

# HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL

Mar 2018- April 2018 | Hilltop Action Coalition | volunteer organized | [www.hilltopactioncoalition.org](http://www.hilltopactioncoalition.org)



Cherry Blossom Event



Golden Gloves



Manifesto Coffee - A bold new aroma in Hilltop



15th St Market Closed - Arrests Made On Drug Charges



Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards to Host State of the City



## Hilltop Action Journal

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### Community Priorities

- Good Jobs and Local Hires
- Safety through Community Policing
- Pathways to Home Ownership
- Sustain and Value Existing Community Organizations
- Programs for Youth and Seniors
- Peoples Center as a Cultural Hub of Information & Programs
- Create a Hilltop Neighborhood Library
- Community Journalism
- Keep Homes Affordable for Seniors and People with Fixed Incomes

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### Email:

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### Hilltop Action Coalition

Hilltop Action Coalition is a community-based coalition and 501(c)3 nonprofit that is working to mobilize and empower diverse individuals, families, businesses and other public and community organizations to build a safe, clean, healthy resilient and united community.

#### President

Brendan Nelson

#### Vice-President

Pending

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Jennifer Schaal

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# HAC President's Message



By Brendan Nelson

We are in the midst of an extremely busy time here in the Hilltop. There's plenty of work being done in anticipation of the Link Expansion and I'm so excited to see things coming together. There are numerous conversations about how things will shape out in the coming years and for some that's causing some anxiety and frustration. As you all are aware there has been a tremendous amount buzz about what's going to happen with the Rite-Aid building as we move closer to that space becoming available. I'd like to briefly address the recent proposal of a potential youth shelter. I think we can all agree that the idea of a youth shelter is needed in Tacoma, we have a significant number of young people

that could benefit from this, however the Rite-Aid location was not ideal at all and that was echoed by many.

One thing that was so troubling about this proposal was the fact that residents, community leaders and elected officials were not engaged in any dialogue around the idea. In response, people rallied together to voice their concerns and with that pressure being added, the proposal will not be moving forward. I believe that there is so much value and beauty in all of us coming together to make sure that the Hilltop continues to be vibrant, healthy and safe. We can't allow others to determine what our community needs without engaging with us.

It is my hope that we can establish a community engagement process that would bring us to a common place of understanding to dis-

cuss projects or proposals that directly affect the Hilltop. Fostering a spirit of collaboration and trust is critical for drawing out the best in our community. Each of us here plays an invaluable role, and when we combine our talents and abilities, great things can happen. When we all make our unique contributions to the collective effort, everyone achieves more. I look forward to continuing the journey with you all and pray we continue to challenge, love and support each other.

In service,

Brendan Nelson  
President, Hilltop Action Coalition

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

Community Healthcare Bldg. 1202 Martin Luther King Jr. Way

Meet your neighbors and become part of the local Hilltop community. Each month we have presentations and information about community events, activities, policy, and important news.

## Youth Writing Contest

WRITING CHALLENGE

WRITE YOUR HILLTOP VISION  
**SEE. WRITE. WIN.**



Submissions for the 2025 Vision Writing Contest were received from many students. The winners, Mason Miller, & Bryant amazed us with their writing. Special thanks to all the students who participated on June 17 from noon to 4pm. Congratulations to the contest winners.

#### The Day the Ivy

Mason Miller was an elementary school student. He was in the 3rd grade. No, it is not a contest and the school have the best teacher. He was the best teacher. He loved his class. He loved to draw the window. One day, the ivy started to grow. It grew toward an unswept area. Mrs. Poole got on the phone. She heard her over the yellin. The students had been swallow. Mrs. Poole was calling. "Ahhh, my ad."

### What is Your Hilltop Vision?

Open to Elementary School Students

Submit Poems or Short Stories (less than 200 words)

Submit to Hilltop Action Journal (or school liaison) by April 20

Contact Jennifer at 253 442-8848 or hacoffice15@gmail.com



# Manifesto Coffee - A bold new aroma in Hilltop

Friendly service and a unique flavor

By Kristie Worthey

The black and gold coffee roaster is the main focal point of Manifesto Coffee but it is the friendly greeting and broad smile of Jack Saffle, barista and one of the founders of the café, located at 1003 S 11th St., that brings the warmth to this unique destination coffee café. Or as one customer put it, “Magnificent coffee, roasted on site, curated and served by casually meticulous baristas. Turns out that anyone behind the espresso machine owns the place while they’re standing there, like partners in a conspiracy of impeccable service.” And it’s on Hilltop.

Co-founder Jadin Bulger tells the story of how a childhood friendship has turned into a success story.

“My best friend, Israel Hickey, and I have known each other all our lives. His dad and my dad were best men at each other’s weddings. Israel’s been in coffee for quite a while...pretty much his whole life...and he started roasting... got pretty good at it but he was always doing it for someone else. So, I came into town a couple of years ago. I tried it ... I thought this is really good! It’s amazing! I would drive around, try coffee at coffee shops and the coffee all tasted the same to me. Why was it so different? I don’t know what you are doing differently but it’s amazing!”



Photo Credit: Jack Saffle

plan and business license by March 22nd 2016... We opened the doors on October 28th, 2016”.

Bulger continues, “Israel knew the owners of this building...Richard and Don Stubbs... we had a conversation with them and thought, hey, this space might be pretty good for what we are doing... We worked a deal with them and we opened on Hilltop. At the time there wasn’t many places serving coffee around here. Now

and manpower we thought, yeah, we would be able to do it”, says Jadin.

They got a small roaster that was made in Georgetown in Seattle. Manifesto Coffee got rolling and every month it got better. Bulger says, “weekends we got pretty busy and we thought, well, we’ve kind of outgrown the space. There are days when there is standing room only in here...Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.”

up doors and 2 long tables crafted from the old rafters salvaged from the remodel. A larger roaster will be acquired to meet the growing customer base for Manifesto Coffee’s unique roasting flavors.

Manifesto Coffee is looking at extending evening hours. “So many businesses are opening up here on Hilltop and things are starting to go well up here, there is a lot more activity then when we first opened,”

was. And I thought, that’s cool.”

March 1st was the launch of the Manifesto Coffee website: [www.manifestocoffeeroasters.com](http://www.manifestocoffeeroasters.com). The website and expanded shipping department will enable them to ship to customers anywhere in the continental United States and expand their wholesale business. Currently, they have coffee beans from Ethiopia, Mexico, and Papua New Guinea. Eventually, Hickey would like



Photo Credit: Jack Saffle

Bulger, with his sales and inventory management background, and Hickey, with his love of crafting and roasting coffee, came to the conclusion that the difference is the care and quality of the coffee beans and roasting process. Jadin says, “We were just spitballing the idea of opening a roasting business, and Israel decides to go ahead with starting it. It’s very Cinderella story like. Once we got going, it went really fast... We had our business

there are a few other places but we really aren’t in competition... We’re the only roaster here on Hilltop... We have a unique vibe.”

At first, Hickey and Bulger were just going to do wholesale to other cafes and stores but their plan changed with the help of additional partners, Jack Saffle and Wes Johnson. “Jack and Wesley got wind of it while we were in the planning stages and they decided to come on board. So, we decided to open at least a small café...with their additional financing

The space next to Manifesto Coffee was available. It had been storage for a bar. Neil Harris now owns the building and he’s been a big supporter of Manifesto since it opened and after being in negotiations for a few months the Manifesto Coffee founders are moving forward. “We will be basically double the square feet, says Jadin, growing from about 600 square feet with an additional 560 sq. feet. We will be able to go from 13 seats to 36 seats.”

The addition will feature two roll

says Jadin, “Hopefully at the end of it all, we have a space where people want to hang out. That seems to be the case, we have a lot more people. It used to be a bunch of regulars but now we are beginning to see a lot of people that we hadn’t seen before. So that seems to be a pretty good sign.” He smiles, “Recently, I was in Seattle, wearing one of our hoodies, I got out of my car, up on Capitol Hill, and someone was like ‘Manifesto, Yes!’ They were super pumped. They had totally been here and they knew who I

Manifesto to be farm-to-cup and buy beans directly from coffee farmers.

In the summer, Manifesto coffee will offer expanded outdoor seating. But in the meantime, check out their friendly service, the unique flavor of carefully and thoughtfully roasted coffee beans and fresh brewed coffee, the artwork by local artists, and the vibe of Manifesto Coffee.





Photo Credit: Raimundo Jurado

## One year later and still going strong: The Red Elm Café

### The Red Elm Café is the coffee shop we all dream of

By Monica Cysensky

Just a little over a year ago the Red Elm Café, a family run, community hangout came to downtown Tacoma. Since then they have been able to create gathering places, donate quarterly and create a home like feel to their community living room style café.

We did a piece not too long ago highlighting the sisters Adina, Jennifer and Sarah's commitment to community as well as the style and feel of this Tacoma gem. Now we congratulate them on their first year and see the positive and lasting effects Red Elm has had on the Hilltop community.

The sisters wanted to fill a void within the community. "If our neighborhood already had a coffee shop or bunch of places to get breakfast sandwiches we would all just be doing other jobs," Sarah said. According to Sarah, since many work from home, a casual and simple place to grab a bite and hang out was much-

needed in the Hilltop community, and boy was she right. The Red

café is always bustling. There are many reasons why the

weren't looking for another place to be super quiet and a place where you

group," Sarah says. A place where children can play unapologetically and the community can gather to discuss or visit together is a rare find.

The other great thing about Red Elm? They donate every quarter and they have done so since opening. So far, they have donated to Hilltop Urban Gardens, a community agriculture organization promoting equity and justice, the Tacoma Community House which focuses on employment, education, immigration and advocacy as well as the Hilltop Action Coalition that aims to mobilize and empower the Hilltop community and community organizations to build a united, safe and supportive community. A community pillar helping grow other community organizations: if that isn't inspiring, we aren't sure what is.

You can find more information on Red Elm's very astatically pleasing Instagram @redelmcafe or better yet, pop in and grab a grilled cheese and a coffee that won't break the bank.



Photo Credit: Raimundo Jurado

Elm has been a serious success. The community meeting room that seats up to 16 is constantly booked and the

Red Elm has been such a hit, but one of our favorites is the acceptance people feel when they walk in. "We

would study necessary, we wanted a place where everybody felt welcome with their children or with a large



## Tacoma Artists Invited to Apply for Social Practice Training Program

Free Informational Workshop on April 11

By City of Tacoma

The City of Tacoma invites Tacoma artists, working in and across all artistic disciplines, to apply to participate in Public Art: Public Action, a free social-practice training program in which participants will learn about socially-engaged strategies and create a series of temporary projects responsive to community needs within the Tacoma Mall area.

This program will train artists to address civic and social concerns in the community and develop meaningful temporary art projects that engage the community, illuminate the issues, and respond to identified needs. Through classroom sessions with experts and a hands-on

project series, the cohort will learn about social practice; network with community organizations and stakeholders; receive artist mentoring; write their own project proposal; create a socially-engaged temporary public artwork, event, installation or project; and participate in a public presentation.

Selected artists will be expected to actively participate in the training program, which includes mandatory training sessions on June 2, 3 and 30. Participation in the training program is free and artists who successfully complete the training will receive a \$500 participation-based stipend and \$1,000 to implement a temporary socially-engaged project in the Tacoma Mall neighborhood.

Eligibility extends to practicing artists working in any discipline or medium. Applicants must live within Tacoma city limits and be 18 years of age or older. A free informational workshop will be held on April 11, 2018, from 6-7:30 PM, at Marlene's Market (2951 S. 38th St. in Tacoma). The application deadline is 11:59 PM on April 23, 2018.

Support for this training program and projects come from an Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information and to apply, go to [cityoftacoma.org/artsopp](http://cityoftacoma.org/artsopp).





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to register today!



## Women's History and Social Security

By Kirk Larson

March is Women's History Month. This is a time to focus not just on women's achievements, but on the challenges women continue to face. In the 21st century, more women work, pay Social Security taxes, and earn credit toward monthly retirement income than at any other time in our nation's history. Knowing this, you can take control of your own rich and independent history, with knowledge you can get from Social Security.

Social Security has served a vital role in the lives of women for over 80 years. With longer life expectancies than men, women tend to live more years in retirement and have a greater chance of exhausting other sources of income. With the national average life expectancy for women in the United States rising, many women may have decades to enjoy retirement. A woman who is 65 years old today can expect to live, on average,

until about 87, while a 65-year-old man can expect to live, on average, until about 84. As a result, experts generally agree that if women want to ensure that their retirement years are comfortable, they need to plan early and wisely.

A great place to start is with Social Security's Retirement Estimator. It gives you a personalized estimate of your retirement benefits. Plug in different retirement ages and projected earnings to get an idea of how such things might change your future benefit amounts. You can use this valuable tool at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator>.

You should also visit Social Security's financial planning website at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners>. It provides detailed information about how marriage, widowhood, divorce, self-employment, government service, and other life or career events can affect your Social Security.

Your benefits are based on your

earnings, so you should create your personal my Social Security account to verify that your earnings were reported correctly. Your account also can provide estimates of your future retirement, disability, and survivors benefits. You can access my Social Security at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

If you want more information about how Social Security supports women through life's journey, Social Security has a booklet that you may find useful. It's called Social Security: What Every Woman Should Know. You can find it online at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10127.html>.

## A Conversation about Equity and the Environment

By Hally Bert

Each year, Downtown On the Go hosts a Friday Forums discussion series on topics important to Tacoma and the growing transportation challenges and opportunities. Our March Forum features a conversation about equity and the environment. Join us as we welcome Transportation Equity Program Manager Naomi Doerner, Equity Strategies Manager Ubax Gardheere, and Equity and Environment Initiative Program Manager Sudha Nandagopal as they share Seattle's experiences and insights engaging, co-creating, and implementing community-centered economic development, environment, and transportation equity strategies.

As the Hilltop Neighborhood changes, it is important to evaluate how development affects all community members. Affordability

of housing, access to well-paying jobs, and inclusive transportation options are all important parts of the puzzle. This conversation will highlight the ways that Tacoma can proactively address the needs of everyone. This event is free and open to the public. Please email [hallyb@downtownonthego.org](mailto:hallyb@downtownonthego.org) with any questions.

Friday Forum: Equity & Environment  
Mar. 30, 2018 from Noon – 1 p.m.

Urban Grace  
902 Market St,  
Tacoma, WA 98402





**LOUDER THAN A BOMB**  
TACOMA  
TEEN POETRY FESTIVAL

**APR 7** **LTAB LAUNCH PARTY**  
2-4PM @ Tacoma Public Library  
1102 Tacoma Ave. S.

**APR 10** **LOUDER THAN A BOMB DOCUMENTARY SCREENING**  
5:30PM @ Tacoma Public Library  
1102 Tacoma Ave. S.

**APR 14** **CROSSING THE STREET**  
10AM-3PM @ Post Office Gallery  
1102 A St. (Downtown Tacoma)

**APR 16** **CREATIVE COLLOQUY**  
7PM @ Black Kettle Bites & Brew  
744 Market St.

**APR 26** **DJ WORKSHOP W/SMOKEY WONDER**  
The Foundation of Hip Hop  
6PM @ Real Art - 5412 S.

**APR 28** **LTAB POETRY SLAM** ⚡  
9AM Prelims / 3PM Finals  
@ TCC - 6501 S. 19th St.

**MAY 2** **LTAB CELEBRATION READING W/SPECIAL POETRY LINEUP**  
7PM @ Real Art Tacoma 5412  
South Tacoma Way


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2018

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APRIL 11, 2018**

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6:00 - 7:30 P.M.

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**JOIN MAYOR VICTORIA WOODARDS  
TO FIND OUT WHAT'S NEXT FOR TACOMA**

## Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards to Host State of the City

By City of Tacoma

Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards will host the 2018 State of the City Address on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 6 PM in the Lincoln High School Auditorium (701 S. 37th St. in Tacoma). During the free community event, Mayor Woodards will speak on the theme “Our Tacoma: Our City, Our Success” while reflecting on her first 100 days in office.

“I’m extremely humbled and honored to serve as Tacoma’s mayor, but I know that success does not rest with me alone,” said Mayor Woodards. “Great things happen when we all work together.”

Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Tom Pierson will serve as master of ceremonies. Performing during the event are the Grant Elementary Troubadours Choir and the Lincoln High School Drumline.

Event doors open at 5:30 PM. The event, which will begin promptly at 6 PM, can be viewed live from anywhere on a device with internet access at [cityoftacoma.org/stateofthecity](http://cityoftacoma.org/stateofthecity) and on TV Tacoma, which is carried on both the Click! and Comcast Cable systems.

**On Click!**

- High definition on channel 512 in Tacoma and Pierce County
- Standard definition on channel 12 in Tacoma and Pierce County
- Standard definition on channel 21 in University Place

**On Comcast**

- High definition on channel 321 in Tacoma and Pierce County
- Standard definition on channel 12 in Tacoma
- Standard definition on channel 21 in Pierce County

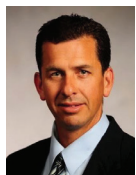
The event can also be viewed on Facebook Live at [facebook.com/cityoftacoma](http://facebook.com/cityoftacoma). Event attendees and members of the public can post about and follow the event using #SOTC253.

Following the event, there will be an opportunity for attendees to enjoy light refreshments, mingle, and record a brief personal video message for Mayor Woodards.

Those interested in attending the event are encouraged to register by Friday, April 6, 2018 at 3 p.m. at [cityoftacoma.org/stateofthecity](http://cityoftacoma.org/stateofthecity). Due to space limitations, seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Event-related questions, or requests for special accommodations, may be directed to Melanie Harding at [melanie.harding@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:melanie.harding@cityoftacoma.org) or (253) 591-5156.

## Enrique Leon chosen as new Tacoma School Board member

By Tacoma Public Schools



The Tacoma School Board of Directors has unanimously chosen Dr. Enrique Leon to fill a board vacancy through November 2019. Board members

made the selection Feb. 22 after interviewing five finalists Feb. 15.

Dr. Leon, a physician with Multi-Care Tacoma Family Medicine and a faculty member at University of Washington, will be sworn into service officially at the School Board’s March 8 meeting.

The vacancy came open Dec. 14 when School Board President Catherine Ushka, who had served on the board

since 2009, resigned her seat after winning election to the Tacoma City Council.

The current School Board members selected the finalists Feb. 8 from a list of 22 applicants. In addition to Dr. Leon, the finalists included:

- Rocio (Rosie) Ayala, director of Hilltop Scholars’ High School and college and career programs at Peace Community Center.
- Arthur Banks, pastor, Eastside Baptist Church.
- Traci Kelly, executive director of Catherine Place, a women’s center serving Pierce County and South King County.
- Sulja Warnick, a former teacher and founding board member of the Korean Women’s Association.

School Board members praised all the applicants for their “unique qualifications” and their willingness to serve the children of Tacoma.

Dr. Leon will serve on the Board of Directors until November 2019, then can run for public election to serve the remainder of Ushka’s term, which expires in November 2021.

Dr. Leon was born and raised in the medium-sized port of Chimbote, Peru, to an American Peace Corps mom and Peruvian teacher father. He is a member of the American Board of Family Physicians. He graduated from the Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C. He served his family practice residency at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle.

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A JONATHAN HANKS ART EXHIBITION

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**Learn more at [www.commhealth.org](http://www.commhealth.org)**



## Male Involvement Program

By John Levi

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Tacoma Urban League. With much history behind such an organization, one wonders what would 50 more years of impact look like?

Let's take a deeper look at one of the programs the Tacoma Urban League has spearheaded- the Male Involvement Program, also known as MIP. It teaches alternate options for reducing conflict, managing anger, and avoiding violence through structured dialogue, culture specific exercises and group mentoring. For about ten years, great community leaders have given their time to work with MIP and help positively influence the minds of young African American males foremost, as well as males of various ethnicities. It is important to acknowledge the workmanship of individuals who have sustained MIP throughout the years.

Currently MIP is a school-site based program. We have partnerships with Stewart, Gray, and First Creek middle schools, and Lister Elementary. What is taking place you might ask? In the spirit of innovation, when appropriate, MIP is transitioning into a role that is more interactive and integrated within the school day. Having site mentors at each school allows for more collaboration and continuity with partner schools. MIP adds value and supports the things that the institution of education may not have the capacity, skill set or the structure to facilitate. Therefore, it is a partnership. Each partner is bringing their expertise to create a product and an outcome that is effective and can be measured.

Impact is the key. If there is no impact, what's the purpose? MIP is always reflecting on this question, so it can better serve the young males of color in Tacoma. The current team of MIP Mentors have generated much vision around what this program could be if the right stakeholders took a strong interest. Mentoring is only effective if the mentee wants and seeks the mentor. This is the basis for effective mentorship. If someone

has not acknowledged that they need support, they will be resistant to that support.

Also, MIP has noticed that some basic building blocks may be the starting point for some mentees. Thus, we have facilitated a reading program: Read 2 Lead. Currently we are piloting this at Lister Elementary and Stewart Middle Schools. With the support and leadership of principals, administrators and teachers, we are working with about 25 students weekly to improve their reading and comprehension skills. The reading time is also supplemented with mentor check-ins and students sharing about their wins and losses for the week. We understand the even the academic support needs to be coupled with the mentor aspect.

At our First Creek site we are working closely with our YMCA partner and the leadership of the school to embark on something innovative. We will be hosting mentor classes during the school day, every Monday, 5th and 6th period. This is huge! Why? Because we believe that Mentorship is more than some after-school program or a lunchtime check-in. Ideally, mentorship should be a class integrated into student's weekly schedule. Many topics covered during mentor sessions are topics all students would benefit from. Having a mentor is not something extra, it is a necessity. If you speak with people who have experienced success or overcome adversity, it is not without the help and support from a mentor. Mentors are people who see us for who we are, while seeing us new, seeing the potential in someone and investing energy into that individual. Who wouldn't want that? MIP asked First Creek to identify the top students who would positively shift the student culture if they participated in mentorship. We have 39 students!

This also highlights another important point: Within any organization, institution, or business the culture is set by the few and followed by the many. Therefore, if we can reach the few culture setters, then we can change the tide of a whole school. The first step is believing in the kids

more than they believe in themselves, until they believe in themselves. The students we get to work with, we choose to see them anew each day- we call it (VuJa De). For so long, African American men have been déjà vu in the eyes of systemic oppression, but today we choose to see them clearly with fresh vision, for who they really are: brilliant talented young minds waiting to be held accountable in love

to their innate potential.

We are glad to be serving. We are hopeful about the outcomes and the future of the young gentlemen. Thank you to the City of Tacoma for funding this project for many years, past and present MIP staff, Tacoma School District, dedicated volunteers, Pierce County Juvenile Justice Department, and most importantly the young gentlemen and their families who

engage with us.

If you are interested in making an impact with MIP and the Tacoma Urban League, contact us at 253.383.2007 and [jlevi@thetacomaurbanleague.org](mailto:jlevi@thetacomaurbanleague.org)

Opening April 19th @ Tacoma Art Museum

# TEEN ART SHOW

6 - 8 pm

## A Call to Young Artists

Join us to be featured in TAM's Teen Art Show!  
Submit your art by March 24, midnight, to be considered.  
All mediums welcome. [bit.ly/teenartatTAM](http://bit.ly/teenartatTAM)

TACOMA ART MUSEUM

TacomaArtMuseum.org  
TeensInTacoma.com

TAM's Teen Art Show is organized in collaboration with Teens in Tacoma.

## Tacoma Link is coming!

Construction as early as Fall 2018

By Sound Transit

Sound Transit is excited to share news that the Tacoma Link Extension will start construction as early as Fall 2018! By 2022, the 2.4-mile extension will continue north along Commerce Street to the Stadium and Hilltop districts.

We wrapped up 2017 by hosting an online and in-person open house to share the final design of the Tacoma Link Extension tracks, platforms and approved station names. Renderings offered a glimpse of what the completed Operations and Maintenance Facility will look like on East 25th Street. We also provided some early construction information. See project renderings from our November 2017 open house.

**Where are we now in the project phase?**

We have reached final design and are in the Pre-construction Phase. Construction work will begin in the third quarter of 2018. Once we

have the construction contractor's construction schedule, we'll let businesses and residents know when they can expect construction to begin along the Tacoma Link Extension route. We will also organize a series of construction meetings inviting community members to listen to progress updates, learn about construction impacts and ask questions to the project team.

### Our commitment

The role of Sound Transit Community Outreach is to keep the public informed and engaged, while minimizing the impacts of construction. Sound Transit staffs community events and holds project meetings, briefings and drop-in sessions. We have a 24-hour construction hotline and provide advanced notice of construction work and impacts happening in your neighborhood.

### Stay informed

Stay tuned for project updates, and forward this to your friends, family, neighbors, and people in

your community! Encourage them to subscribe. Other ways we'll keep you informed include:

- Project e-newsletters and construction alerts
- Drop-ins to share direct construction impact information
- Project briefings by request
- Construction open house
- Local community events
- Staffing at City of Tacoma Links to Opportunity project office: Location: 1120 S. 11th Street, Monday through Friday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m.

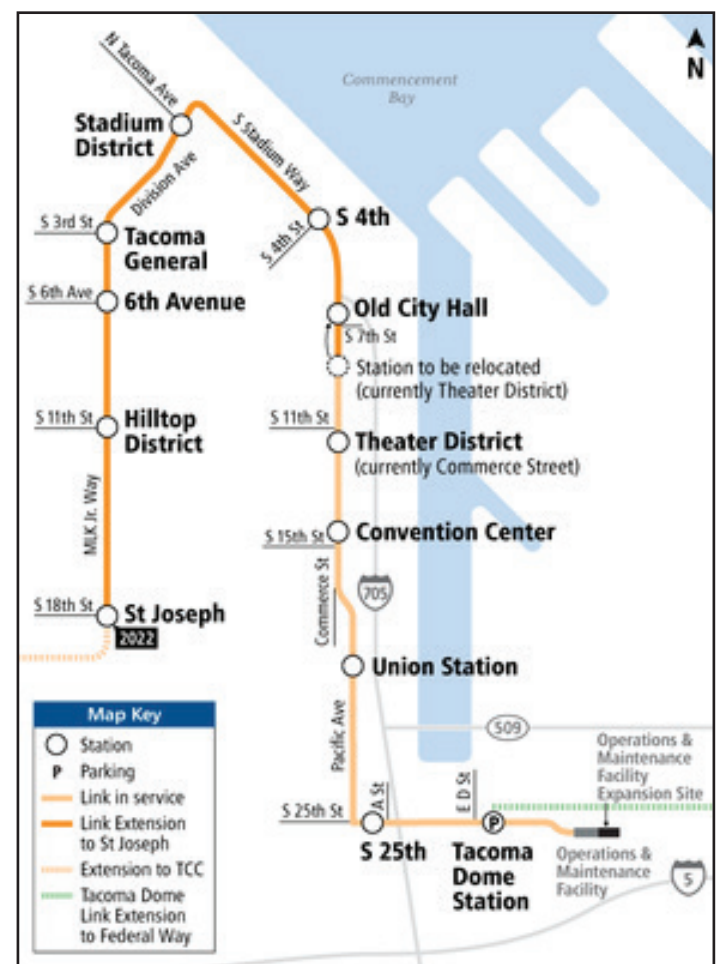
Tacoma Link Extension project website

24-hour construction hotline: (888) 298-2395

For more information <https://www.soundtransit.org/Projects-and-Plans/tacoma-link-extension>

Lauren Wheeler, 206-903-7004 or [Lauren.Wheeler@soundtransit.org](mailto:Lauren.Wheeler@soundtransit.org)

24-hour construction hotline: 888-298-2395





# Cherry Blossom Event

Come celebrate the magic of spring with cherry blossoms and wine. **EAT DRINK and BE CHERRY!**

By Mario Lorenz/HBA

While cherry blossoms (sakura) are recognized around the world as a symbol of Japan, Japan isn't the only country that celebrates their ephemeral blooming. With cherry blossom festival season in full swing, the beautiful blooms will last only for only a few weeks before falling to the ground and remaining bare for another year. In Japan, cherry tree viewing is known as (hanami), which literally translates to flower viewing. The brief beauty of the blossoms draws millions of people from all over the world to witness the spectacle. But they don't just happen in Japan. Cherry Blossom festivals are held in Washington DC, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Tokyo, Japan, Jinhae, South Korea, Taiwan, Northern California, Seattle, WA, Macon, Georgia,

Meghalaya, India, and Beijing, China...and now TACOMA!

The 2018 Cherry Blossom Fest and Wine Walk Committee and the Hilltop Business (HBA) are pleased to present the 2nd Annual Cherry Blossom Fest and Wine Walk on April 28, 2018. Planned and coordinated by Hilltop Business Association volunteers, Cherry Blossom Fest and Wine Walk strives to provide a cultural arts event that offers a forum for learning, entertainment, fun, and support of community.

On Saturday, April 28, 11:00 am - 4 pm, and Centro Latino (1208 South 10th St.). Join us at People's Park (South 9th & MLK Jr. Way) for family activities with an Asian theme: haiku poetry writing, origami, kite flying, food, picnic, entertainment and cherry blossom walk in the neighborhood. Hear the beat of the Taiko drums, fly a kite,



Photo Courtesy of Associated Ministries

picnic in the park, see creative crafts from vendors. There will be games and crafts for children and numerous cultural displays. Stop by Centro Latino (1208 S 10th St) and enjoy the Cosmic Shapes of yoga by Mauricio Robalino.

From 4:00 - 7:00 pm, the Wine Walk will wander the Hilltop as HBA merchants offer tastings of some specially chosen wines. The

\$25 prepaid ticket (\$30 the day of the walk) will get you a beautiful wine glass, 10 tickets to be used for two ounce pours, a passport of all the businesses and wines being sampled. Must be 21 years or older to participate. The walk begins at Marconi's Chiropractic and Wellness Center (1002 Martin Luther King Jr. Way). Advanced tickets for the Wine Walk are available for \$25

at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3358954](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3358954).

Vendor and sponsorship opportunities are still available. Additional information about the event and vendor/sponsorship opportunities is available on the Facebook page for the Hilltop Cherry Blossom and Wine Walk.






TACOMA COMMUNITY HOUSE

## BECOME A READ2ME VOLUNTEER



### What is Read2Me?

Read2Me is a unique **tutoring program** where trained volunteers work with striving 1st-3rd grade students to improve their reading comprehension skills and nurture a life-long love of reading.

-  Tutors meet one-on-one with students for one 45-minute session each week
-  Sessions are held at Arlington, Lister, McCarver, and Manitou Park Elementary School during school hours
-  On-site coordinators provide support
-  Tutors learn teaching methods and learning outcomes that mirror the curriculum of each child's classroom
-  Tutors stay with the same child for the entire school year to aid with relationship-building



1314 S. L STREET, TACOMA, WA 98405

253.383.3951

[WWW.TACOMACOMMUNITYHOUSE.ORG](http://WWW.TACOMACOMMUNITYHOUSE.ORG)

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, IMMIGRATION & ADVOCACY SINCE 1910



# Golden Gloves

By Kris "Sonics Guy" Brannon

For 70 years the Golden Gloves has been an annual event in Tacoma, making it the second oldest Golden Gloves event in the country. This year's event was really special as past champions were brought up onto the ring during and honored during intermission. One of those past champs was Leo Randolph who went on to become an Olympic and professional champion. Also honored during the festivities were past presidents of the Tacoma Athletic Commission Joe Macaluso ('98) and Hilltop institution Mr. Mac, Morris McCollum ('78), both of whom passed away this year. Another past president, Tony Anderson, was also honored with a ceremony in the ring and presented with a beautiful poster. Anderson, three-time TAC President and Golden Gloves committee member has been a civic and youth sport advocate for over 30 years.

There were twelve bouts of both men and women. The Tacoma Boxing Club won the last three championship bouts. Taylor Shirley (178 lbs.), Ramy Hassan (201 lbs.) and Ramel Casablanca (201+ lbs.) were crowned. I was able to ask Ramy Hassan a few questions after his championship win.

Ramy grew up in Astoria, Queens, NY. He started fighting at 13 with formal training beginning at 16. Ramy ended up joining the Brotherhood Gym and winning the NY Metro Championship at the 178 weight class. After joining the military and settling here Ramy got back to boxing. He found legendary coach Tom Mustin who he met on Jan. 2 when he said he was going enter Ramy in Golden Gloves. After weeks of in-



Photos Courtesy of Rai Jurado

tense training, Ramy won the Golden Gloves, which he calls one of the greatest achievements of his life. Ramy says boxing is an art. To him it's a chess match that requires smarts, grit and much, much more. "There is a respect and beauty behind the blood, sweat and tears" said Ramy. Ramy is currently deployed with the 1-23 Infantry AKA Tomahawks.

For more information about amateur boxing in Tacoma, visit the Facebook page for Tacoma Boxing Club.



Photo Courtesy of Rai Jurado

# Swim Team Jammers and Blockers battle for points

By Shan Ergun

When Metro Aquatics Swim Team stopped requiring swimmers to have taken swim lessons, Hilltop kids jumped into the pool! Metro Parks is running a new curriculum where kids learn how to swim instead of being taught how to swim. The first six-week summer program was just \$15 and more than 75% of the kids who participated swam well enough at the end to join a high

school team. The focus is to make practices fun, fast-moving, and for any confidence level in the water.

This new approach appealed to Jazzmin Lane, a thirteen-year-old Jason Lee student who loves the water but was hesitant to join traditional swim lessons with kids half her age. "She finally found her sport," says Lane's mom Sue, "she has grown so much as an individual after joining the swim team, more confi-

dent and determined to get better."

It is not just in the water that Metro Parks swimmers find success. Academics and mindfulness are folded into the program as kids get more experienced. Coaches work with athletes on team building, problem solving and confidence. Grades are checked, and books get handed out by coaches to kids who need them. The Select Team, which any middle-schooler can join if they meet

a 60% practice attendance and log 150 minutes of homework each week, culminates in a 5-day camp at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, OR. The select team doesn't have a price increase and the camp is paid for by the swim team's booster club.

Saniah Lewis-Travis, an eighth grader at Destiny Middle School, joined Metro's swim team in 2016. Before joining the team Lewis-Travis says she "was very shy and quiet and never wanted to interact with others because I was afraid of what others thought of me. Then coming to the swim team, my teammates were so nice and welcoming, and it has taken me out of my shell and being a lot more social." Lewis-Travis also grew

as a student, watching her grades rise through middle-school. "The swim team has been an influence on me setting goals for myself and constantly reminding myself that I can accomplish goals that I set and I work towards." In February, Lewis-Travis was selected to the Western U.S. All Star Team that swam at the Black History Swim Meet in Washington D.C. "This is the most competitive selection process we have ever had," said Jeremiah Stanton of Albuquerque, NM, who heads the selection committee for the West, "it is extremely difficult to select just 16 athletes. Those selected are our most well-rounded and talented swimmers."

Even though Metro Parks has eliminated most of the traditional barriers to swim team by starting non-experience-needed teams costing between \$15-40 and financial assistance available, there is still a limitation of pool space at People's Center. Traditionally adult programming such as aerobics and lap swimming get priority evening time at pools, mostly because adults tend to be the most vocal patrons. Metro Parks currently runs only two swim teams out of People's Center Pool, which is the lowest of any Metro Parks facility. As they have progressed through the program, swimmers like Lane and Lewis-Travis have had to arrange transportation to other pools like Mt. Tahoma or Wilson High School for practice.



# Property Tax Exemption/Deferral for Seniors & Disabled

Help spread the word

By Jo Davies



All Hilltop property owners are aware that as their property values rise, so do their property taxes. Due to the State School levy most will see an increase for 2018. But there's help if you are a homeowner over 61, or disabled, and your gross annual income for 2017 was \$40,000 or less: you might be eligible for an exemption. The exemption freezes the value of your residence as of January of the initial application year. An application can be made anytime during the year and if approved and you have already paid taxes, a refund will be issued. For example, if you apply for an exemption in July 2018, the exemption would start as of 01/01/2018. And if you've paid your taxes then a portion of those taxes paid would result in a refund.

The reduction would be 30 - 60% depending on your gross income (all sources of income). The property must be your primary place of residence at the time of filing and for the year of 2018..

The exemption freezes the value of the residence as of January 1, and exempts all excess levies, and may exempt a portion of regular levies. The Assessor-Treasurer will continue to establish the market value of the property on an annual basis. Your taxes will be calculated on the lesser of market value or frozen value. The exemption must be renewed every six years.

This program of the Washington State Department of Revenue was begun in the 1970's. According to Brittanie Erickson, Lead for the

Pierce County Assessor's Senior/Disabled Exemptions Department, 11,848 Pierce County property owners are currently taking advantage of the exemption. While it is not widely promoted, information is included on the back of all property tax statements issued by the Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer and on their website <https://www.co.pierce.wa.us/702/Senior-Citizens-Or-Disabled-Persons>.

Applications can be filed at any time; all income of the applicant and spouse/co-tenant/domestic partner must be included and documented. If you file an income tax return, please wait until you file before submitting your application. According to Erickson, applications can take four to six months to process, so "have patience."

Ms. Erickson also administers the Senior Citizen and Disabled Person Deferral Program for property taxes. To participate in this program, property owners must renew annually with the Assessor-Treasurer's Office. To qualify, the applicant must be at least 60 years old or disabled, have 20% equity in the home, and not exceed an annual gross income of \$45,000.

If the property owner meets all of the requirements, the Department of Revenue pays the taxes and special assessments to Pierce County on behalf of the taxpayer. The deferred amounts paid by the state become a lien and must be repaid to the state, plus 5% interest when the property ownership is transferred (RCW 84.38).

For more information about these programs, or for assistance in filling out an application, contact the Senior Citizen and Disabled Person Exemption Department hotline at (253) 798-2169 or visit the Assessor-Treasurer's Office, 2401 S. 35th St., Room 142, Tacoma WA 98409-7498.



Photo Credit: Corey Mosesly

## Rite-Aid Building Update

By Staff

The past month or two has seen a lot of conversation, meetings, and interest in the Rite-Aid building that has been vacant for many years now. The current owners have had the property for many years and have a lease with Rite-Aid that pays them about \$500,000 per year even though the building isn't being used. That lease continues for another three years or so. For the property owners it is a pretty good deal to get paid a lot of rent for a building that isn't being used. With the Sound Transit Link Rail coming in the next few years, and the lease getting closer to expiring there is much speculation about what is next for the location. With construction due to begin this

year at 9th and MLK on two large buildings (as profiled in our recent Monthly Community Meeting), a market rate apartment building by KOZ Development and a senior housing project by Mercy Housing the route of the Link Rail continues to see a lot of activity and development.

Most recently a proposal to have a Homeless Youth Shelter was proposed and while the details of that project weren't a good match for the Rite-Aid location the conversations highlighted the value in community engagement around having a voice in what happens there. Councilmember Blocker has been involved in discussions about a few different possible uses including a community center/library, a community land trust option, and other ideas.

Across 11th from the Rite-Aid the vacant lots have a very large market rate project planned that is likely to begin construction in conjunction with the build out of the rail extension. Community can expect development to increase substantially in the area once the train project is underway and developers have a firm understanding of when it will be completed. We will continue to keep you informed about the Rite-Aid location as we learn more.

## Night of Essence Dinner for African American students



Photo Credit: People's Center Steering Committee

By People's Center Steering Committee

On Saturday, December 9th, the (Hilltop Steering Committee) partnered with Michael Hankins, the Founder of M.O.C.H.A. Outreach,

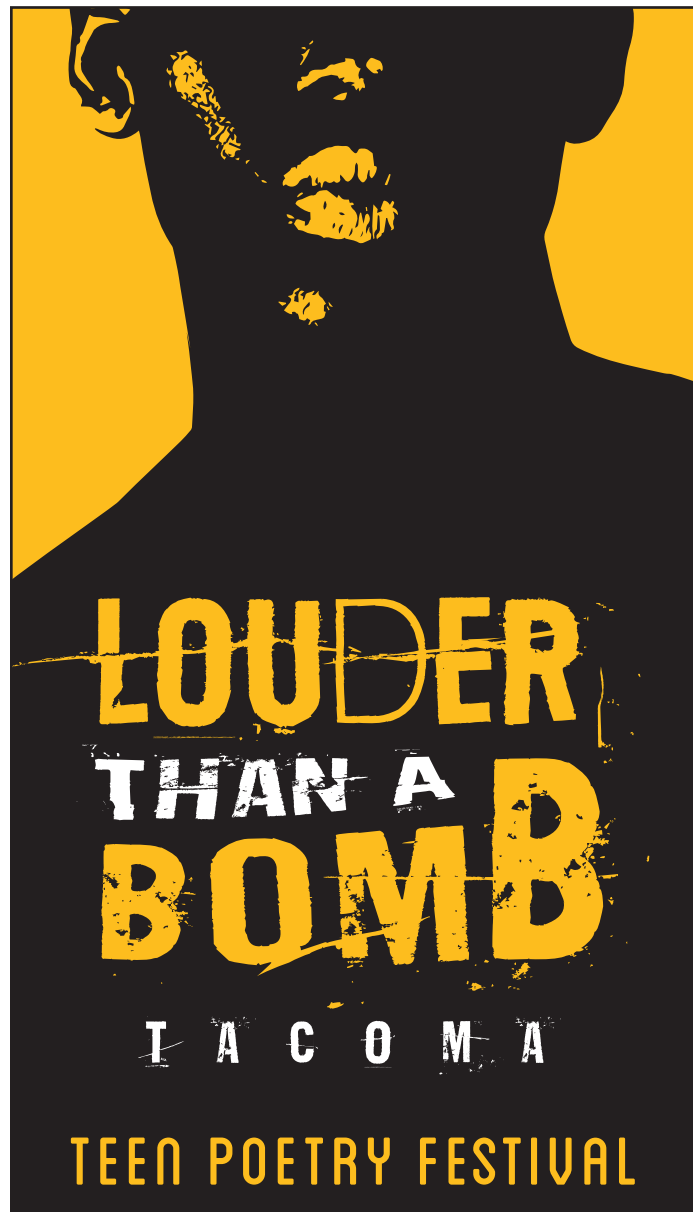
to host the first annual Night of Essence Dinner for African American students. The focus of the very prestigious dinner was to showcase the academic dreams, visions, and goals of each student. During the event, students participated in the

30-minute mix-up move. Students left their tables to move and mix in, to talk with Black engineers, Black real estate agents, Black nurses, Black community Leaders, and Black dignitaries like the honorable Maxine Mimms Ph.D. With over 100 people

in attendance, the event was a huge success. The night was filled with live music from the band Adobo, who put on a stellar performance. Special guest speaker, Freedom Pearson, flew in from Phoenix, Arizona to deliver a powerful and impactful

speech on youth empowerment, and Michael Hankins ended the evening with awards and acknowledgements to senior students who have already received their four-year college acceptance letters.





**APR 7** **LTAB LAUNCH PARTY**

2-4PM @ Tacoma Public Library  
1102 Tacoma Ave. S.

**APR 10** **LOUDER THAN A BOMB DOCUMENTARY SCREENING**

5:30PM @ Tacoma Public Library  
1102 Tacoma Ave. S.

**APR 14** **CROSSING THE STREET**

10AM-3PM @ Post Office Gallery  
1102 A St. (Downtown Tacoma)

**APR 16** **CREATIVE COLLOQUY**

7PM @ Black Kettle Bites & Brew  
744 Market St.

**APR 26** **DJ WORKSHOP W/SMOKEY WONDER**

The Foundation of Hip Hop  
6PM @ Real Art - 5412 S.

**APR 28** **LTAB POETRY SLAM**

9AM Prelims / 3PM Finals  
@ TCC - 6501 S. 19th St. 

**MAY 2** **LTAB CELEBRATION READING W/SPECIAL POETRY LINEUP**

7PM @ Real Art Tacoma 5412  
South Tacoma Way

**MORE AT: [WRITE253.COM](https://write253.com)**

## Poems and More...

Write253 teaching artists work with Executive Director Mike Haeffinger to design meaningful curriculum and programming for our middle school creative writing programs. At the moment, they are often working with youth to prepare for our third annual Louder than a Bomb poetry event, which will be held on Saturday, April 28, at Tacoma Community College. It will include around 12 slam teams from area schools, organizations and the Remann Hall juvenile detention facility participating in workshops and a final competition. See our website for more information or to volunteer with LTAB: <https://write253.com/>

### Written

By Sophie Myers, Write253 teaching artist

Words, shake this grey sheet on my eyes  
 Into a flannel static  
 So my tongue can flop open  
 And I can watch birds  
 Fly out my mouth.  
 Make me a believer of your glory.  
 Fragments, crack my mind  
 Into a million fragments of  
 Embodied ancestry, and  
 Let me puzzle them back together.  
 Stories, hold my tears in an hourglass  
 So I can see the progress I've made.  
 Hold the shell of my heart  
 Like a tender crustacean.  
 Flick my wrist to the beat  
 Of universal imagination.  
 I know why you've shown me  
 Your pink sunsets on ponds,  
 While geese shatter my sense of location.  
 Your world, you, words,  
 Are running faster than I could ever catch.  
 So I pick up tiny rocks  
 You've kicked up,  
 and these are enough for me.  
 But still, I'll yell.



### The Flame

By Gloria Muhammad, Write253 teaching artist

the match i hold  
 is a thin two inch wooden stick  
 I slide it against the striker  
 That looks like a brick building  
 "KAAH!" is the sound it makes  
 Strike one  
 Strike two  
 "KAAH! KAAH!"  
 repeatedly, the match makes this sound  
 As I strike it over and over again  
 Like a batter up for bat  
 Finally,  
 I have gotten lucky  
 the light beneath the wooden bathroom door  
 is no longer alone  
 the flame is the perfect glow of orange and yellow  
 like candy corn, minus the white  
 the smell of campfire fills the space  
 it makes my soul feel warm  
 like hot chocolate  
 running down my esophagus  
 the tip of the match is now a charcoal black  
 these dark brown eyes of mine  
 go wide  
 glimpses of my history cross my mind  
 from the Ku Klux Klan burning down houses  
 to false accusations of rape  
 my body feels tense  
 i see a brief silhouette  
 of my reflection in the mirror  
 i hold my breath  
 i blow the flame out, like a smoker's forever final puff  
 i am not messing with that thing anymore  
 not even on my mother's birthday

### Different Perspective :

By Marquis McCrary, Write253 teaching artist

In A world darker than black only the ones who don't survive are the ones that live.  
 Making songs with gifts ... Wrapped with the passion of crack addiction.  
 Dazzled from white packets? Does that make me suspicious?  
 Family split like poles when you're superstitious ....  
 Needing a new edition of treatment, even stitches ...  
 From all these thorns and battle wounds, life was in auto tune so I'm soothing my Tpain.  
 Asking wouldn't it be strange? If I pulled up in a range making change killing 16 bars from long range  
 Click Clack ... POW damn it I almost got it, a little more to the left like beyonce relationship problems  
 Cause I'm triggered to be the dopest, fiending ain't my intentions  
 Honestly to be specific it's like I need prescription .... Hoping they see the image.  
 Realizing after they listen the average is having a hard time.  
 Imagine living, in a house moms usually has to ask for assistance.  
 No father figure so disappointment is well consisted.  
 Poverty addiction, rehab is turning rap into riches almost failing classes cause only rapping will grab my interest.  
 Seriously accurate when the pressure is unexpected  
 A lil andrew luck plays a part in the town I'm repping.  
 Cannabis sessions, decreases the level of stressing  
 Murder she wrote, yea that's the reason music's my weapon.  
 My girl is my shield, she spots the bull in a second.  
 What's minor I let it slide, I'm being passive aggressive.  
 Not giving up is the method, we're stronger when connected.  
 Yea we argue but we make sure that the outcome is progression.  
 But the only way to do that is to view a different perspective.  
 Cause she knows I'm just a younging, no intentions of thugging when fights break out in my stomach.  
 I'm tired of always struggling, got me pissed mumbling "how the hell does it comes to this?"  
 Misery loving company, comforters aren't comforting.  
 Big Brother? pshh .... Hustling, hope the popos don't come for him.  
 Hating, taking a dump on him , the type of shhhh I used to view in my hood.  
 It's a common view but you gotta have heart comic view.  
 Cause yea you can laugh but you won't if it happens to you.



# Two Day Tent City Gathering at 11th & MLK



By Staff

The sudden arrival of over twenty separate tents and shelters on the vacant lots adjacent to 11th and MLK on the Hilltop caused quite a stir recently. While Hilltop residents are familiar with the ongoing homelessness that is unfortunately persistent and prevalent in our neighborhood it is quite rare to see such a large gathering all at once. The News Tribune reported on it promptly and within a couple of days the Police has moved the campers along. The owner of the property had a no trespass order in place with the Tacoma Police Dept. that enabled fast action. As many residents know from their own personal experiences it can often take much longer to have an encampment removed from private property if the

owner isn't involved and there is no trespass paperwork in place. At our recent HAC Monthly Community Meeting we learned more about to get this paperwork in place for local property owners. The Homeless Outreach staff from the City and other agencies are always quick to respond however the problem remains a challenging one for all concerned.

Key factors in the discussion center on the new policy from the City that for some people 'criminalizes' homelessness. While it has never been legal to set up camp on private property the recent changes in policy around camping on public property are causing increased burden on private property owners as homeless people who might previously located themselves on sidewalks, parking

strips or other more public locations are now forced onto private property and typically given some time at each location while outreach services try to engage. The result is a continuation of the endless cycle of homeless people setting up and moving camps with the ever present post camp clean up problems.

Hilltop Action Coalition, Councilmember Blocker and others have arranged a clean up event for March 17 at noon to work on the blocks at 11th & MLK while questions remain as to whether the city will find new ways to address the core problem and provide clean up services that help community deal with the mess left behind.



## 15th St Market Closed - Arrests Made On Drug Charges

By Staff

In an surprising turn of events the Stop N Mart market at S. 15th and M.L.K. Jr. was shut down by the City on Monday. Following a confirmed narcotics purchase by undercover police the owner was arrested and booked into Pierce County Jail on multiple drug related offenses. In addition to an immediate suspension of their business license there were other code violations on the building noted. A review of the Pierce County Jail roster shows that an individual whose name is associated with the business have been charged with 2 counts of a unlawful delivery of a controlled substance and 1 count of unlawful possession of a controlled substance with intent. City officials and Police indicated that it is unlikely that the

store will reopen quickly.

For many years the location has been a source of frustration for local residents and police because of ongoing drug-dealing, prostitution, and loitering that was a daily routine at or near the store. The location was known to have a high number of complaints and calls for service featuring as a regular item of discussion at the Hilltop Action Coalition Monthly Community meetings.

# Participate in childhood reading

By Korie Jennings

It's a Wednesday morning at McCarver Elementary. A faint scent of sharpened pencils, copy paper, and hand sanitizer moves through the halls – the quintessential “school” smell. Fluorescent lights buzz overhead as a short line of first graders make their way down the hall, their cheeks puffed out to keep in pockets of air as the “silent train” comes closer to the classroom. Inside, community volunteers are seated at small tables, awaiting the students' arrival. Upon reaching the classroom, the silent train is derailed as the students excitedly seek out their tutors. Suddenly the room is full of smiles and excitement, which quickly calms as the pairs open their books. For the next 45 minutes, these students will work with their volunteer tutors, taking turns reading to one another, practicing writing, and building their literacy skills. Another session of Read2Me has begun.

The program's mission is simple: to help get every student reading at a fourth grade level by the time they start fourth grade. This focus is due to the difference in curriculum between early and late elementary school grades; students in first through third grade are learning how to read, but from fourth grade on, they need to read well in order to continue their education. “My students absolutely love the R2M program,” said Michelle Pigott, a first grade teacher at McCarver elementary. “They count

down the days each week until they can go read with their tutor. Their confidence grows each week and they really see themselves as readers because of the work with their tutors.”

The dedication of Read2Me volunteers speaks volumes about the efficacy of the program. Some volunteers have been tutoring for over 25 years with Read2Me. Currently, the

in life can go far in making a child successful now and in the future.”

Many volunteers shine as they speak at length about the connections they have made with students over the years. When asked what drives her dedication, Carol Webster, an eight year tutor and Advisory Committee member, commented, “I want to spend my time where it has the greatest impact. Helping a child

said, “because reading is the foundation for all education. I read hundreds of books as a child and I enjoy helping young students grow as readers.”

Read2Me has volunteer opportunities at Arlington, Lister, Manitou Park, and McCarver Elementary Schools. Since October, the program has paired over 200 students with volunteers from the community who

The program is not solely focused on phonics and fluency, however; Read2Me is also very focused on fostering a real enthusiasm for reading.

In 2018, Read2Me will celebrate its 30th year of building child literacy. Read2Me was started in 1988 by a group of volunteers from St. Joseph's Hospital who partnered with McCarver Elementary with the goal of helping some of the school's struggling readers. This initial program was called SMART and was eventually formed into a standalone nonprofit called Werlin. Tacoma Community House adopted the program in 2011.

More information is available at [www.TacomaCommunityHouse.org](http://www.TacomaCommunityHouse.org). If you are interested in learning more about Read2Me, or if you have an hour each week available to help a student, contact Korie Jennings. She can be reached at 253-282-2951, or at [KJennings@TacomaCommunityHouse.org](mailto:KJennings@TacomaCommunityHouse.org).



program has approximately 160 volunteers in four elementary schools. “I find it very fulfilling to help a child gain confidence in themselves,” said Kathy Crowley, a second year tutor. “I know that encouragement early

to read well is so important for the success of that student.” This school year, Jay Thomas, executive director of the Peace Community Center, joined the tutoring ranks. “I decided to get involved with Read2Me,” he

are eager to share their love of reading. Read2Me works very closely with the Tacoma School District to keep the program consistent with the mainstream reading classrooms, to further benefit the program's students.





## 2nd CYCLE'S SPRING YOUTH PROGRAMS

By Staff

On an average day at the shop during the summer, you'll probably see two dozen or so youth drop into the shop and get access to the tools to fix flats, pump up tires, or adjust brakes.

Our youth programs at Second Cycle have developed significantly since we were able to hire a youth program manager in 2016. We see our youth programs as a driving force for Second Cycle and as a driving force for real social change. We spend a great deal of time, energy, and resource toward youth empowerment and development.

### Earn-A-BIKE Classes

The Earn-A-Bike program is an earning and learning youth bike mechanic program where students (ages 8-16) participate in a six to eight

week course. Over the course of these several weeks, students learn how to build up a bike that they get to keep at the end. We go over many mechanical tasks on the bike ranging from brake adjustment to truing wheels, and we also go over basic safe riding practices.

This class is available at our Hilltop location as well as our satellite location at iDEA High School.

Enrollment for this class is on a sliding scale, with a minimum commitment of \$75 and full costs being covered at \$250. Full scholarships are also available.

Please check with our youth programs manager for this scholarship opportunity at [youthprograms@2nd-cycle.org](mailto:youthprograms@2nd-cycle.org).

Go to <http://www.2ndcycle.org/youth-programs-1> to register.

### Hilltop Action Coalition Community Calendar

As of February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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

#### MARCH 2018

**Mar 1** – Thursday – **Central Neighborhood Council Meeting**  
7:00pm-8:30pm (Tacoma Nature Center)

**Mar 5** - Monday - **HAC Board Meeting** 4:00pm-5:30pm

**Mar 7** – Wednesday – **Hilltop Engagement Committee Mtg**  
5:00pm (Clyde Hupp Board Room, Bates Technical College)

**Mar 10** - Saturday - **HAC Neighborhood Leaders Meeting**  
10:00am (Red Elm Café, Meeting room in the back)

**Mar 14** – Wednesday – **Neighborhood Council of New Tacoma Meeting** 5:30pm-7:00pm (People's Community Ctr)

**Mar 19** – Monday – **HAC Monthly Community Meeting**  
**6:00pm-7:30pm** – Presentations from Tacoma Public Schools,  
Destiny Charter Middle School, and Soar Academy  
(Hilltop Regional Health Center - Conf Rm on MLK)

**Mar 20** – Tuesday – **People's Community Center Steering Committee Mtg** 5:00pm-6:30pm (People's Community Ctr)

**Mar 27** - Tuesday - **HAC Links Meeting** 6:00pm (HAC Office)

#### APRIL 2018

**Apr 2** - Monday - **HAC Board Meeting** 4:00pm-5:30pm

**Apr 4** – Wednesday – **Hilltop Engagement Committee Mtg**  
5:00pm (Clyde Hupp Board Room, Bates Technical College)

**Apr 5** – Thursday – **Central Neighborhood Council Meeting**  
7:00pm-8:30pm (Tacoma Nature Center)

**Apr 11** – Wednesday – **Neighborhood Council of New Tacoma Meeting** 5:30pm-7:00pm (People's Community Ctr)

# LINKS TO OPPORTUNITY



## STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

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

## STAY ENGAGED WITH THE DESIGN!

### Contact us or stop by the office

Andy Micklow | 253-318-5626  
1120 South 11th Street, Tacoma  
[cityoftacoma.org/links](http://cityoftacoma.org/links)



### Storefront Office

1120 South 11th Street, Tacoma

### HOURS:

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

# BIKE LIKE THE MOUNTAIN IS OUT

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# Community Emergency Response Team Training

By Jennifer Schaal

CERT Training to the Rescue  
Did you know that there is free CERT training available to you? What is CERT, you ask? CERT is the "Community Emergency Response Team" training that teaches volunteers how to care for themselves and their neighbors when disaster strikes and help is needed right away, before public safety personnel arrive.

The City of Tacoma has a web page devoted to CERT training: [http://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city\\_departments/fire/divisions/emergency\\_management/community\\_emergency\\_response\\_team/](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/fire/divisions/emergency_management/community_emergency_response_team/).

Here's what it says:  
"The Tacoma Fire Department invites citizens who live or work within the city limits of Tacoma to attend our Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) classes. Aimed at preparing groups of citizens in our community to prepare for and respond to disasters, the classes will follow a model developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and offered in cities across the United States. The idea behind this model is to teach people in neighborhoods how to help each other in the first few minutes or hours following a disaster before emergency responders are able to get to them to render professional help. In the classes, students will gain hands-on skills such as how to put out small fires, render first aid in a disaster situation, and perform light search and rescue."

Typically, a series of six classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for three weeks, from 6:30-9:00 PM, and will culminate in a practical exercise to be held on a Saturday

from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Instructors will be uniformed Firefighters with special experience in the particular area or subject matter experts from other areas. You will have no out-of-pocket cost for these classes."

Up to 25 students can enroll in a class. All six classes must be completed for trainees to "graduate."

Classes are held at the Tacoma Fire Training Division at 2124 Marshall Ave in Tacoma.

To find out when the next CERT class is scheduled or for more information, call Josh Shelton with the Tacoma Fire Department at (253) 591-5955 or email [jshelton2@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:jshelton2@cityoftacoma.org).

(Josh says the Spring session is now full. Check out the website to register for the next available class.)

Calling all Hilltop CERT volunteers  
Are you CERT-trained, and living in the Hilltop area? Would you like to put your skills to use in events planning and support? Your help is needed with large community events such as street fairs, wine walks, arts events and more. Informal training in using the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to organize events will be provided.

Come and join your neighbors in supporting the fun events that build our community. Contact Josh Shelton at (253) 591-5955 or Jennifer Schaal at (253) 720-8551.



## Torqly: New website helps regional contractors find and hire local labor

**Torqly is a powerful tool that allows employers in the construction trades to connect with skilled, ready-to-work labor force.**

By Torqly

New website guides regional contractors to discover and employ local labor. Torqly is an online job matching portal for the construction trades launched in partnership with the City of Tacoma's Economic Development Department and Tacoma Works Initiative.

Washington State almost led the nation in job growth over the past year. One of the major issues facing the construction sector locally is the lack of enough trained workers to fill the jobs.

To help meet the growing demand, Torqly quickly connects building and construction businesses with the labor talent they need to complete projects on time and on budget.

"The new website helps businesses access top-tier talent. Many of the candidates that have registered have finished a training program at a community and technical college and some are now being hired right off the list with competitive job offers. We want hard-working, under-employed people to get the basic training they need and get connect-



ed to good jobs and local projects." says Korbett Mosesly, Recruiter.

Employers using Torqly can perform a simple search to see a ranked list of top candidates and view their individual profiles and then compare and recruit new tal-

ent. Torqly is a great way to connect appropriately trained workers with businesses looking to hire the right candidates for the job through accurate skill matching, same-day hiring, and lower recruitment costs.

Torqly doesn't just help employ-

ers find workers; it helps people establish successful careers. Torqly invited local employment coaches to join the online community to help people thrive in their career goals by providing professional advice, job leads, and training opportuni-

ties to registered workers. Jobseekers that register without training are being recruited to local pre-apprenticeship training programs.

For More information visit: [www.torqly.com](http://www.torqly.com)





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