18 FAB-5 Vendor Area
1120 S 11th ST
Sat & Sun
10am-4pm | 19 Fish House Cafe
1814 MLK Jr Way
Sat 11am-4pm
Sun-Closed | 20 Hilltop Walking Tour
Stamp available at HAC - 1116 Earnest S Brazill ST |

Hilltop Business Crawl

Favorite Business Award _____
 Name _____ Phone _____
 Email _____ Zip Code _____

One Passport per Family. Raffle Prizes and Awardee to be announced September 21st at 6pm during the HAC Monthly Community Meeting. Social distancing and masks are required in all Crawl locations.



Liz Ellis, Community Outreach Specialist with Sound Transit, shares construction updates, photographs, and information about the Loyal to the Local Program - see page 4 to find out more!

"Thank You"
 Sound Transit for your Boss
 Level Sponsorship for the
 Hilltop Business Crawl!



Join Us

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

Meet your neighbors and become part of the Hilltop Community. Say "Hello!" to friends! Each month, we feature local, special guests and provide information about community events, activities, policy, and important news. Until COVID-19 has passed, monthly meetings will be held virtual via Facebook Live.



President's Message

By Brendan Nelson

Hilltop Family,

With the rest of the nation and the world, we have been reeling with the fast-paced turn of events as we all manage the national health pandemic created by the spread of COVID-19. Like most other places, Hilltop Action Coalition is finding new ways to be in community, to be together, and to uphold one another and our work. Our hearts are breaking as we witness the fall-out from the effects of the pandemic on our communities. We are holding so much in our hearts and minds.

We are holding the worry of those who are sick and the sorrow of those who have already lost a loved one to this virus both here and abroad.

We are holding parents and caregivers at home with their kids, managing the tension between supporting their children's learning and just wanting to make sure they feel safe and loved in an unprecedented time.

We are holding all of the teachers and school administrators and education leaders who are trying to figure out how to support children and families, and how to do so equitably.

We are holding the gravity of the reality that in this moment of collective trauma and crisis, the negative effects are experienced much more drastically by those who are already vulnerable in our society, those in poverty, immigrants, the undocumented, people of color, Indigenous peoples, those with

disabilities, those without safe and loving family structures. This crisis is exposing the extreme gaps in our society and the deep and abiding obligation we have to put things right.

We are trying to hold that there are also remarkable responses unfolding, as we push ourselves not be paralyzed by a state of despair. As our daily lives are rapidly reconfiguring, how can we be self-determining in the reconfiguration? We need to hold the devastating impacts of this moment, and can we also reach for what might be possible that wasn't visible before.

We are thinking about these questions, and have been working hard to support our community, and consider what role we will play in meeting some of the very important needs of businesses, residents, schools and families that are pressing and urgent.

We hope that you and your loved ones are well, and we are more committed more than ever to do our work in a way that supports learning and thriving of all Hilltop residents, businesses and institutions.

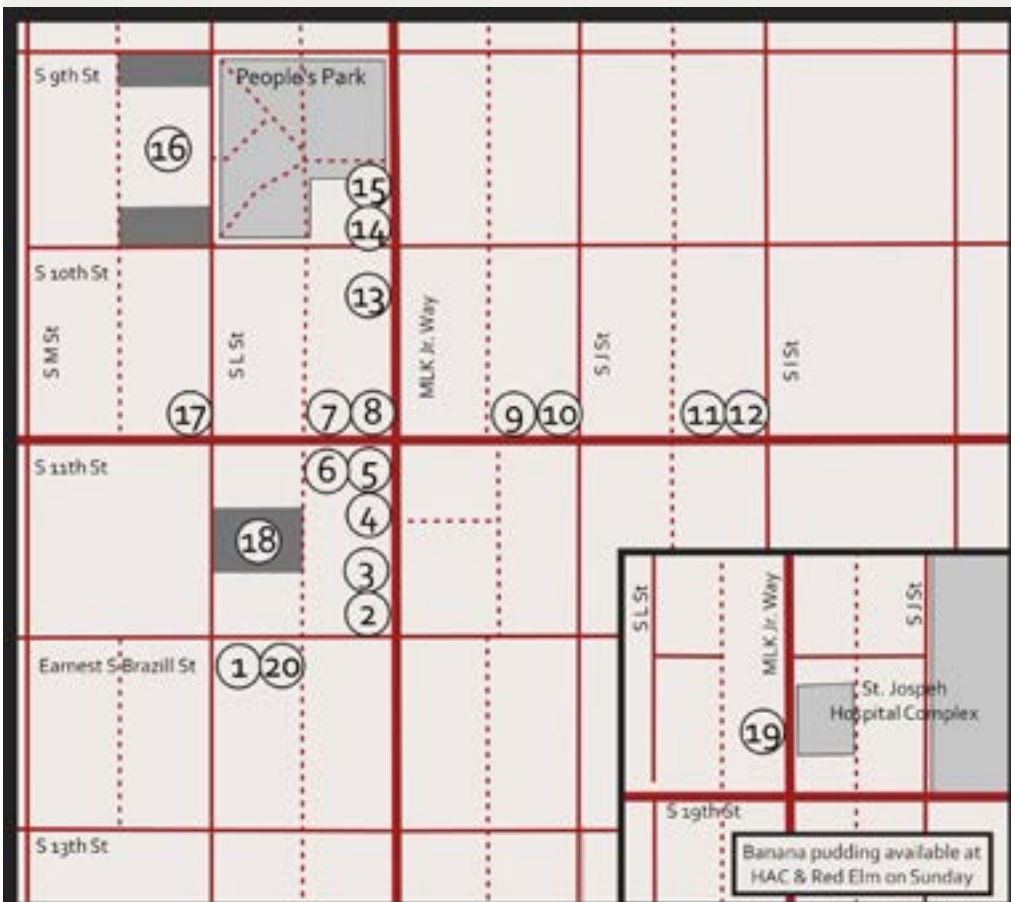
Please reach out to us with thoughts and ideas on how we can continue to move forward. We all need each other during this time.

Peace and Love,

Brendan Nelson
President, Hilltop Action Coalition



Hilltop Business Crawl Map



- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Hilltop Action Coalition | 6. Lavonne's Room | 11. Clarkcomm Wireless | 16. THA Vendor Area |
| 2. Mr. MAC's LTD | 7. The Eleven Eleven | 12. Bob's Bar-B-Q Pit | 17. #1 Fried Rice |
| 3. Sam & Terry's Barbershop | 8. Hill-Top Loans Pawn Shop | 13. Grit City Ciderworks | 18. FAB-5 Vendor Area |
| 4. Red Elm Cafe | 9. Manifesto Coffee | 14. Johnson's Candy | 19. Fish House Cafe |
| 5. Love by the Slice | 10. Goodfellas Barbers | 15. The TSM Shop | 20. Hilltop Walking Tour |



The Hilltop Business Crawl Passport Map

Support Your Local Businesses!

The Hilltop Business Crawl is for everyone! Get your Passport and visit the businesses and vendors anytime over the two days. Come alone or with members of your household to make it a family treat.

Visit participating businesses along Martin Luther King Jr Blvd and the designated vendor areas in the Hilltop Neighborhood on August 22nd and 23rd. Find businesses on your Map and have them stamp or sign your Passport to win prizes!

Cut out your passport, download and print your passport at home, or visit the Hilltop Action Coalition office at 1116 Earnest S Brazill St. anytime between 10am and 4pm on August 22nd or 23rd to pick up a printed copy to use.

How to participate:

- 1. Pick Up Your Passport** at Hilltop Action Coalition on Aug 22nd or 23rd
- 2. Visit Participating Hilltop Businesses** on Aug 22nd or 23rd and collect stamps
- 3. Collect 4 stamps** and return your passport to Hilltop Action Coalition to be entered in the Hilltop Business Raffle

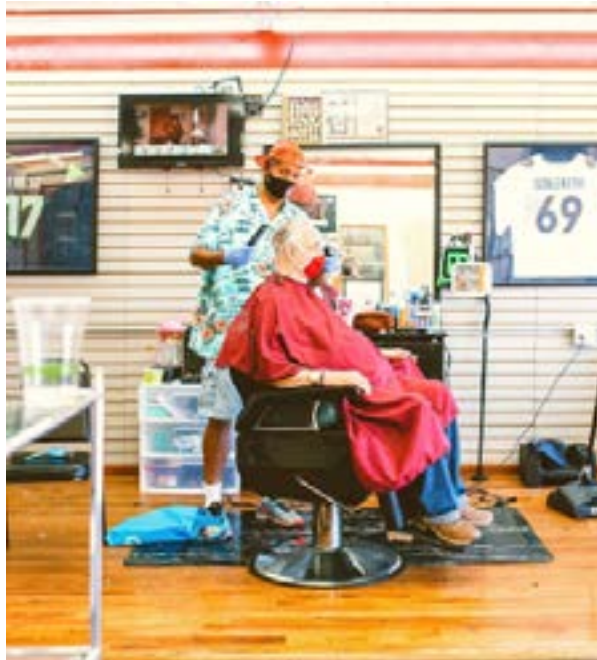
Don't forget to vote for your favorite business for the People's Choice Award!

All participants are asked to wear a face mask and stay socially distanced while participating. You can also pick up free face masks and bottled water at the Hilltop Action Coalition office.

Find HAC on Instagram!

HAC Intern Stephon Graves, Student at University of Washington Tacoma, has helped launch hilltop_action_coalition to help reach younger audiences in the Hilltop.

Follow HAC at [https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/1013132081/hilltop-action-coalition/!](https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/1013132081/hilltop-action-coalition/)



Sam and Terry's Barbershop is the place to go for a great haircut and conversation! Stop by to say, "Hello," during the Hilltop Business Crawl! Follow them at <https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/252388642096904/sam-terrys-barbershop/>.

When Carol Wolfe, with City of Tacoma Economic Development, heard that Hilltop Action Coalition was reaching out to local business with a marketing plan to fill the void left by the canceled Hilltop Street-fair, she connected HAC with Effie Gurmeza and the funds to pay for services. Effie is a Brand Photographer and Social Media Strategist and is working with Hilltop Business Crawl participants with Instagram marketing as a bonus for being involved in The Crawl. Check out @[effiegurmeza](https://www.instagram.com/effiegurmeza) to complete a social media strategy worksheet.



Brendan Nelson, HAC Board President, and Aaliyah Walton, HAC Intern and Hilltop Action Journalist, sit down for a refreshing drink while talking about impacts of Link construction and Covid-19 on Hilltop businesses.



Meet Brendan A. Nelson, a Nationally Certified Nonprofit Professional with nearly 20 years of experience working in the education and nonprofit sectors. He is particularly effective at ensuring ongoing collaboration and accountability with young adults and community members. He has served his community in a variety of roles, such as the Co-Chair of the Hilltop Engagement Committee, Vice-Chair of the City Events and Recognitions, and is currently President of the Hilltop Action Coalition.



Come visit Johnson Candy Company during the Hilltop Business Crawl August 22nd and 23rd. Complete your Crawl Passport and enter to win a 2 lb. box of chocolates! Follow us at <https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/4039708/johnson-candy-company/>.

HAC Virtual Meetings

Shifting how we meet in COVID.

Brendan Nelson and Alyssa Torrez, HAC Board Members, are hosting Virtual Monthly Community Meetings and Weekly Updates via Facebook Live during the COVID-19 pandemic. Join the Hilltop Action Coalition - That's You! - on Mondays at 6:00 PM and find out what's going on in your Hilltop Neighborhood! Say "Hello" to friends, and stay socially connected. See you this Monday at 6:00 PM on Facebook!

HAC Virtual Meeting Library

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition/>, and check out some of the new editions to the HAC Virtual Meeting Library:

June 1st Special Guest Sarah Joslyn, The Red Elm Cafe

June 15th Special Guest Congressman Derek Kilmer

June 22nd Special Guest Dr. Arunga, Evergreen Tacoma

June 29th Special Guest Elvin Bucu, Graduate Tacoma

July 6th Special Guest Fahren Johnson, Seeds of Peace Summit Director

July 13th Special Guest Bishop White, Church of the Living God

July 20th Special Guests - HAC UWT Interns

July 27th Special Guests - David Horne, Grit City Ciderworks & Cassandra Williams, Love by the Slice

Aug 3rd Special Guests David Comb, The TSM Shop & William Johnson, Johnson Candy Company

Aug 10th Special Guest Eric Upchurch, Goodfellas Barbers



How to attend HAC Virtual Meetings

During the scheduled meeting, be on Facebook & click on the HAC has gone 'Live' notification to go to the live meeting.

No Facebook? Google search 'Hilltop Action Coalition Facebook Live now', during the scheduled meeting and click on the HAC Facebook link.

Hilltop Action Journal
Award-Winning Publication!
Journals are viewable online at
[www.hilltopactioncoalition.org/!](http://www.hilltopactioncoalition.org/)

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Aaliyah Walton

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Liz Ellis

Effie Gurmeza

Community Priorities

- Good Jobs and Local Hires
- Affordable & Obtainable Housing
- Safety through Community Policing
- Pathways to Home Ownership
- Programs for Youth and Seniors
- Create a Hilltop Neighborhood Library



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.

President

Brendan Nelson

Vice-President/Treasurer

Greg Walker

Secretary

Jennifer Schaal

Board of Directors

Jo Davies

Alyssa Torrez

Michealea Lemons

Office Manager

Kristine Coman

Community Engagement Liaison

Jasmin De'Armond

Hilltop Action Coalition is recruiting Board Members!
Email
hacoffice15@gmail.com

Hilltop Tacoma Link looks like a train project as construction progresses

Liz Ellis, Sound Transit Community Outreach Specialist, is often seen on the Hilltop working with businesses and contractors. She provides HAC with construction updates and photographs to share with the Hilltop Community. Liz has been a guest speaker at many HAC meetings.



By Liz Ellis, Sound Transit

The Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension looks more like a train project as crews install track along the route, including on Martin Luther King Jr. Way in Hilltop. I'd like to give an update on the project in Hilltop, encourage neighbors to keep supporting Hilltop businesses, and let you know how to keep in touch during this "stay at home" time.

Hilltop Tacoma Link opens for service in 2022. Construction will continue through 2021. Then, the trains and system will be tested. We can't wait for you to hop on the Link in Hilltop!

Crews are working safely to protect workers and the public during COVID-19. Construction workers wear masks, wash hands frequently,

sanitize tools, and keep a distance. While many people stay at home and businesses reopen, we are trying to do as much construction as possible to reduce impacts. We are working together with the community to help people get where they need to go – safely -- during construction and this health crisis.

The contractor is making good progress installing underground utilities and track. Most of the underground utilities are installed in Hilltop, and the contractor will complete the sewer and stormwater work on Martin Luther King Jr. Way between 6th Avenue and S. 9th Street this summer. Crews continue installing track on Martin Luther King Jr. Way from S. 9th Street going south to S. 18th Street. Later this summer, crews will start installing track on MLK Jr. Way at Division Avenue going south, and will start building the traction power substation on S. 8th Street and the platform for the Hilltop station.

Sound Transit is committed to keeping access open and encouraging customers to keep coming to businesses along the route during

construction. As part of the Loyal to the Local campaign, we will take more photos and videos of Hilltop businesses, and feature businesses in Facebook ads and marketing materials. We recently featured Second Cycle, Red Elm Café, and Pho King in Facebook ads. We continue to support community connections and proudly sponsor the Hilltop Business Crawl.

Like many of you, I am working from home during COVID-19 and provide project information by phone, email, social media and online. If you have questions or concerns about the Hilltop Tacoma Link project, please contact me at 253.208.0586 (call or text). Learn more about the project by signing up for email updates at <https://www.soundtransit.org/system-expansion/hilltop-tacoma-link-extension> and join the Hilltop Tacoma Link Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/505066506854906/>. I also welcome the opportunity to participate in virtual meetings. Let's stay connected while we're physically apart, together.



Preparing track on MLK Jr. Way south of 11 ST, Aug 4th



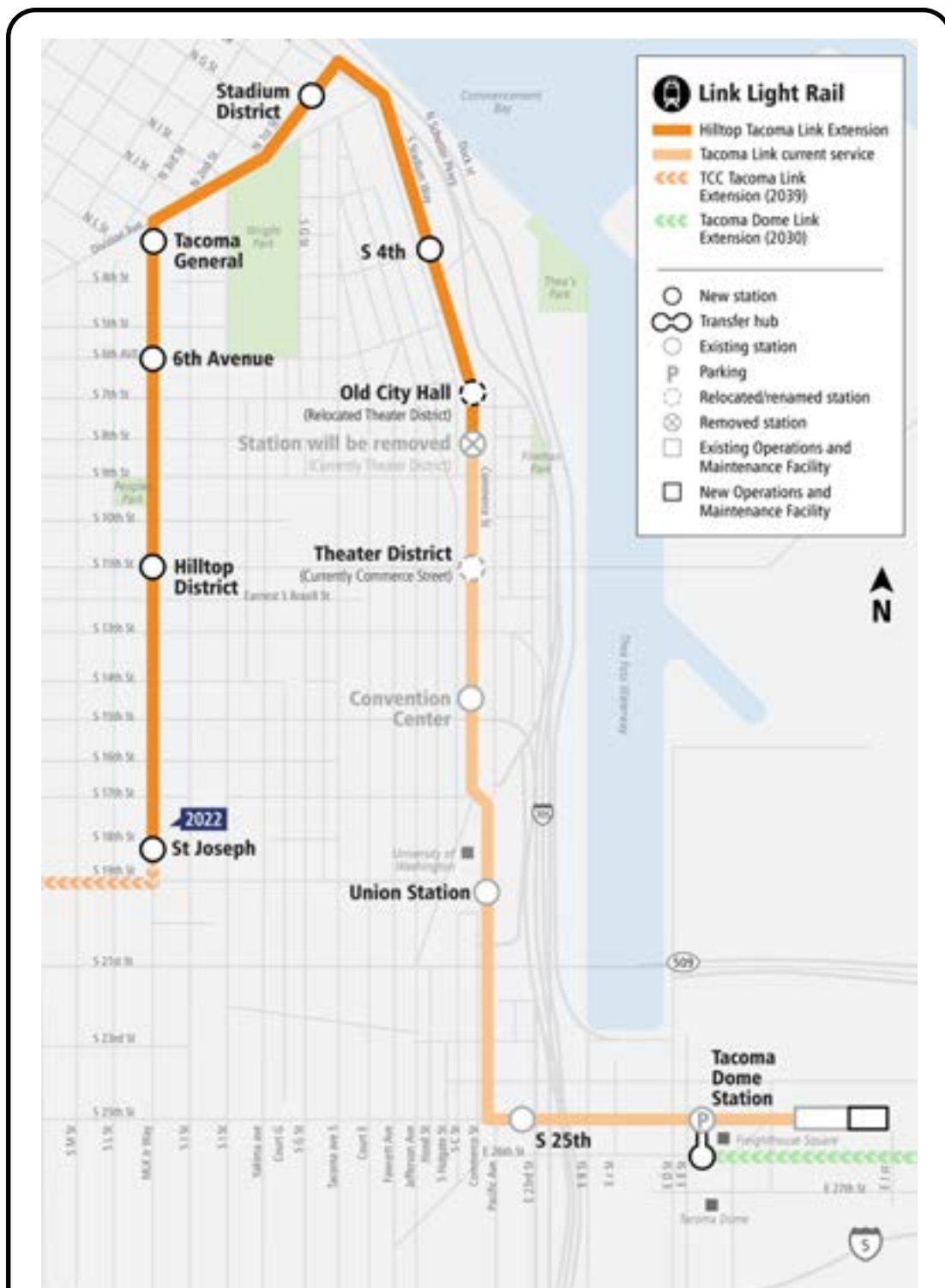
Crews pour concrete for curb on MLK Jr. Way, Aug 4th



Pouring concrete for curb and gutter, Aug 4th



Utility work on MLK Jr. Way near Pennington Apartments, early summer



This project more than doubles the length of Tacoma Link with 2.4 miles of track and seven new stations. Four stations will serve the community along Martin Luther King Jr. Way: Tacoma Gen-

eral Station near S. 3rd Street, 6th Avenue, Hilltop just south of S. 11th Street, and St. Joseph Station near S. 18th Street. Trains will run every 10 minutes, offering convenient ser-

vice to the Stadium and Hilltop neighborhoods. This project also expands the existing operations and maintenance facility in the Dome District to hold five new light rail vehicles.

Submit Articles, Photographs or Advertise in the Hilltop Action Journal!
Email hacoffice15@gmail.com for more information.

Forterra sets the stage for future developments: In Tacoma, Community Comes First

The 'Rite Aid' site development project is driven by the Hilltop Community through the use of a Community Investment Council to ensure Forterra addresses "the real needs of the community and reflect the neighborhood's rich history and culture."



The Rite Aid site sits empty as a sign of community disinvestment. Forterra seeks to turn this perception around by listening and acting on what community members need from this space.

By Kristine Coman, in collaboration with Jeff Dade

This month I had the pleasure of speaking with Jeff Dade, Sr. Project Manager for Community Development with the nonprofit Forterra. Forterra has been known for regional land conservancy for over 30 years. Their mission is to "act with immediacy to protect, enhance, and steward the land and real estate that are the foundation of our region's most precious resources – its communities and its ecosystems." I asked Jeff about the Rite Aid building lot and Forterra's plans to develop it.

Currently, Forterra plans for to build over 300 residential units, about half of which are purposely called "attainable"—they will be at 60% AMI, meaning they will be priced for families with incomes that are 60% of the area's average income. The building will also include space for shops, offices, non-profits and businesses on the first floor. Half of the homes and the businesses will be cooperatively owned (co-ops), while the other half will be rental. Co-ops lower the cost of ownership by reducing down payments and monthly costs and keep the control with the residents and business owners.

To help keep costs down, Forterra is also using innovative modular construction methods and cross laminated timber (CLT). While CLT has been used widely in Europe and is known for its strength, sustainability, and beauty, it is still catching on in the US. By the end of next year, Forterra will have a model modular unit at the property for community members to check out.

Community Design

Forterra is taking development advice for the Rite Aid lot from a Community Investment Council whose members are a part of the Hilltop Community. "Our number one goal with this project is to fight displacement of long-time residents and businesses in Hilltop," said Michelle Connor, Forterra President and CEO. "We're committed to listening closely to residents as we design this project. We want the development to address the real needs of the community and reflect the neighborhood's rich history and culture."

Forterra is collaborating with Fab-5 to hold three design events and two bura Setssiness forums to make sure they capture community values, needs, and wants for the site. These meetings will be a continuation of the #DesignTheHill community planning efforts begun last year.

This effort will be #DesignTheHill – 11th and MLK to signal this new chapter. The first of these events is planned for late September.

Jeff also told me about another Forterra project, similar to the Rite Aid site, called Wadajir Residences & Souq (<https://forterra.org/subpage/wadajir-market-residences>). Wadajir will have 95 attainably-priced family residences and a community marketplace for 85 small businesses, in the heart of Tukwila. Check out the video to learn more (<https://forterra.org/subpage/wadajir-market-residences>).

What's Next?

Construction is slated to begin in 2022. Meanwhile, Forterra wants to help make use of the space. In partnership with Fab-5, Christopher Jordan, Kiara Daniels, and Brendan Nelson they will putting out the call for artists who can make interim use of the building until it is demolished. This call will specifically be for local Hilltop artists. They are looking for 3-4 muralists to immediately transform the feel of the property and 5-10 artists to engage with the community and create original works of art that will be a permanent part of the future buildings. The Selection Committee for the artists will include Fab-5, member of the CIC, and Forterra.



"Our number one goal with this project is to fight displacement of long-time residents and businesses in Hilltop. We're committed to listening closely to residents as we design this project. We want the development to address the real needs of the community and reflect the neighborhood's rich history and culture."

~ Michelle Connor, Forterra President & CEO

This project is moving along at a thoughtful but steady pace. Forterra recognizes that there is a lot to learn and Jeff told me they are grateful for the support and insights of Fab-5, the CIC, and everyone who is helping to guide and inform this work. Check out Forterra's webpage for more information on how this development is driven by the Hilltop Community and sign up to receive a copy of their Hilltop newsletter. You can also contact Jeff directly at jdade@forterra.org.



These photographs, courtesy of Jeff Dade, show the magnitude of space that has been underutilized for years. Time for change in Hilltop.

Hilltop CALL for ARTISTS #DesignTheHill

We are looking for Black artists with roots in Hilltop to apply their creative talents to the transformation of South 11th Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way (the former Rite Aid site).



Request For Proposals To Hilltop Artists Information provided by Fab-5 & Forterra

Check out the Request for Proposal's specific guidelines, timelines and criteria at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/19QFzZtNcl2A4Yq-aT-1Fo0JTS1dtQeu/view>. Both the art commissions and the community-driven development project are aligned with the ideals of #DesignTheHill, a community development initiative through which historic Hilltop residents reclaim physical, economic, civic, and cultural space to abolish displacement, transform vacancy and waste into agency and opportunity, and redistribute power in community development and city planning. (Hilltop Call for Artists #DesignTheHill, Page 1)

There are 2 projects artists can submit a proposal for:

- 1) **Celebrating Hilltop - Get Ready**, which is 'an opportunity to use art to activate the vacated buildings right now. This art will signal to the community that this space is changing, as we "Get Ready" for new opportunities ahead.'
- 2) **Celebrating Hilltop: Lastin Legacy**, which is for 'pieces that will be permanent fixtures in the new development—leaving a "Lasting Legacy."'

CELEBRATING HILLTOP: Get Ready (Project 1)

Four (4) commissions for murals/site activation art that will transform the existing buildings at the site of the former Rite Aid at South 11th Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way. This art will be created and installed prior to building demolition and will help signal the community to "Get Ready" for new opportunities ahead. The four commissions will be awarded at \$3,750 per artist. The work is to be completed on or before September 20, 2020. Selections will be made by a committee comprised of Forterra, Fab-5, and members of the Community Investment Council. ((Hilltop Call for Artists #DesignTheHill, Page 2)

CELEBRATING HILLTOP: Lasting Legacy (Project 2)

Five (5) to ten (10) commissions for engaging the community and creating art pieces that will become permanent fixtures in the new development, creating a "Lasting Legacy." The commissions will be awarded at \$7,000 per artist. Studio space will be provided in the former Rite Aid building. Selections will be made by a committee comprised of Forterra, Fab-5, and members of the Community Investment Council. (Hilltop Call for Artists #DesignTheHill, Page 3)

Hilltop Call for Artists Application - #DesignTheHill

Check out the online application here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejXDNFf7xZ6TS1mbvPp3QK-gWAeZsHSnYnN5X_jCXpP_Q_dgQ/viewform. You'll find links to additional information about Fab-5 and #DesignTheHill, Hilltop's Black History, and about Forterra's Hilltop Project.

Loyal to the Local Program Keeps Hilltop Strong

During Hilltop Link construction, Loyal to the Local highlights businesses along the Link route so we know they are open and easy to access.

Are you Loyal to the Local? When you shop local, you help your neighborhood businesses grow and thrive. Why is that important? Because these businesses depend on people like you, and shopping local means you're helping your community as well. So, instead of driving across town, keep it local. With COVID-19

precautions, local businesses have met the challenge to serve the community in a new fashion. For example, The Red Elm has turned their doorway into a customer service zone by placing a table at the door and allowing walk up service. You can still get your hot coffee and delicious waffles with a smile! Check out their coupon

in this edition of the Hilltop Action Journal for a 'Buy One Waffle, Get One Waffle Free' coupon. Stop by today to show your love and support! We look forward to when we can come inside and sit to chit chat with friends! Visit Loyal to the Local at <https://www.soundtransit.org/system-expansion/building-system/loyal-to-local/hilltop>.



The Red Elm provides walk up service during COVID-19. Photo courtesy of Liz Ellis.



Hilltop Addition to Help Homeless Youth

Pierce County Area Director, Greg Walker, introduces an organization centered around helping at-risk and homeless youth to the Hilltop.

By Aaliyah Walton

A new Hilltop development birthed in 2018 is finally coming to life: The Coffee Oasis, a non-profit whose mission is to change the world for homeless and at-risk youth. The Coffee Oasis originated in Bremerton over 20 years ago and is now coming to Pierce County to make positive change in the lives of our Tacoma kids.

The organization was founded by a faith-driven, embracing man named Dave Fredrick, who sought to house and help these unseen youth of the community. Being a police chaplain led him to discovering a staggering number of children with no place to truly call home, therefore inspiring him to create that place. It began with his own living room but when it became too small for the many at risk youth that craved community, he ended up buying an abandoned coffee shop called The Coffee Oasis. Ironically, Dave was not a coffee drinker according to Greg Walker. Although, a coffee business was not in the original plan, Dave Fredrick

saw a useful opportunity for the youth of Kitsap County, in that they could fund their efforts as well as have a community space for children because, "Coffee is what gathers community", says Greg. If you ever want to meet up with someone and talk, it's usually over a cup of coffee. A place to study? Coffee shop. A place where kids can get off the streets or out of toxic homes? The Coffee Oasis. In this culture, coffee is welcoming and for our homeless youth it doesn't have to be the shameful experience of walking into a shelter and telling them that they have nobody. It's extremely hard to admit to oneself, much more to others that you don't have a safe place and you need help. At the Coffee Oasis, they can have somebody, create community and when they are comfortable enough, they can use all the great resources and opportunities that are there specifically for them. In other words, "It really is a gateway for youth to access our services.", Mr. Walker explains.

As a faith-based organization, they pride themselves on acting on one of Jesus's last commands to his followers which was, "As I have loved

you, so should you love one another", Greg Walker states. That is why this organization does what it does. They are here to serve and do the work of Jesus through loving one another. While some people in times like these are hesitant to be involved with the Christian religion, The Coffee Oasis strives to break free from negative stereotypes regarding faith or inclusiveness and seek not to convert or judge but to love and include everyone that would benefit from their services.

From that, the organization began to evolve from drop-in centers to creating shelters and building programs that would teach job skills and equip youth to make an income through internships and job training. In Kitsap County, these services were created due to the lack of their presence. However, there is a different approach in Pierce County, so instead of growing from a drop-in center, they started with what we needed most which is shelter. It's a non-permanent location until another is in the works, but until then Serra House was created as the first emergency shelter for youth under 18 in Pierce County, located at 6002 S Alaska St. The temporary housing includes 6 beds and a drop-in center. A 2018 study recorded that in Pierce County alone, 691 youth were homeless while attending school, which means that there are a whole group of kids not in school that were not considered. Mr. Walker expresses a sad but true fact that "youth homelessness is invisible". That is why projects like Coffee Oasis and Serra House is so important for us, because it gives our kids a chance to be seen and helped.

With that being said, the plans for Coffee Oasis are coming very soon. On the corner of 15th and Tacoma,

there will be a new shelter expected to open this Fall and the café to open by next spring as well as a drop-in center. With the unexpected global pandemic, Coffee Oasis developments have been stumped, but haven't stopped. It has exploited many questions for the organization moving forward like, how will they be able to create their ideal community with Hilltop homeless youth when shelters and centers are highly interactive? Or how will the prevention of COVID be safely implemented? What will housing and providing opportunities for homeless youth will look like in this new normal we are living in? The Coffee Oasis plans to take all the necessary precautions in maneuvering this pandemic and still providing resources to the kids of Pierce County. For example, a common safe and struc-

tural place for youth is school, so Coffee Oasis must think of ways to replicate a safe learning environment and technology access.

This organization knows the importance of community input and while they analyze their future in Pierce County, they want Hilltop to know that they are listening, especially because they don't have all the answers. "We want to be good neighbors", says Greg. They are excited to be collaborating with the Hilltop community and being a part of the positive change for our youth.

For more information, visit <https://thecoffeooasis.com>, check out their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/thecoffeooasis/>, follow them on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/thecoffeooasis/> or call (253) 328-6127.



Grand Opening Celebration from 2019 of current shelter.

Coffeooasis Coffee!

"While we don't have a cafe open yet, we do provide a way for people to order our fresh-roasted beans (in Bremerton)."

~ Greg Walker

The TSM Shop

Keeping it local in the Hilltop.

When Hilltop Action Coalition needed to get t-shirts and tote bags made for the Hilltop Business Crawl, they knew just where to go: The TSM Shop right around the corner at 920 MLK Jr. Way. Keeping your partners local keeps the Hilltop strong! Willie was exceptionally helpful going over the t-shirt proof details to make sure the appearance was professional and able to be delivered on time for The Crawl.

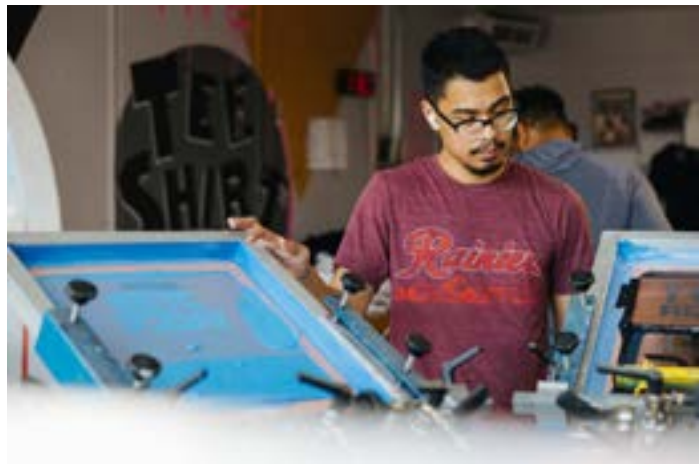
The TSM Shop's David Combs was a recent special guest on the August 3rd, HAC Virtual Weekly Update. You can watch the meeting anytime on HAC Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pg/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal. Visit The TSM Shop on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/thetsmshop/>, their website at <http://thetsmshop.com/>, or stop by the store.



Photographs of The TSM Shop courtesy of Sound Transit.

The TSM Shop is part of the Loyal to the Local Program which reminds us that when we shop local, we help our neighborhood businesses grow and thrive. Spending money locally has a BIG biggest challenge: breaking the habit of convenience shopping

online or at big chain stores. Taking the time and visiting local shops keeps money circulating within the community, building wealth and opportunities, supporting neighborhoods and social capital. Keep it local... Keep Hilltop Strong!



“By keeping the circulation of money within our local community, our energy or wealth is kept intact, and our community is able to meet its needs and prosper. This local availability of wealth can stimulate opportunity, creativity, enterprise, and jobs within our local community.”
~ Courtesy of Leigh Tremaine, Powerful Benefits of Keeping Your Money Local

Keep Up-To-Date with Hilltop Tacoma Link Construction on Facebook
After-Hours Construction Hotline: 888-298-2395



Gratitude

By Bethany 'B.Lyte' Montgomery
[Instagram @b.lyte222](#)

I'm done fighting back my tears
I now choose to embrace them
My demons I done faced them
I no longer internalize hatred

I'm tremendously grateful
So I always say thank you
Absolutely appreciative
Just know I'm thankful

For all the blessings
This universe provided
I look toward the future
Never short sighted
Embrace opportunities
Never indecisive
Never undecided
Because no task is too giant

What you focus on expands
So me
I choose to focus on statements of

I am
I can
I will
I do
I want
I love

Because

Our thoughts become things
So I believe in my dreams
I have control over my own reality
Enjoying the positive energies
Of those who share my same mentality
Good vibes is what I choose to surround me

I practice meditation
Allowing me to maintain my consciousness
So I remain an optimist
Ya girl don't quit
I do the exact opposite
Failure is not a consequence
I use what I learn to propel
Like a rocket ship
There are no limitations
For ambition and confidence
I set my goals and then accomplish them

I treasure the gifts I've been given
All the souls who listen
To my poetry
The words I speak
Stemming from my intuition
Emitting an aura of abundance and love
So I glisten

No longer holding onto negative beliefs
Practice what I preach
Live what I teach
Light she is me
I close my eyes and I still see
I'm tapped into the frequency
Into the frequency

But nah I ain't perfect
Sometimes I slip up
But I always get up
I don't beat myself up
Instead I show myself love

Remember setbacks lead to breakthroughs
So when adversity is present
I prefer to say thank you

Practice what you preach
Tap into the frequency
Peace

Power 2 The Poetry
More poems at power2thepoetry.com

My TEDx Spokane Tall 2018
<https://youtu.be/pR99bPNJyDk>





The Fish House Cafe: A Hilltop Legacy

Looking for some down to earth, wholesome food to eat? Pick-up from The Fish House; or order it from Uber Eats, DoorDash, Grubhub or Postmates to get it delivered wherever you are.

By Kristine Coman

The Fish House Café is one of Hilltop's Legacy Businesses, feeding neighborhood families since 1987! I began eating there last year; starving at work, I texted the board president to find some down to earth, wholesome food to eat. I went to the Fish House, ordered fish and chips, and was pleasantly surprised to find real fish, breaded lightly and deep fried in clean oil. I've been back many times and always get the fish :) No minced meat, fish sticks here!!

Are you wondering how Fish House Café became a Hilltop Legacy Business? Good men from the community (Walter Gary, Ray, Wallace Anthony Muhammad, family members and many others) began selling fish sandwiches as a fundraiser. In 1987, Pastor Petit, Associate Pastor at Peace Lutheran Church, centered the menu around fish. Anthony Muhammad's family has worked there since 2000. He passed the business down to his son, Ahmad, to keep the restaurant a member of the community.

Community members have passed down the love for Fish House's wholesome, delicious, economically priced menu items from parents to children. Interviewed on Veterans Day 2020, Anthony Muhammad said he has seen parents come in as teenagers, then with their babies; pretty soon those babies grew up and were walking in themselves with their kids. People have taken ownership of The Fish House (nickname), which is evident by the hundreds of photographs in collages on the wall. Anthony often hears from the customers, "This place has always got to be here!"

Growing up on the Hilltop, at age 9-10, Anthony walked into The Fish House location for the first time – back then it was the Soul King Record Shop. Records took the place of the pictures of patrons, friends and family on the walls. I asked Anthony if he could tell me the top three reasons he feels connected to the Hilltop:

1) Anchor families and the bonds they share: the Normans, Boyds, Clarks, Muhammads; the people he grew up with connect him to this place. They worked together to make the community a good place for families.

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

3) "To do for self." ... Take good care of oneself so you can help others. This also helps form grassroots connections and builds social capital.

The Fish House Café is part of Sound Transit's Loyal to the Local Program. Loyal to the Local reminds us to help our neighborhoods grow and thrive by shopping local. You can make a difference during construction by taking a few extra steps to get to The Fish House; or, by calling Door Dash or Grub Hub to grab your food and bring it to your home or work. Visit their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Fish-House-Cafe/116689678354627>. Want to learn how your business can become Loyal to the Local? Call Rossana Garner, Business Relations Program Manager at (206) 689-3373 or email at rossana.garner@soundtransit.org.

**BUSINESSES ARE OPEN
DURING LIGHT RAIL CONSTRUCTION**

Support local businesses | soundtransit.org/loyal2local

Fish House Cafe

1814 MLK Jr Way

Free filet of fish with the purchase of any meal

Valid Through September 2020

What the Hilltop Means to Me...

"I fight to protect it any day of the week. I was part of the group that started the Hilltop Action Coalition. We did *good trouble* as we fought to protect our homes, our children's safety, and to eliminate the drugs and the drive bys that we all were afraid of. We worked together as a team to turn our neighborhood around and we did with the help of the police department, the fire department and our ever trusty building inspector. He taught us about code violations. Without the help of these organizations and many others the Hilltop would not look like she does today. The Hilltop is constantly growing and changing each day, each month, each year. HAC needs to continue to grow and change with each year. As its Stewards we need to see that everyone within its borders becomes truly involved and helps to build its leadership core to prepare for whatever our future may hold."

Sincerely, *Crestina Marez*

LAVONNE'S ROOM

20% off any purchase
Through September
2020

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A FASHION ICON
TACOMA HILLTOP LEGEND
Mr. Morris L. McCollum (Mr. Mac)



Mr. Mac cared about the Tacoma Hilltop deeply. He began with K Street Boosters Club, then the Upper Tacoma Business District and later the Hilltop Business Association. In 2015, Mr. Mac received the NAACP Lifetime Achievement award. In 2016, he received the Hilltop Hero award which honor's Hilltop Legends.

I DID IT MY WAY

By Harlan Shoop

The Tacoma Ministerial Alliance (TMA), a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, has over forty years of collaborative work in the Tacoma/Pierce County area serving the holistic needs of the community. Over the years the TMA has marched and rallied for social justice, the minimum wage increase and challenged the health care system for better health in our most vulnerable communities, as well as tackled other social issues. Those efforts happened on a limited budget that was generated by the giving of TMA member congregants and the sponsoring of special services and events. Over the years, monies received from these sources has allowed the TMA to award over hundreds of scholarships to graduating high school seniors and monetary support to elementary and middle school students in the Tacoma area.

The TMA knew that in order for them to have a greater impact on empowering people of color and to preserve the legacy of African American businesses, they needed

an additional stream of financial resources. Therefore, in 2017 the TMA stepped out on faith and purchased the historic Sam & Terry Barbershop.

The Sam and Terry's Barbershop was founded in 1958 by Sam Daniels and Larry Terry; it's the first black-owned barbershop in Tacoma. It's also more than that. Over the years, Sam and Terry's grew into a trusted gathering spot for the black community and a constant amidst years of change and, at times, turmoil on Hilltop. The hope is to keep the barbershop a part of Hilltop for years to come, while at the same time using profits for good services in the community.

In addition, in 2018 the TMA purchased a men's clothing store, the historic Mr. Mac LTD which was founded by Morris L. McCollum notably called "Mr. Mac". Mr. Mac's clothing store has been in Tacoma for over 60 years and on the Hilltop for the past 21 years. Mr. Mac LTD is an icon in the Hilltop Community and remains the go-to store for clothing fashion that caters to People of Color. The TMA wanted to preserved the

Tacoma Ministerial Alliance: Mr. Mac LTD and Sam & Terry's Barbershop

Sam and Terry's Barbershop was founded in 1958 by Sam Daniels and Larry Terry; it's the first black-owned barbershop in Tacoma.

tradition and protect the history of Mr. Mac.

After the purchase of both businesses, strategic planning by the TMA initiated the consolidation of the two separate businesses into one location. It was in 2019 that Sam & Terry Barbershop was relocated with Mr. Mac. Now on MLK Jr Way in Tacoma's Hilltop neighborhood, there's a place where you can get service from "head to toe", all in one place: a haircut, a suit and shoes.

You can support the TMA efforts by getting a haircut and shopping at Mr. Mac. Also, you can help by spreading the word to others to shop at Mr. Mac and get a haircut at Sam & Terry Barbershop. By doing so you are not only supporting the preservation of legacy, but you are also supporting the financial need of high school graduates through scholarships and the continual educational support to our youth through merit awards.

For more information, visit our website at <https://tmatoday.org/>. Click on the Programs tab and find out about TMA's community programs and partnerships. TMA works with the Homeless Prevention Project, Homeless Intervention Program, and with Power Up Pierce 98404.

Mr. MAC Ltd. is located at 1124 MLK Jr. Way - call (253) 383-2737, visit their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Mr-Mac-Ltd-164173117060407/>, or visit <https://www.mrmac.com/>

Sam & Terry's Barbershop is right next store - check out their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/samandterrysbarbershop/>.



Sam Daniels, right, opened Sam and Terry's Barber Shop in 1958 with business partner Larry Terry. In this 2013 photograph, Daniels, who died in 2016, visits with long-time customer, Charles Armstrong. Photograph courtesy of Janet Jensenm, News Tribune.



Photograph courtesy of Matt Driscoll, News Tribune.

COORDINATED ENTRY
On-Demand!

Starting December 2019, the Coordinated Entry phone line will be replaced with 2-1-1.

Visit a Coordinated Entry Access Point

Call 2-1-1 for Live Support or to Schedule

Speak to a Mobile Outreach Team

If you are experiencing homelessness, please contact us for on-demand support in finding housing solutions.

Learn more at PChomeless.org/CEaccess

SUPPORT

BLACK OWNED

BUSINESSES

Check out the Tacoma Urban League [Black Business Directory](#)

Ajmer by Jodi

UNIQUE HANDMADE JEWELRY THAT TELLS A STORY

SEE THE WHOLE COLLECTION AT

HILLTOP LOANS
1101 S. 11TH ST.



2020: A free street tree program

Recognizing the needs of our local community, the goal of the program has shifted in recent years to equitably increasing tree canopy and growing happy and healthy neighborhoods through community tree

By Arin Lewis

Grit City Trees is the City of Tacoma's annual free street tree giveaway program. This program provides free street trees to Tacoma residents who are interested in planting in the right-of-way: the planting space between the edge of the road and the property boundary, in front of their property. Applications for the 2020 season are being accepted now through August 30, for individuals and through September 6, for groups of neighbors.

The City is committed to racial, social, climate, and environmental justice for our community. Recognizing the needs of our local community, the goal of the program has shifted in recent years to equitably increasing tree canopy and growing happy and healthy neighborhoods through community tree planting.

In fact, the City is committed to anti-racist transformation to achieve better outcomes for our community, and even trees have a role to play. As part of the City's commitment to equity and goal of reaching 30% canopy coverage by 2030, the Grit City Trees program prioritizes planting in Tacoma's traditionally underserved neighborhoods.

Why plant a Tree? Adding more trees to neighborhoods is proven to help keep places cool during the hottest days, clean the air we breathe, manage stormwater runoff, slow neighborhood traffic, provide mental health benefits, and so much more.

The first benefit is especially important. The "Urban heat-island effect" happens when buildings, roads, and other infrastructure absorb and hold onto more of the sun's heat compared to natural landscapes.

The impact of this heat can cause an increase in heat-related illness to the community. Natural landscapes, including trees, can significantly reduce temperatures. The differences in temperature have been measured across Tacoma. "Almost all cities experience a degree of the heat-island effect, but neighborhoods with low canopy coverage suffer the most, sometimes registering temperatures up to 7-9 degrees hotter than surrounding areas. The neighborhoods with the highest heat island values almost always directly correlate with low-income, historically minority neighborhoods. This holds true in Tacoma as well." – Tacoma Tree Foundation 2020.

Tree coverage is a major factor affecting the livability of a neighborhood and leads to clear differences in quality of life across neighborhoods in Tacoma. With tree canopy coverage as low as 2.9% in some traditionally underserved neighborhoods, it is vital that the City provides resources to support tree growth in these communities.

The City can promote planting, but it takes a village to grow a forest. Neighbors are encouraged to work together, while following COVID-19 safety precautions, to apply for Grit City Trees as a group. Individuals are also eligible to apply. Trees and other supporting materials such as TAGRO, tree stakes, and tree ties will be available for individuals to pick up at the City's Plant Holding Facility this fall. Free delivery to neighborhood groups will start in October. Planting should occur during the fall.

In the spring, watering bags will be available for ease of watering during the dry summer months. Regularly watering a new tree for at least the

first three years after planting is crucial for them to establish healthy roots and thrive.

Tacoma residents interested in participating will need to send in the [Grit City Trees application](#) with the included tree care agreement signed by all participating property owners. These trees are for planting in the right-of-way only, are not for resale. All applications will be considered on a first-come first-serve basis, with preference given to neighborhood group applications from Tacoma's traditionally underserved neighborhoods. Applications are available at <https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=111377>.

Additionally, we want to extend an open invitation to talk about the urban forest and the Grit City Trees program. We recognize this program may be limited and are especially interested in learning about how to best support traditionally underserved communities. To reach out and learn more information please visit <https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=111377>, contact trees@cityoftacoma.org, call at (253) 502-2138, or contact the City's non-profit partner Tacoma Tree Foundation at info@tacomatrees.org.

Even though COVID-19 has constrained this year's program, we've still grown significantly from the beginning. In 2016, the program distributed 98 trees to Tacoma residents. That program year, 21% of those trees were planted in Tacoma's traditionally underserved neighborhoods. Since then, the program has grown in the number of trees it has distributed and has matured into a program with equity at its core.



Gary Oak branches. Photo courtesy of Arin Lewis.



In the 2018 and '19 seasons, Grit City Trees distributed about 460 trees total with an average of 60% going to Tacoma's traditionally underserved neighborhoods. We hope to continuously increase the number of trees being planted in our traditionally underserved neighborhoods and increase the quality of life for people living there.

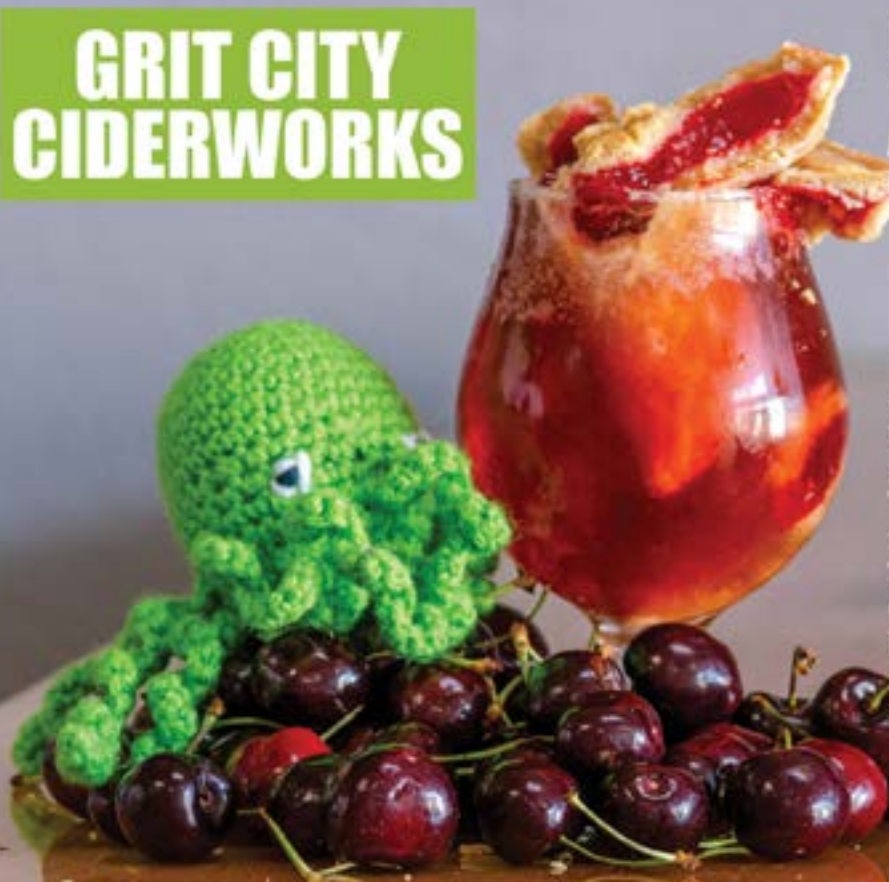
We would not have reached these numbers and we won't surpass them without the amazing work of

"Tree Captains." These community leaders inspire their neighbors to take incremental actions like tree planting, which continuously improve the environment and quality of life in their neighborhoods for generations to come. For that, we are forever grateful.

Information provided by Arin Lewis. Arin works in the Office of Sustainability/Urban Forestry, at City of Tacoma.

GRIT CITY CIDERWORKS

Crafting Ciders As unique as The PNW



Driven by a love of local flavors, authentic, tart cider, and a passion to create and share, we are proud to pour our unique ciders for you. There's something for everyone, from Cherry Pie to Lavender; from Tacoma-grown Raspberry to Mango Citra Hopped; we explore how to bring forward fresh ingredients found in our region to celebrate the Pacific Northwest.

Cheers, Tacoma!

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Hilltop Action Journal Advertisement Rates

Ad sizes:

5x7, quarter page at \$125

10x7, half page at \$250

10x15, full page at \$500

Purchase 2 months & get the 3rd month Free. Content should be in JPEG format. Contact hacoffice15@gmail.com.

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Delivery with Uber Eats & Door Dash



*Members receive special discounts and a voice
in the future direction of the store.*

By Melissa Bostic

305. That is the number of member-owners needed to make Grit City Co-op a reality. In 2016, a group of Tacoma residents began to gather to address the lack of access to locally produced and minimally processed food options in Central Tacoma. By early 2017, a steering committee had formed to open a new Food Cooperative. In 2018, this cooperative bore the name Grit City Co-op, a name selected by the growing membership. The steering committee then became a Board of Directors with a mission to provide sustainable food and goods to support the well-being

of our peoples and region. Grit City Co-op is dedicated to opening a new food cooperative in the Hilltop/Central neighborhood. The Grit City Co-op Board of Directors works to develop policies and procedures, connect with the community stakeholders, and build membership – all in the drive to open a storefront. Member-owners are asked to purchase a share of the store with a one-time payment of \$100.00, or \$25.00 per year for 4 years. Member-owners will receive some special discounts when shopping in the store, but the true value of ownership is having a voice in the direction of the store. This includes voting in annual

Board elections and holding the board accountable for decisions, such as hiring, location, products sold, budget use, and more. If you have questions or want to get involved with Grit City Co-op, please email us at gritcitycoop@gmail.com. For more information about Grit City Co-op and ways you can become a member owner go to <https://gritcitycoop.com/>. Grit City Co-op also announces events through Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/thefriendsofthecoop/> Facebook and on Instagram with a handle of Grit City Co-op.

The
Community
Market



Own Your Mouth

80% of disease symptoms are related to problems in the mouth.

By Arlene Thomas, with Ohana Health, a Hilltop Business Crawl 2020 Participant

Fluoride in water, toothpaste and dental treatments is industrial waste more toxic than lead. Products containing fluoride have a warning: Do No Swallow. If it gets in your mouth it gets absorbed into your bloodstream. FLUORIDE GATE (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvlwJPcYW8>), a Film by Dr. David C. Kennedy documents the dangers including how Blacks and Hispanics have a higher genetic vulnerability than whites.

Mercury in "silver" fillings is directly linked to cancer, M.S. and other diseases. In the YouTube video Smoking Tooth [Smoking Tooth](#) Tammy DeGregorio, DMD, NMD, shows mercury gas, odorless,



colorless, tasteless and toxic seen under a black light. Mercury vapor out-gasses from silver amalgam dental fillings into the bloodstream and brain. Heavy metal toxicity is linked to a short temperament, closed mindedness and easily agitated behaviors common in the homeless.

Spirochetes in root canal treated teeth, plaque, cavities and gum cause insulin resistance, mood disorders

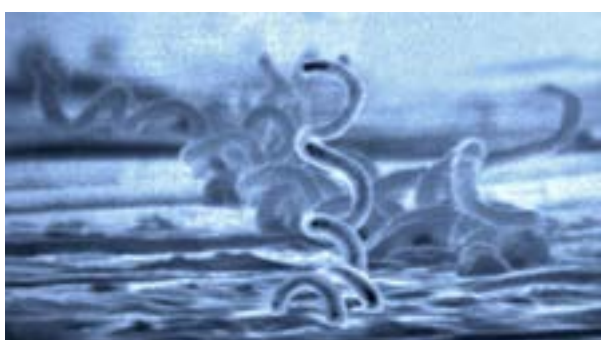
and aging symptoms. They are aggressive bacteria that migrate throughout the body to joints often leading to arthritis, to the brain-dementia, to bone-osteoporosis. The most common oral infections are asymptomatic resulting in heart disease and cancer.

Take charge of your health:

1-Make fluoride free water your main beverage. Sugary and acidic drinks weaken tooth enamel. Brush your teeth at least twice daily and oil pull toxins daily or as often as possible.


2-Safely remove any mercury fillings and root canal treated teeth to prevent and possibly reverse disease.

3-See a biological dentist twice a year to eliminate spirochetes-hidden infections. Enter your zip code on the IAOMT website at to locate one near you (<http://www.iaomt.com/>).



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Tuesday - Saturday
11am - 8pm

911 S 11th Street
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Fern & Foster Family Wellness: Building Community and Supporting Families

Danielle Schell and Emily Ager are proud Hilltop business owners that support and build community with growing families in Tacoma. The wellness center has gone virtual!

By Aaliyah Walton

Fairly new Hilltop business, Fern and Foster Wellness on 11th and Sheridan has a mission to provide community support to growing families. Although they are inclusive of everyone, they are highly accessible and hyperlocal to Tacoma residents, striving to listen to the community and accommodate services to be Tacoma-related.

Founders, Danielle Schell and Emily Ager discovered that as birth workers and mothers and no matter the years of experience or research, still struggled with navigating the medical field and finding support that was right for them. As a Doula, Danielle thought she knew what to expect, but when it came time for her to be a mother, she found herself struggling with postpartum depression and regret in the transition to her new normal as a parent. Emily, as a midwife, struggled to find sup-



Fern and Foster's Community Bulletin Board shares local business information with clients. Photographs courtesy of Kristine Coman.

port for things like breastfeeding issues that left her feeling isolated and alone.

While hospitals provide some helpful services to pregnant people and mothers, it is often very short and apathetic. Sometimes the medical system even forgets to consider individual experiences. What ends up happening is they assist you and send you out into the world with-

out further support. What Fern and Foster aims to achieve is long lasting encouragement that not only stems from their offerings, but the friendships you build while taking their classes or attending support groups. Instead of feeling lost and alone in how you feel while maneuvering this massive change in your life, body and emotions, you can talk with people that are going through the same things. And with the locality of Fern and Foster and their emphasis on community building, you could develop meaningful relationships with people who live right here in Tacoma!

Unfortunately, with COVID-19, that sense of community is hard to replicate with minimal in-person interaction. Luckily, the wellness center has gone virtual, and a positive response generated from the community because of it, which has inspired Danielle and Emily to continue with that option in the fu-

ture to accommodate all customers. Ideally, they want to provide both options to include people without access to technology or internet, but they are still working hard to navigate this global pandemic.

Fern and Foster is an amazing addition to Hilltop, and their commitment to aiding the people of Tacoma including BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities is exactly what we need. Visit Fern and Foster at <https://www.fernand-foster.com/>, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/fernand-fostertacoma/>, email them info@fernandfoster.com, or call (253) 655-7817.



Fern and Foster Family Wellness is located at 1402 S 11th ST, Tacoma WA 98405

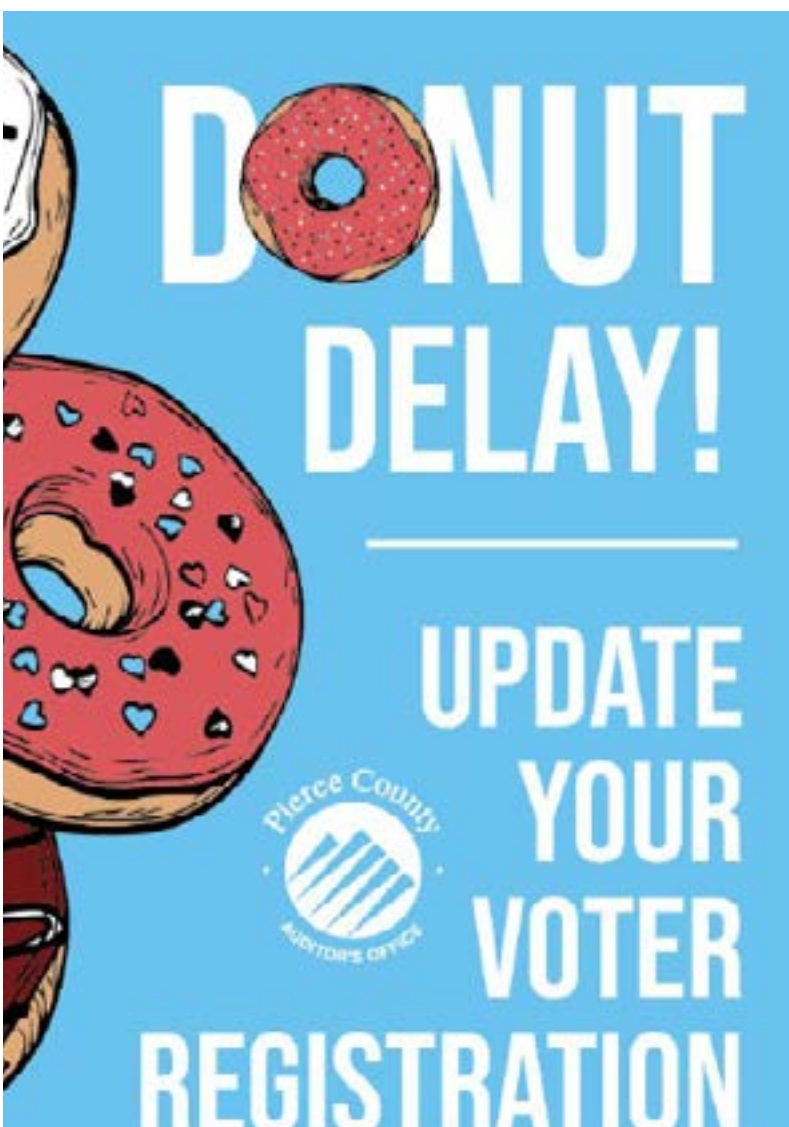


Fern and Foster Family Wellness offers clothing and health items for nursing mothers and families.



Are you a local Hilltop business owner?

Find out how you can become a *Loyal to the Local* business today by visiting <https://www.soundtransit.org/system-expansion/building-system/easing-construction-impacts/business-relations>



Johnson's Candy Company: Serving Hilltop for 96 years

Johnson's Candy is participating in the Hilltop Business Crawl and is donating 2 pounds of chocolate as a Raffle Prize!

Construction activity has meant navigating detours to access businesses along MLK Jr. Way. With many legacy businesses near the Link route, like Johnson's Candy Company serving the Hilltop for 96 years, construction has had impacts on customer traffic. Visiting local businesses during construction will help keep the community vibrant.



William Johnson stands in front of Johnson's Candy Company. Below, William stands in the shop, happy to be serving Hilltop! Photo courtesy of Sound Transit.



Photos courtesy of Sound Transit.



Have a *sweet* time at Johnson's Candy on Sat, Aug 22nd, or Sun Aug 23rd and receive a Stamp for your Crawl Passport! They are open from 11am to 3pm at 924 MLK Jr Way. A box of chocolates makes a splendid gift!



Stop by for hand made chocolates today!
Making Johnson's Candy recipes requires old-school techniques with steady hands and eyes. Kitchen tools date back to the early 1900's and include candy making equipment from 1908 and 1914 that William's great-grandfather used to make candy for Hilltop families.



Holds Virtual Webinar Series

Webinar educates caretakers on important conversations surrounding racial injustice.

By Ashley Mangum

Pierce County— July 30, 2020 — July is Black, Indigenously and People of Color (BIPOC) Mental Health Awareness Month. In an effort to provide a community forum to provide education and resources for parents and caregivers, Kids' Mental Health-Pierce County (KMHP) hosted a virtual webinar aimed at providing resources and education for parents and caregivers on how to talk to kids about racism and social justice.

This was the third webinar in the series, and featured panelist: Dr. Ghynece Temple, Licensed Psychologist; Whitney Miller, Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Dr. Conrad Webster who currently services as the Racial Equity and Advancement Advisor for Seattle Public Schools. Topics discussed included: why it's important to talk about race, the importance of having one's own awareness of privilege and marginalized identities and extending that to youth. Dr. Temple provided tips to foster a healthy sense of racial self-esteem which included:

Exposure to historical information and literature that highlights the positive contributions of members of differing racialized groups.

Discussing with youth how they feel about racialized identity.

Incorporating affirmations that emphasize personal strengths and characteristics which includes providing youth with consistent positive messages about oneself to boost self-esteem.

Helping youth explore and process their own experiences of discrimination.

Panelist Whitney Miller, a local Clinical Social Worker shared both clinical advice and her own personal experience of discussing race with her children after losing her brother-in-law while in police custody in Tacoma. Whitney shared "as parents, we need to recognize our own biases and assess our own comfortability with discussing racism and social justice. Recognize that growth is continual". Whitney offered suggestions of creating safety for kids and the importance of story telling and exposure when talking to kids about race and social justice.

The full webinar as well as additional resources and training materials are available on the Kids' Mental Health Pierce County website: <https://kidsmentalhealthpiercecounty.org/>

Kids' Mental Health Pierce County is a coalition of people and agencies in Pierce County that are joining together to address the growing behavioral health crisis among school age children. For more information and to see how you can get involved please visit the website or contact their Project Manager, Ashley Mangum for more information.

For More information about Kids' Mental Health Pierce County, visit <https://kidsmentalhealthpiercecounty.org/> or contact Ashley Mangum, Project Manager. Ashley can be reached at (253) 414-2007 or via email at amangum@multicare.org.

Hilltop's own Vision Step Team with an inspirational video on Self Love!



Click on the Vision Step Team picture to the left and watch their Self Love video! To find out more about Vision Step Team, visit their <https://www.facebook.com/VisionStep/> page or website at www.visionstepteam.org. Vision Step Team is a girl's empowerment group that uses the art of stepping to focus on physical and mental wellness, self love, and self-efficacy to build strong young women for today's world. The team was founded by Chelsea McElroy who is passionate about providing emotional support and planting seeds for a sturdy foundation inspiring girls to always show up as their best selves.

Student Laptops

6th-12th grades served 1st.

LAPTOPS FOR STUDENTS

Students in grades 6th through 12th are able to pick up laptops from their school before classes begin. Check out the Laptop Distribution Schedule at <https://www.tacomaschools.org/about/newsroom/story-detail/~board/20-21news/post/laptop-distribution-schedule-and-faq-for-grades-6-to-12>.

Students in grades Kindergarten through 5th will be able to pick up laptop after school begins, once they are made available. Laptops can be checked out by a student (with ID or student ID number) or their parent/guardian with an ID. Students will keep the laptops for the school year.

FREE STUDENT MEALS

It's time to apply for more than \$800 worth of free meals for each student under the Free or Reduced-Price Meal Program. Apply online at <https://www.mealappnow.com/mantac/splash.php> or download an application in multiple languages at <https://www.tacomaschools.org/departments/nutrition>.

DISTANCE LEARNING DAY CAMPS OPEN IN SEPTEMBER

Tacoma Public School partners are offering Distance Learning Day Camps for preschool through 5th grade. Find out more at <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/activities-and-sports/category/camps/distance-camps/>.

Get the Education you deserve... Scholarships and opportunities for all

Get a head start on college money with scholarships for youth from 5th grade to college.

By Perry Newell

Funding College Project Facebook posts information about scholarships for elementary, middle school, high school seniors, and current college students. Check out the opportunities below or visit their Facebook today!

The ANGELA AWARD

Award details - This award honors one female student in grades 5-8, who is involved in or has a strong connection to science. The award has been established in honor of Gerry Wheeler, Executive Director Emeritus, and his outstanding dedication to NSTA and lifelong commitment to science education. <https://www.nsta.org/awards-and-recognition-program> Deadline: December 10, 2020

WASHINGTON COLLEGE GRANT - makes college more affordable, and it's expected the plans reach up to 110,000 students. Washington College Grant (WCG) and makes the money an entitlement.

Grants can cover up to 100% of tuition plus service and activity fees, and do not need to be paid back.

<https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/college/washington-college-grant>

OPTIONS AND AWARDS FOR STUDENTS

Elementary school children may not know where they want to go to college or what they want to study but thinking about paying for college can be intimidating for their parents. So, You Want To Go To College, Now What? Grades 6-12: <https://readysetgrad.wa.gov/>

AMAZON FUTURE ENGINEER (AFE) PATHWAY

- Computer science opportunities, from childhood to career. As part of Amazon's \$50M commitment to Computer Science (CS) Education, students now have access to Advanced Placement (AP) CS course offerings, scholarships, and early college internships through the Amazon Future Engineer (AFE) Pathway. <https://www.amazonfutureengineer.com/>

YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM - Sponsor: Jack Kent Cooke Foundation - Amount: Up to \$40,000- Program is open to high-performing 7th grade students, high school seniors and undergrad-

uate transfer students with financial need. www.jkcf.org

PARADIGM CHALLENGE

Available to: Students up to the age of 18 - Award Amount: Up to \$100,000. You may work in a team or alone in creating an original and creative way to help solve real-life problems in homes, schools, communities, and/or around the world. Entries may come in the form of posters, videos, inventions, messages, community events, websites, mobile apps, or anything else that will help save lives. Additionally, you must submit a brief statement of your idea (140 characters or less) in order to qualify for this award. Learn more about the Paradigm Challenge. <https://www.projectparadigm.org/> Deadline: 05/01/21

2020 CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

Student sign-up for the 2020 Congressional App Challenge is now open. Eligible students can register and submit their apps through 12:00 PM EST on October 19th, 2020 - See Prizes - Learn more: <https://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/> Deadline: 10/19/20

QUESTBRIDGE NATIONAL COLLEGE MATCH

The QuestBridge National College

Match helps outstanding low-income high school seniors gain admission and full four-year scholarships to some of the nation's most selective colleges. <https://www.questbridge.org/high-school-students/national-college-match> Deadline: 09/29/20

PENPAL SCHOOLS

Hey Families! They are offering FREE access for kids and families for the next two months. PenPal Schools connects students from around the world to learn together! Students collaborate through online projects ranging from front-page issues like Race in America and COVID-19 Connections to academic subjects including World Cultures, Food, Robotics, Poetry, and Math. Parents can get two months of free access with this link: <https://go.penpalschools.com/signup-parent>

DIGITAL SAFETY FOR YOUTH

Here are some apps to help keep kids safe online. www.rd.com/list/parental-control-apps/

For more information on the Funding College Project, visit www.educatingouryouth.org or email Perry Newell at callnow@lawyer.com.



Jessica Curry and Kristine Coman attended the virtual Seeds of Peace Summit and took notes so we could share the experience with those who could not attend.

By Jessica Curry

The Seeds of Peace: After the Protest - Next Steps was a Zoom event on June 26, 2020 from 3-5 PM.

The summit was started by an introduction by Fahren Johnson, the Youth Summit Director. Her opening statement reminded all members of the event that we're dealing with a 400-year-old oppression, and encouraged everyone to "keep pushing." This opening statement rang true throughout the entirety of Seeds of Peace.

After the opening statement, Fahren Johnson introduced the Youth Panel which was made up of students who recently led and/or organized protests. Everyone was given the space to share the ups and downs that came to light during their time organizing protests in Tacoma

WA, and surrounding communities.

Plamedie Masiala organized a protest in downtown Puyallup; her biggest low was that her family was afraid of her showing her face, fearing their own as well as her safety. Another low she experienced was not knowing where to start, and being able to ensure peace during the protest. Plamedie listed her biggest high was when a Native American blessed the land. Her second biggest high was being able to give the younger generation a voice because they want to be part of the change. Plamedie ended her piece with a message for community leaders, "we do want police reform - they need different training." She wants police brutality to change, and for that to happen, the police need to be a part of the community, rather than against it.

Next, Bryan Sanders was given space to speak. His low was that he was told to never show his face. His high was that you could feel the energy of the people at the protest; and that you shouldn't be afraid to attend a protest.

Gabriel Phillips followed Bryan, saying his biggest high was being able to see the community come together. His low was feeling overwhelmed with the newness of planning, leading, and organizing protests. Gabriel has led protests through June, and runs a Facebook page. He is working to engage with community leaders to assist him with his plan to set up a non-profit for racial change.

Kabastin Campbell, Stadium H.S., shared her high was the amount of kindness and support protesters received from each other - everyone

was looking out for one another. Her low was that the police utilizing flash bangs and mace on peaceful protesters, commenting, "it is just not right!" Towards the end of her piece, Kabastin said that she wants community leaders to be aware of the youth who are leading the current movement - "they are the ones at the protests. Listen to them."

Following the Youth Panel, we watched No Justice! No Peace!, then lead into the Community Leader Panel. This panel featured Tory Green, T'wina Nobles, Jahmad Canley, Amanda Scott-Thomas, Carol Mitchell, Seth Kirby, Mayor Victoria Woodards, and Josh Garcia. The panel started off with questions given to Mayor Woodards.

Mayor Woodards was asked about the use of the buddy system in order to reduce the excessive use of force- "what steps should the City take to move forward with this request?"

Mayor Woodards said we need a community outreach plan. She stated, "this is not about meetings, but about intentional outreach." The Mayor took this opportunity to address a statement made during the Youth Panel, "the youth are not the future, they are a part of the now, and their voices should be heard."

She spoke about the Mayor's Youth Commission that was formed and shared that there have been new elected officers. Mayor Woodards asked us to consider what the city needs because the police are only one part of a big system that needs to be reformed. Systemic systems, including education, parks, streets, lights, etc. all make up a system that deprives people of equal opportunities. She said we need to look at every system that have an

effect on the citizens of Tacoma; think of everything, and every system. Mayor ended this, imploring us to, "stay engaged"

The next question was also for Mayor Woodards, and was about defunding the police.

Mayor Woodards said she supports looking at the actions of the police and how they do it, in order to refine actions and responsibilities. She turned attention to an advisory commission with a younger person on it who looks at the policies of the police station(s). Among many things, this commission is looking at the Body Cam policy and procedures to make sure it's what the community wants; this commission also wants to develop a community outreach plan. This segment of questioning concluded with the mayor encouraging more youth involvement with Project Peace.

The next person on the panel was Josh Garcia, of Tacoma Public Schools was questioned about teaching Black history - "what does teaching Black history right mean?"

We were told that, as of now, independent study programs are available and, if interested, to reach out to Fahren Johnson.

This is as far as the HAC team was able to cover due to conflicts with time. The team was able to have Fahren Johnson on for an interview during our weekly update shortly after the virtual event; which is available on the Hilltop Action Coalition Facebook page.

Check out the July 6, 2020 HAC Weekly Update with Fahren Johnson and hear about her experience directing the Seeds of Peace Summit (https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=306499590479098&ref=watch_permalink).

Hilltop Business Crawl



August 22-23, 2020

Visit HAC, get a Passport Stamp, & Spin the Prize Wheel!

WIN a free Hilltop Business Crawl T-Shirt, a Hilltop Action Coalition coffee mug, & other cool swag! Take the 2020 Census while you visit with covid-19 precautions.




Support Local Businesses!

Hilltop Action Coalition ~ Grit City Ciderworks ~ The TSM Shop ~ Red Elm Cafe ~ Tacoma's No. 1 Fried Rice ~ Johnson's Candy Company ~ Mr. MAC's LTD ~ Sam & Terry's Barbershop ~ The Eleven Eleven ~ Love by the Slice ~ Hill-Top Loans Pawn Shop ~ Goodfellas Barbers ~ Bob's Bar-B-Q Pit ~ Clarkcomm Wireless ~ The Fish House Cafe ~ Manifesto Coffee ~ Lavonne's Room ~ Micro-Business Vendor Areas



Seriously missing hanging out with my Hilltop Peeps at HAC Monthly Community Meetings! Hoping to see Jasmin De'Armond soon, HAC Community Engagement Liaison, once COVID-19 fades away and we can meet in person.

For the first time, in 2020 the U.S. Census Bureau will accept responses online. The process will be quick and secure. You'll still be able to respond by mail.



Stand Up & Be Counted!

People of Color have traditionally been under-counted and underrepresented. Help Hilltop reach 100% census completion. Stand Up & Be Counted - share this message with your friends, family and co-workers.

You do not need a special code or postcard to take the census.*

2020 Census Facts

Visit <https://my2020census.gov/>, or call 844-330-2020 for a Census Questionnaire Assistant, and Be Counted for Hilltop today!





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YOUR COMMUNITY IS COUNTING ON YOU

**HILLTOP ACTION COALITION
HAC VIRTUAL WEEKLY UPDATES**

Mondays at 6PM

**Join the Hilltop Action Coalition
That's You!**

Find out what's going on in your
Hilltop Neighborhood with your HAC hosts,
Brendan Nelson and Alyssa Torrez!
Say "Hello" to friends, and keep in the loop.
'See' you on Monday!

Youth Essay: Words from Her Heart

Kimora S Smith opens up about current events regarding Black Lives Matter, sharing her personal experiences with racism and calling on people to do their part in this fight for change.

By Kimora Smith

I have been learning a lot during this time we are living in. I have definitely been hearing a lot of conversations about the BLM movement. I heard that they have changed street names for us and they are changing a lot of laws. A lot of my family members have been saying white people have been treating them nice lately, which I honestly thought was funny, only because it should have always been like that. People should have been treating my people with kindness, it doesn't matter what color you are. Everyone deserves that.

I was always raised to love every race and color, because it doesn't matter what they look like, they are human too. I never understood and I don't think I will ever understand why people just judge someone by the color of someone's skin. Like, if your black you are in a gang or if your black you love watermelon, I don't like watermelon and I'm black. And I'm not saying its just white people that judge or can be racists, but majority is and its been like that for 400 years.

I have dealt with some issues of racism. I was at a sleepover with my friends, one was mixed with white and black, and two of the other girls were white and they started playing a song and it was called the "black person song". This song is a song where they talk about stereotypical things that black people do, but it is made by a black person so that's probably why they thought it was ok to play the song near me. I told my mom about it and she said that it wasn't ok. I didn't really think much of it because those were my friends and i didn't want to think that my friends were racist people, but at the end of the day that wasn't ok for

them to play that song.

Before I came to Meeker I went to Narrows View intermediate where the majority of the school was white kids. Me being black my hair was different from everyone else's and it stood out. I would change my hair everyday, because for me that was normal. My hair isn't thin or straight so I would have to wake up every morning, early in the morning, just to do my hair. I hated it because I knew people at school would only make fun of it or try to touch it. I still remember one day I wore my hair in a high ponytail and it was puffy, and a kid said it looked like a mushroom on my head. And all the girls would touch my hair and say it was very soft. At first I kinda liked it because people were giving me compliments but they were always touching my hair and putting their hands in it. I wasn't angry with them. I was just annoyed, because I don't go up to them and touch their hair and say it is super soft and squishy. I didn't understand why my hair was different from theirs.

Another thing I experience is sometimes I'm scared to even go into a corner store (sometimes my hair isn't done so i put a hoodie over my head) I feel like if i do that i look like I'm going to steal something. Or if i see a cop anywhere around me my heart starts beating fast. That's something white people don't have to worry about. I have never heard one of my white friends say that they were scared of a police officer. For us you don't know if it's going to be a good police officer or a bad one. That's scary. Why are we afraid of someone that is supposed to protect us? If we really need help and call the police we can't even really depend if they would really help us or not. I watched this one video on YouTube

where a guy went to the dollar tree just to get juice and was almost arrested for being there in the store. And there are hundreds of videos just like that one where a black person is being harassed by a white person. But it's not called racism, or its the black person's fault. And this is why us black people are starting to get mad and why we are protesting and as of lately have turned into riots. We are not heard and our problems are pushed to the side, our kids are dying more than any other race but no one hears our pain, we are treated poorly in America but no one hears our pain, we are lynched in public for everyone to see and people still find a way to say it was the Black person's fault that they were killed or they deserved it. That is sick!! No one deserves to die, no matter what you did. It is only for God to decide when and how someone will die. People can say "All lives matter" and as much as I want that to be true, it's not. All lives can't matter until black lives matter. How are we supposed to get our point across to the public if we were saying all lives matter when we're the ones that are dying for no reason it doesn't make any sense.

There is this white girl that made a tik tok where a girl was trying put out a house on fire and another neighbor was like what about my house aren't you going to help my house, but that neighbors house wasn't on fire. So the neighbor that was trying to put out the house that was on fire was like are you serious? Why do you think your house is more important right now when it's not on fire like the other one was? And that's how it ended but the meaning behind it is that people say all lives matter when black people are the ones on fire and are the ones who need help right now. Everyone is not on fire right now so how are

people going to claim all lives matter. We need allies like that girl who made that tik tok. She is speaking up for us. If you are white and not speaking out then you are a part of the problem, or any race in general.

We need white people to tell their friends and families what's going on. We need white people to educate themselves so they can understand that it's not right what's going on.

I've also been watching YouTube and a lot of my favorite Youtubers (most of them are black) have been posting videos like this, explaining what they feel right now and how to educate yourselves about what's going on right now. If you look it's all over the internet. It's more trending than the coronavirus. Obviously there are very good people out there that want to help and want it to be better for the black community. The internet has shown that too and I have seen it. Not all white people are bad people. There are allies standing with the black community during those protests and yelling just as loud as we are for equality. I saw all races out there protesting for George Floyd and the many others who have died the same way. They are the people that are making a change in this world and fighting for what is right. And they don't have to burn down buildings or shoplift, you know, just taking advantage of what's happening right now.



Photograph courtesy of blacklivesmattercarrd.com.

I know my people have been fighting over 400 years so it's nice to finally see the World fight with us. People that are peacefully making a change, I believe in them. I believe that all races can live in the same world and not be judged by the color of their skin, and it may not happen overnight, and it may take years, maybe even hundreds of years, but at least we are fighting for it. People have had enough. There's way more I can explain, but I think it's coming soon that things will start to change more for the better. And I'm here for it.



Courtesy of theguardian.com.



Buddhist Moon

From hobby to business, Melissa Bostic creates personal care items that are vegan and cruelty free - visit her at the Hilltop Business Crawl!

cruelty free. Simple and fun is what I like. Anywhere from chap stick to sugar scrubs, bar soap to beard oil. Bath bombs to Chakra bombs to reset your mind body and spirit. Liquid soap to the ever so fun massage candle. Fun and edible. My newest items, hand sanitizer in glass skull droppers, sure to take your hand sanitizing to the next level. I am currently making and testing deodorant and conditioning bars.

Another goal of mine is to reduce waste. All scraps and "inventions" either get donated or reused. I try to keep my packaging to a minimum. I reuse clean and reuse the candle jars whenever possible. I have a plan to roll out a candle jar and wax melt container return incentive. I hope to continue to make steps to lower waste.

Please check out my Facebook page, Buddhist Moon, or my Instagram Buddistmoonsoaps at <https://www.instagram.com/buddhistmoonsoaps/>. I recently started consignment in a small store in Auburn and hope to do the same in Tacoma.

Or see me in person the last Sunday of the month at Organically Grown Muscle (<https://www.instagram.com/organicallygrownmuscle/>) for the Vegan mini Market, where a percentage of my profits get donated to Misspits Rescue (<https://www.instagram.com/misspitsrescue/>).

To learn more, contact Melissa Bostic, Public Information Officer with the Tacoma Police Department, at (253) 591-5968, or via email at whaddow@cityoftacoma.org.

By Melissa Bostic

Buddhist Moon was started a few years ago as a hobby. I started making things that I couldn't find at stores that suited my lifestyle. I had recently gone from vegetarian to Vegan. A junk Vegan. So, I grabbed my beer and started making. It became my version of hold my beer and boy, did I really go in. There were messes and a few expletives

(well more than a few).

I still do a lot of the same, but now it's controlled. I always try to make all my products fun, interesting and feel good.

I began by making candles with just soy wax, cotton or wood wicks, essential oils or fragrance. Then I started branching out to soaps. Now I make an assortment of personal care products trying to keep all ingredients simple and always vegan



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AUGUST 23RD 2020 11:30AM-3:30PM

1112 S 11th St Tacoma, WA 98405



A Walk Home: A Journey for Change

Burlene Padilla, motivated by people in need and the negative effects of the pandemic, took a journey from Tacoma to her home, the Navajo Nation in New Mexico, on foot to help during the COVID crisis.

By Aaliyah Walton

Why is this woman's journey important to the Hilltop community? Because the cause for the journey is an invisible crisis that isn't being covered by other sources of media. Residing on Indigenous land, we have a responsibility to listen and uplift the Native community and right now they are in danger. Burlene Padilla is a Navajo woman who saw her own personal privilege, in that she was able to stay home and have access to everything she needs during a global pandemic. The same can't be said for the Navajo nation. The Navajo reservation is in a seri-

ous COVID-19 crisis where they are being neglected the basic necessities like food and masks. Burlene made it her personal mission to travel home on foot and help them as well as raise awareness for this huge issue.

Mrs. Padilla started her journey in Tacoma and her favorite moment from it was the overwhelming support coming from friends and family because she didn't have to start alone. Moving towards Seattle with a sign for her cause, she noticed all the tagged and boarded up buildings, but it felt like a comfort to her. When she arrived at Capitol Hill, she felt empowered knowing that she was standing up for her people and she

was bringing this awareness to people's eyes as people approached her with curiosity, many unknowing of this crisis. Everything with the Black Lives Matter movement made her walk all the more powerful. It was the perfect storm of empathy, despair and a motivation for change. As she walked, Burlene through to Portland she found strength in the honks of support that she received and the sound of her drum, playing along the way as she walked alone for the first time. Portland had the same aesthetic as Seattle with most buildings shut down which helped because of the familiarity and encouragement. However, that all changed when she

hit Boise, Idaho. "I felt really out of place", she describes as she only got about two honks of solidarity there the entire time and one middle finger. Washington and Oregon had welcomed her, but with the racial tension in America she felt uncomfortable and scared of what might happen during her time in Idaho going on Utah. Getting closer to New Mexico brought about more support and emotional moments for Mrs. Padilla, but not as much as she



Photographs courtesy of [@awalkhome](#) Instagram page.

would feel when arriving at the Navajo Nation in Shiprock.



@awalkhome Burlene Padilla started walking in Shiprock, New Mexico. She did have family with her. They walked 4.2 miles and helped tow Navajo gentlemen, who were in dire need. They had so much fun walking and helping others.



@awalkhome 3.1 miles accomplished by Burlene Padilla today. She ended her journey at Peninsula Park Rose Garden in Oregon. Making her way to the Navajo reservation.



@awalkhome Burlene walked down mainstreet and also had the opportunity to visit Mesa Verde in Colorado. Burlene and Danny were blessed with the opportunity to help their first new Navajo friends! They were so appreciative, especially for the PPE and water!

Burlene and her family were met with a shocking experience at the Navajo Nation. They discovered that most people had no cars, no internet, no soap, masks or hand sanitizer. The main source of media was the radio and they had hug water jugs outside of their house, so no running water. There was only one main store for necessities, so people living on the outskirts of the stores were neglected. The men of the nation wanted to emphasize those people, telling Burlene, "Don't worry about us, worry about the elders". She observed how hopeless this whole situation was.

Offices that were meant to be of service to the people were mostly closed so, where were they to go to get help? One Catholic church was the only resource where people could get food. They had been given a COVID relief fund, meant for the whole town, but where was all the money going, when there were limited food and multiple people being left hungry, thirsty and without proper sanitation. Unlike most cities and towns, the Galup police are underpaid for the amount of work they do for the community. They aided COVID patients at the detox center as well as many

families to ensure they were okay; in other words, they were the backbone of the community.

With only the \$2,025 raised from her GoFundMe, Burlene and her family were able to help 52 families with food, water and masks as well as feed the Galup police department for two days. The residents of the communities were all so grateful and even in their difficult state they had an amazing sense of humor. All her life, Burlene felt that being a Navajo Native was the lowest of the low, scum, poor or drunk, but she realized she and every other Native needs to

be proud of who they are because Natives are resilient.

What can you do to help the Navajo Nation? Burlene hopes for all people to first learn and educate themselves on Navajo culture and the COVID-19 crisis. Before making assumptions on Native peoples, ask yourself why it's like that. Why are Native Americans more likely to commit suicide and struggle with addiction? Why are most Natives in poverty? Once we educate ourselves, we can educate others. Mrs. Padilla was originally going to walk without exposure, but her daughter Keisha

inspired her take her journey to social media to raise further awareness. Another thing you can do is donate and seek out legitimate donors that actually give money to who they say they give it to. Finally, have compassion for one another. Burlene is currently looking for other ways to help and is excited to go back to her Native community to help them more. Be the voice. Spread awareness. Educate.

Check out <https://www.discover-navajo.com/> for info on the Navajo Nation.



@awalkhome A glimpse of the supplies, necessities, and food heading down to the southwest! Your donations are making a difference. Thank you so much!



@awalkhome WE MADE IT! Today, we walked up to the Navajo Nation Capitol. We had so much support from the community and it was a blessed day! All of us walked 4.2 miles. We are so blessed to be able to walk for Native people. I'm so grateful for the people who shared and walked with us! We have gathered so much food and supplies.

Thank you to everyone! :)



The Hilltop Community Quilt: Recognize your quilt square?

A BIG 'Thank YOU' to Hilltop Action Coalition Members who sat together at the end of HAC monthly meetings during Community Time to make quilt squares about what the Hilltop means to them. HUGE SHOUT OUT to Jo Davies, HAC Board Member, who sewed the squares together.



Tacoma

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Grass clippings, branches, cuttings

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All solid food, raw or cooked, is accepted.

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www.cityoftacoma.org/foodcycling
For information call (253) 502-2100

Mark Your Calendar

Dates to Remember

Aug 22 & 23 – Sat & Sun – Hilltop Business Crawl - More information at www.activatchilltop.org

Aug 24 – Mon 6-7pm - HAC Virtual Weekly Update - Meet Virtually via Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pg/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal

Aug 31 – Mon 6-7pm - HAC Virtual Weekly Update - Meet Virtually via Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pg/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal

Aug 27 – Thu 5-6:30pm – Free Crisp Health Classes via Zoom - Multicultural Child & Family Hope Center - https://www.facebook.com/events/567512710540915/?event_time_id=567512723874247

Aug 26 – Wed 1-2:30pm – E-Commerce & Social Media for Small Business- Digital Workshop - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/e-commerce-social-media-marketing-for-small-business-tickets-116773287045?fbclid=IwAR3LQ77oosS6ZLNPd0hkpp8fpCbNstfjceOOHQqTyS8zPWPoAdbuucpTY18>

Aug 26 – Wed 11am – Back Alley Bike Drive 2nd Cycle - <https://www.facebook.com/events/471222347078019/>

Aug 28, Sep 11 & 25 – Fri – Slo + Socially distant rides - 2nd Cycle - <https://www.facebook.com/events/527888734586467/>

Aug 31 & Sep 28 – Mon 8:30-9:30am – How to Do Business with the City of Tacoma - https://www.facebook.com/events/112519833442494/?event_time_id=112519856775825

Sep 1 & 15 – Tue 10am-12pm – Free Food Boxes for Families - Tacoma Community House, https://www.facebook.com/events/3154648691239032/?event_time_id=3154648704572364

https://www.facebook.com/pg/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal

Sep 3 – Thu 7-8:30pm – Central Neighborhood Council Virtual Meeting via Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/CNCTacoma/?ref=br_rs

Sep 4 – Fri 8-9pm – Virtual Tour of Tacoma's Waterfront via Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/events/637265167170664/>

Sep 7 – Mon – Labor Day Holiday - No HAC Virtual Weekly Update

Sep 8 – Tue 5-7pm – Tacoma City Council Meeting with Citizen's Forum -Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market ST, visit the City's website & click on Agendas, Minutes & Video/Audio - https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_council/ccmeetings

Sep 9 – Wed 5:30-7pm – New Tacoma Neighborhood Council Meeting Virtual - Check Facebook for details - https://www.facebook.com/newtacomanighbors/?ref=br_rs

Sep 14 – Mon 6-7pm - HAC Virtual Weekly Update - Meet Virtually via Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pg/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal

Sep 21 – Mon 6-7:30pm - HAC Monthly Community Meeting - via Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pg/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal

Sep 25 – Fri – Hilltop Action Journal article submission deadline

Sep 28 – Mon 6-7:30pm - HAC Virtual Weekly Update - Meet Virtually via Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pg/HilltopActionCoalition/videos/?ref=page_internal

Visit HAC Facebook for more virtual events near you! https://www.facebook.com/pg/HilltopActionCoalition/events/?ref=page_internal

SAFEST
Take charge, make CHANGE
National Night Out 2020



POLICE — COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
Tuesday, October 6th, 2020

On Tuesday, October 6, 2020, join more than 38 million neighbors in 16 thousand other communities across all fifty states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide and make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live.

Groups will gather in the streets on which they live, holding block parties, barbecues, picnics, cookouts, safety fairs, and other events to build a true sense of community and police-community relationships.

Find out more and register your event at:
<http://safest.org/events/nno2020/>

For more information, contact Safe Streets at (253) 272-6824.



Sign Up for National Night Out!

Strengthen Neighborhood Spirit

Did you know HAC participates in National Night Out (NNO)? Our Board Members will come to your neighborhood event to say "Hello!" and bring a Safe Streets SWAG Bag with additional HAC items to share. Email hacoffice15@gmail.com once you have registered your neighborhood's event with Safe Streets at <https://safest.org/events/nno2019/>. We will add you to the HAC list and see you on Tuesday,

October 6th to celebrate community! National Night Out is designed to:
*Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
*Generate support and participation in local anti-crime efforts such as Community-Oriented Policing and neighborhood organizing
*Strengthen neighborhood spirit and unity

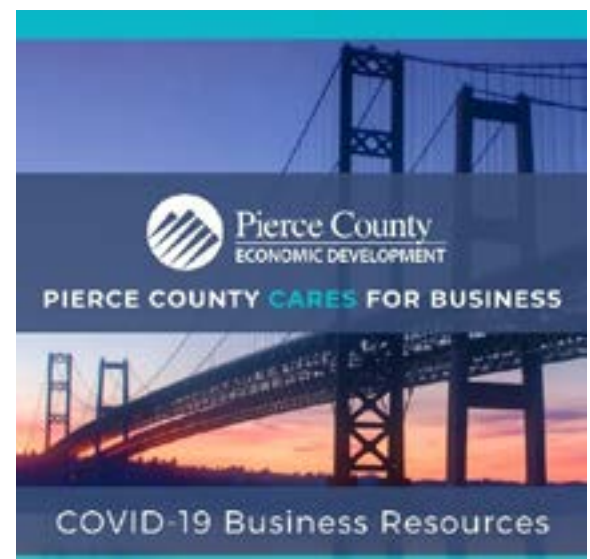
*Support community and police relations/cooperation
*Send a clear message that our neighborhoods are organized and will not tolerate illegal activity
Safe Streets offers these resources to help you plan your event:
[NNO Planning Guide](#)
[Customizable NNO Flyer](#)
[Block Party Barricade Diagram](#)
For more information, please call Safe Streets at (253) 272-6824 today!

Could your business use some PPE?



To help your business comply with COVID-19 Safe Start guidelines, the Pierce County Economic Development Department is providing free disposable masks and no-touch infrared thermometers for local businesses. Apply for free PPE for your business: www.piercecountywa.gov/businessppe

Is your business getting the help it needs during COVID-19?



Check out the multiple programs going on through the Pierce County Economic Development Department including forgivable loans, cost-off-set reimbursement grants, and free PPE for businesses. Learn more here: www.piercecountywa.gov/6754/COVID-19-Business-Updates

“Thank you,” Lt. Aguirre for serving Hilltop... ...Welcome to the Hilltop, Lt. Mueller!

Lt Aguirre advice to newcomer Lt. Mueller, “Get out on foot in the neighborhood. When officers are on foot, people will approach them and talk to them, which fosters trust and understanding. You get to know your community and they get to know you. Without our community, we are nothing.”



Lt. Aguirre

By Wendy Haddow

Hilltop Action Coalition reached out to Tacoma Police Department to find out about Lt. Aguirre's new

position, and to find out who will be her replacement. We sent over some interview questions to Wendy Haddow. Please join HAC in wishing Lt. Aguirre good wishes for her new position, and in welcoming her replacement, Lt. Mueller, to the Hilltop!

What will Lt. Aguirre's new responsibilities be? Homeless Outreach Team/Designated Crisis Responders/Officer Resiliency

What was Lt. Aguirre proudest of during her time on the Hilltop? 15th and MLK Way was historically plagued with drive by and drug activity. Due to community concerns, CLO's collaborated with the narcotics unit and other city units. A search warrant was served at the convenience store, located at 1501 MLK Way, and the business license was suspended. The store was closed

for an extended period of time and has since reopened under new ownership with no problems.

What was the most challenging part of Lt. Aguirre's time on the Hilltop? How to address people experiencing homelessness, substance abuse and mental illness, which has continued to increase. Due to COVID, both mental health and homelessness will continue to rise and impact the community even more.

Determining how law enforcement can collaborate with social service stakeholders, the criminal justice system and community members to provide a holistic, humanistic and socially responsive approach to these issues.

Does Lt. Aguirre have any advice to share with Lt. Mueller? Get out on foot in the neighborhood. When officers are on foot, people will

approach them and talk to them, which fosters trust and understanding. You get to know your community and they get to know you. Without our community, we are nothing.

What is Lt. Aguirre looking forward to in her new role? Creating a better whole system response to social issues with Tacoma Police as a partner, not always as the primary response. Continued work on our officer resiliency program. Every crisis response takes a toll on officer's mental health. Keeping officers resilient, makes us better in daily duties.

What can Lt. Mueller tell us about herself. Lt. Mueller has been with the Tacoma Police Department since 1996. She has worked as the Graveyard Shift Commander for the last four years, prior to which she was the Accreditation and Hiring



Lt. Mueller

Sergeant. Lt. Mueller is known for her hard work and dedication while serving the citizens of Tacoma.

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