

HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL

Dec 2021 / Jan 2022 | Hilltop Action Coalition | Volunteer Organized | www.hilltopactioncoalition.org

Partnerships Keep Our Community Thriving



FOOD FOR FREE

Hilltop Action Coalition is partnering with local organizations to offer free food on the Hilltop - no questions asked - no ID required - just free food to grab-n-go. No dine in services. Please wear a face mask. Donations are appreciated.



Produce

Food is Free Tacoma and Elijah Barrel will stock Hilltop FED with local produce.



Dry Goods

A. Philip Randolph Institute will stock Hilltop FED with dry goods.

Mon, Wed & Fri - 11am to 2pm
1202 MLK Jr. Way/Earnest S. Brazill ST

CONTACT HAC

(253) 301-3299

hacoffice15@gmail.com

Local Partnerships Support Hilltop FED

Identify the need. Find the space. Rally local partners. HAC steps us to bring no-barrier food to the Hilltop.

By Brendan Nelson

It might be hard to believe that in the land of abundance, so many are in need, but hunger is a reality right here in our community. It's unacceptable that people are facing hunger in a nation with more than enough food to go around. And not only is it unacceptable, but it hurts us all, hunger weakens communities by threatening people's ability to reach their potential and fully contribute.

Thankfully, where there is hunger, food sites in our community are working hard to get food to people in need. Many non-profits and

individuals are providing children with meals to fuel their growth, parents with groceries to fill the cupboards and seniors with the nutrition they need to stay strong.

Hilltop Action Coalition along with many partners wanted to do our part in addressing food insecurity in our neighborhood. We were hearing so much about food going to waste because people weren't coming to pick it up but realized that it wasn't so much about people not wanting it, but more about getting access to it. For many, limited transportation, a disability or simply not knowing where to go played a major part in

food sites having to throw away tons of food.

In a brainstorm session with Alyssa Torrez and Roberta Schur from Tacoma Housing Authority we came up with this idea of activating an empty space in our community by turning it into a food distribution site. The location at 1202 MLK Way was the perfect spot for us. It was centrally located, easily accessible and directly on two major bus lines. We quickly acted on connecting with the leadership of Community Health Care to make this idea a reality. After a series of conversations, CHC agreed to allow Hilltop Action Coalition to

occupy the space on a temporary basis.

I reached out to partners that I knew were distributing food but were having the issue of having to throw it out. The conversations were simple, they would give us the food they had leftover and we would get it in the hands and on the tables of folks in our community.

On October 4th, Hilltop FED (Food, Equity, Distribution) officially launched and it has been full steam ahead ever since. We call it a "no barrier" site. People that come through don't have to show ID, give their zip code or any other

information. Our goal is to simply get them food and do it with dignity and respect. We have had very generous community supporters contribute to this effort and that's what makes the Hilltop so great.

I am extremely grateful to our team for all of the ways they have stepped up. Hilltop FED wouldn't be possible without support and energy from Tacoma Housing Authority, A. Philip Randolph Institute, Elijah Barrel, Community Health Care, Moore Housing and Food is Free.

Please stop by to see us Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 11 am and 2 pm.

Hilltop Action Journal

Award-Winning Publication!
Journals are viewable online at
www.hilltopactioncoalition.org/

Publisher

Hilltop Action Coalition

Editor

Kristine Coman

Assistant Editor

Alyssa Torrez

HAC Journalists

Bengisu Cicek

Photographers

Angela Carlyle

Guest Contributors

Elliott Barnett

BERK Consulting

Beyond the Bell

Community Health Care

Jo Davies

Dementia Friendly Pierce County

Liz Ellis

Evergreen State College Tacoma

Jennifer English

Christy Joshua

Jon Kulju

Jennifer Schaal

Brendan Nelson

Perry Newell

Metro Parks Tacoma

Pierce County Coordinated Transportation Coalition

People's Community Center

Rania Qawasma-Dana

Carolyn Read

Barn Ulrich Rintz

Tacoma Community College

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Tacoma Police Department

Tacoma Public Library Northwest Room

Tacoma Public Utilities

Dr. Marcia Tate Arunga

Lutheran Community Services Northwest

Washington State Health Department

Community Priorities

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



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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/Treasurer

Greg Walker

Secretary

Jennifer Schaal

Board of Directors

Jo Davies

Alyssa Torrez

Michealea Lemons

Hunter Henderson

Tiffani Reyes

Program Manager & Journal Editor

Kristine Coman

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

HAC Meetings: In Person & Virtual



Hey Hilltop! What's happening?
Find out each Monday at 6:00 PM.

Join in on Mondays at 6:00 PM via HAC Facebook Live where you'll receive community updates and information about local events and resources in the Hilltop. If you are not on Facebook, simply Google HAC Virtual Weekly Update at 6PM and click on the Live Video link. You may not have access to the chat log, but you can still watch the video.

On the last Monday of each month, join us for the HAC Monthly Community Meeting at People's Community Center in the Multipurpose Room (1602 MLK Jr. Way).

Can't make the virtual meeting? No worries! All virtual meetings are recorded and available to view on the HAC Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition> by clicking on the Videos tab.

Join Us

Hilltop Action Coalition Virtual Weekly Updates Mondays @ 6PM

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



President's Message

By Brendan Nelson

Hello Hilltop Family,
As 2021 draws to a close I want to take the opportunity to look back on a year that turned out much differently than anyone could have imagined. While it was certainly challenging in many ways, it also showed how strong HAC is, even in the toughest of times. We take pride in the fact that when the pandemic brought the world to a halt and forced us to keep our distance from family, friends and one another, the work we do helped people to stay connected and made the difficult times hopefully a little easier.

It was no easy task managing both the safety of our community and the increased use of our networks and platforms. The reliability of the service we provide and the quality of the content we offer defines us. We rose to the challenge and we proved as an organization to be extremely flexible in the face of change.

I'm proud to say that while 2021 might have slowed us down, it certainly didn't stop us. We continued to publish the Hilltop Action Journal,

produced three business crawls, hosted two interns, and formed new lasting partnerships that will strengthen and enhance our mission.

We also launched Hilltop FED in October, helping to meet the increased need of getting food into the hands and on tables of our neighbors. To date, we have served over 250 folks in our community by establishing a no barrier food distribution site. These and so many other successes were achieved in a time when we were forced to adapt to very adverse circumstances.

I too miss the energy of being in a room together with our community members and having the opportunity to share and learn from each other on a regular basis. The reality is that it will probably take a little while longer before we are able to fully do this again. However, you've all shown what we can achieve when we work and think as a tight knit community, even when we can't be together physically.

So, I want to thank you all for your commitment to the community and the love you've shown Hilltop Action



Coalition over the past year. Our combined strength is what makes us HAC successful, and our community thrive.

I hope that when you're celebrating the holidays with friends and family that you look back on the year with the same sense of hope and gratitude that we all should feel.

I wish you and your families all a happy holiday season.

Love and Light,
Brendan A. Nelson

Meet HAC Board Member: Tiffani Reyes

Part of an ongoing series highlighting Hilltop Action Coalition Board Members.

By Jo Davies

The pandemic shook things loose for Tiffani Reyes, her husband and two sons. Tiffani is a newer resident to Hilltop, she moved here last year from West Texas. Life in Texas during the pandemic made her realize that her family's life could be different, more fulfilling. Oregon was the original destination until they spent an unplanned week in a Tacoma Air BnB due to the COVID shutdowns. By the end of the week, they decided this was where they wanted to stay and raise their sons. Once the decision was made to move to Tacoma, they concentrated on finding a place in Hilltop because of its diversity on all levels (age, gender, race,) and rich history.

Though only in the neighborhood for a short time, Tiffani is already acquainted with many of her neighbors, several of whom have been active in HAC over the years. New to gardening, she has benefited from the openness and expertise of her Hilltop neighbors. She is

fortunately nestled in-between two master gardeners who have coached her through her first summer of North West gardening. She is happy to report that the previous owner of her home bequeathed a fine chicken run and she has enjoyed nurturing the two hens that live there.

While we enjoyed a lunch of Fish House fish and chips in the dining room of their new home on South Sheridan, we had a wide-ranging conversation that always circled back to community and the places where that can happen: neighborhood sidewalks, neighborhood parks, and schools. Tiffani's primary focus is on bridging the gap between community and schools.

Working virtually during the pandemic allowed Tiffani to spend more time with her sons which, in turn, showed her the value of working closely with the educators at their school. Tiffani recently accepted the challenge of being elected Stanley Elementary PTA President for 2021-2022. The Stanley PTA board is working to make the PTA a more

accessible and inclusive space and is planning a series of monthly family events to engage and support families. The first event featured an outdoor movie screening with concessions and it attracted an audience of thirty parents and students. If you are interested in learning more about Stanley PTA, visit Stanley PTA Facebook for upcoming details on this and upcoming events (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/StanleyElementaryTacomaPTA>).

Tiffani believes that community events give people a reason to come together, to interact, and to make connections. Collaborative/co-sponsored events provide opportunities for exploring new places, meeting new people and making intentional connections. Focused events such as PTA gatherings, issue-based forums, and meet and greets help inform community connections. Public events such as business crawls, social hours and Halloween on the Hill, help to develop the connections which result in a united community



HAC Board Member, Tiffani Reyes. *Tiffani will work to strengthen relationships with Hilltop schools, students, and parents.*

The first Business Crawl in August 2020 introduced the Reyes family to the Hilltop Action Coalition and she credits the HAC for sparking her enthusiasm about living in Hilltop. She brings that enthusiasm to the

HAC Board where she will work to strengthen relationships with Hilltop schools, students, and parents. Hilltop has gained another passionate advocate with Tiffani Reyes.

HAC Monthly Community Meeting A “Warming Experience”

A day of celebration for HAC as they held their 1st Monthly Community Meeting, in person, since February 2020.

By Jennifer Schaal, Photographs by Hunter Henderson

On November 29th, the Hilltop Action Coalition hosted its first in-person Community Meeting in almost two years. Approximately forty community members joined the full HAC board of directors at Peoples Community Center to express gratitude, make Warming Bags, learn about HAC transitions, have some snacks, and celebrate just being together for the first time since COVID shut down in-person meetings.

The last HAC in-person monthly Community Meeting was held during February 2020. When COVID struck in March, shutting down schools and workplaces and isolating people at home, HAC staff and board members pivoted quickly to find a way to keep community members informed. Using the live meeting capability on Facebook, at 6:00pm on nearly every Monday for the past 90 weeks, HAC checked in with neighbors, business owners, health care workers, food bank operators, city council members, school board members, and many community service organizations to see how folks were doing and what resources were available to those in need. HAC also continued to publish the Hilltop Action Journal, which quickly became a major source of news in the Hilltop area.

During a warm and dry evening on this last Monday in November, neighbors acknowledged that there's no substitute for being together in person and celebrated the chance to gather again. Board president Brendan Nelson opened the meeting by asking attendees to share what they are grateful for. Many attendees responded with gratitude for pets, family, community, health, and opportunities to serve.

Jo Davies and Jennifer Schaal, who are transitioning off the HAC board after six years, expressed gratitude for the people who show up for their community, volunteering, writing articles for the Journal, participating in Weekly Updates, and helping each other with needs. Brendan

Nelson, who will also transition off the HAC board in December to take on the role of HAC Executive Director, expressed gratitude for Jo and Jennifer helping to strengthen and grow an organization that was faltering six years ago.

“When I came on the board” said Brendan, “we were told essentially to figure out what you are going to do, or your doors are going to close. HAC has undergone tremendous change over these six years.”

Other board members are also transitioning to new roles. Michealea Lemons will take on the role of board president. Greg Walker will continue as vice president, and newest board member Tiffani Reyes will take over the role of board treasurer from Greg. Hunter Henderson will take on the role of board secretary from Jennifer Schaal.

Board member Alyssa Torrez continues her important role of working with Tacoma Housing Authority, her employer, to organize Hilltop business and community support events such as the upcoming HAC Holiday Crawl. Alyssa is also an active member of the City of Tacoma's Planning Commission.

Jo and Jennifer received plaques of appreciation for their service to HAC. The plaques commemorated three two-year terms of board membership, the maximum allowed by HAC board by-laws. “It's been an honor to work with this group” said Jennifer.

Meeting attendees worked together to assemble Warming Bags to be given to anyone experiencing homelessness or just needing something to keep them warm and dry during the winter months. Donated hats, scarves, gloves, socks, handwarmers, energy bars, and many first aid and personal care items were loaded into zip-lock bags for easy distribution. Approximately 120 bags were completed, and many were carried home by meeting attendees to give out to anyone they see in need. Anyone needing a Warming Bag should contact the HAC office, or stop by the Hilltop Fed.

One meeting participant expressed gratitude for the community response

to her business, Lavonne's Room, that provides gently used children's clothing, strollers, and other equipment at low cost to families in need. Owner Bridget Demerson wants anyone to reach out to her through Lavonne's Room Facebook at @lavonnesroomakidstore, at her email address lavonnesroom@gmail.com, or visit the store located at 1120 S. 11th St., in the Fab-5 building.

Another meeting attendee expressed gratitude for both the opportunity to serve HAC as an intern, and the donation to HAC that she encouraged from Bengisu Cecik, in the amount of \$1,825 from Pacifica Foundation Seattle.

Stephon Graves, who also interned at HAC and currently volunteers assisting with photographs, videos and other activities, praised Brendan Nelson for his leadership in the community. “Brendan came to my high school to talk about serving the community” said Stephon, “and I was later inspired, as a University of Washington student, to apply for an internship at HAC. It's been a great experience.”

The People's Community Center multi-purpose room is available for community events. Preston Childs, a long-time People's Community Center board member, encouraged meeting attendees to consider volunteering at the Center and getting involved with the board. The People's Community Center is a Metro Parks facility with a state-of-the-art swimming pool, gym, basketball court and meeting rooms, and hosts many aquatic and fitness programs for all ages. The People's Community Center is located at 1602 Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

Regular HAC Community Meetings will continue on into 2022. Until the Community Healthcare Community Room becomes available again, Community Meetings will be held in the People's Community Center multi-purpose room. The next Community Meeting will be held on Monday, December 27th.

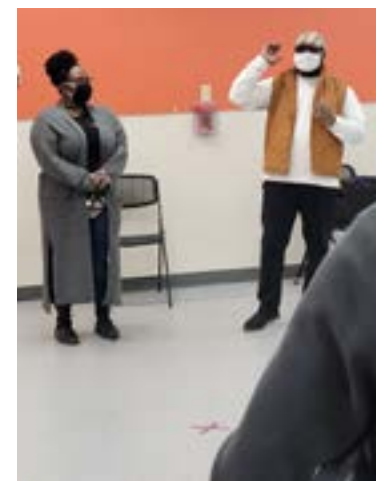
Receive HAC weekly eNewsletters and keep up-to-date with community news-email hacoffice15@gmail.com.



Jennifer Schaal and Jo Davies are celebrated for six years of service on the HAC Board of Directors.



Bengisu Cecik shares her success of obtaining a \$1,825 donation from Pacifica Foundation Seattle for Warming Bags and Hilltop FED.



Brendan Nelson announces Michealea Lemons as the new HAC Board



Being grateful and celebrating the ability to be in community together.

Merry & Bright With Holidayz On The Hill

Hilltop Business Association makes the holiday season more joyful with a Holiday Toy Drive find out where you can make a donation.



Meet Santa, take a pic, and get a gift!

**December 18th
2-5PM
Tacoma Arts Community Center, 11th & MLK**

By Jennifer English, Hilltop Business Association

Hilltop Business Association is holding a holiday toy drive at select locations through December 12th. Please drop off your new and unwrapped toy to one of the following: Red Elm Café, Spun, Sam and Terrys, Johnson Candy, People's Barbershop, and 2nd Cycle.

Donated toys will be handed out on December 18th from 2-5pm by the Peace Bus Santa (Kwabi) at the Tacoma Arts Community Center located at 1102 S 11th St, Tacoma, WA 98405.

Santa will also be available for pictures!

Hot cocoa and hot apple cider generously provided by Red Elm Café. "Enjoy Christmas music from the live band, The Ben and Tony Show".

Our hope is to make the season a little brighter for children in our community, with your help we can make it possible!

Happy Holidays from the HBA!

You're invited to HBA's Monthly Meeting on the Third Thursday of every month. Simply use the Zoom link below or call in at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82373513090?pwd=RGMxNUtVMGxocTNib0I4RE5pdkhLUT09>

Meeting ID: 823 7351 3090 & Passcode: 157990

One tap mobile at +1253-215-8782

HBA website: <https://www.hilltopba.org/board>

HBA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopBA/>

Hilltop Holiday Crawl

Support Local Businesses during the Holiday Season and keep your community thriving.

Hilltop Action Coalition, Tacoma Housing Authority and Hilltop Business Association are partnering once again to bring a Holiday Crawl experience to the Hilltop. Grab your mittens and head over to your local business district for a hot drink to warm you up while you shop for holiday gifts. Whether you're looking for clothes, toys, ornaments or candy, you'll find a local selection on Saturday, December 18th from 10 AM to 4 PM during the Hilltop Holiday Crawl.

Eager to get started on your gift list? Head on over to <https://www.hilltopcrawl.com/> to check out the Hilltop Virtual Marketplace where you'll find trusted shops that you've been to before and new businesses that are happy to provide you with unique hand made items. You can meet these new businesses, in-person, at the Holiday Crawl in the Marketplace area. Stop by and see everything they have to offer for one-of-a-kind gifts that will WOW your family and friends.

Of course there will be a Holiday Crawl Passport where you can patronize local businesses, vote for your favorite holiday decorated shop, and add your contact information for entry into the Holiday Business Raffle. There will be lots of great prizes to win! HAC will offer a Grand Prize too.

Don't forget to stop by the HAC office to say hello to our Board Members. You can grab a hard copy of the Hilltop Action Journal and spin the HAC Prize Wheel ... you never know what you might win.

The Hilltop Holiday Crawl would not be possible without our community partners and sponsorships. Let's give a HUGE round of applause to Sound Transit who has provided the highest level of sponsorship for each Hilltop Business Crawl - this will be the 5th Crawl they have sponsored - Thank You, Sound Transit! Downtown on the Go has been providing professional map's for the Passports, The Community Market has organized Black and Brown small business vendors, EPIC has been providing insurance and permitting assistance, Tacoma Housing Authority provides funding and planning support, and Hilltop Business Association assists with planning and outreach. Thank you everyone for making Hilltop Business Crawls a success!



HILLTOP HOLIDAY CRAWL 2021

HILLTOP HOLIDAY CRAWL

DECEMBER 18, 2021 10AM-4PM

IN STORES* AND ONLINE HILLTOPCRAWL.COM

VISIT HILLTOP BUSINESSES FOR YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING!

*Appropriate social distancing and wearing of masks will be required in all Crawl locations

Brought to you by:

SOUND TRANSIT, EPIC, The Community Market, HILLTOP

Construction Continues Through The Holidays To Open Hilltop Tacoma Link in 2022

Minimizing community impacts now to bring Hilltop Tacoma Link transportation options in the near future.

By Liz Ellis, Sound Transit

The Hilltop Tacoma Link project is now 80% complete, and we're scheduled to open in summer/fall 2022! Over the past year, crews have installed most of the track, as well as stations, substations, overhead wires, poles, curbs, gutters, pavement and more. We're excited to ride Tacoma Link with you in Hilltop next year!

We appreciate your continued patience during construction. To keep on schedule, crews will be working along the route, including in the business districts, during the holidays. In December, crews will continue construction in the Hilltop, Stadium and Commerce Street business districts and will resume construction near Tacoma General and Kaiser Permanente. In Hilltop, crews will install curb and gutter on the west side of Martin Luther King Jr. Way from S. 13th St. to S. 16th St. In addition, crews will install fiber optic wires underground along the entire route at night.

We'll be working with the City of Tacoma and our contractor to minimize community impacts. Access will be open to businesses and driveways. We'll keep people moving,

work around businesses' schedules, and keep parking open as much as possible. In the area on MLK Jr. Way from S. 13th to S. 16th St., customers can park in designated spots in the Allen AME Church's parking lot near the alley and S. 13th St. Thank you to Allen AME for helping businesses during the holidays!

In early 2022, five light rail vehicles are scheduled to arrive. The vehicles and system will be tested, and some construction will continue through spring 2022. We'll keep you updated on our schedule and progress.

If you have questions or concerns about the Hilltop Tacoma Link project, please contact me at 253.208.0586 (call or text) or liz.ellis@soundtransit.org. 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>. In addition, I could meet you in-person or virtually. Let's stay connected!

Support Hilltop Businesses During The Holidays

During the holiday season, please continue to shop, dine and do business along the Hilltop Tacoma Link route! To encourage customers to keep coming during the holidays and construction, Sound Transit is advertising the "Loyal to the Local" campaign and highlighting specific businesses with Facebook ads and videos, such as Quickie Too, Proof Patisserie, Mr. Mac, Red Elm Café, and Ice Cream Social. We proudly support the Hilltop Action Coalition's Hilltop Holiday Crawl and the Hilltop Business Association's Holidayz on the Hill. Please check out these events!

Apply for a job with Tacoma Link!

As we get ready to open for service, Sound Transit will hire more employees in the Operations and Maintenance Facility in Tacoma: light rail vehicle operators, mechanics, and supply and administrative positions. We're currently advertising for several new positions. Look for these and more job opportunities in the next year at <https://www.soundtransit.org/get-to-know-us/jobs>. Please consider applying for these jobs!



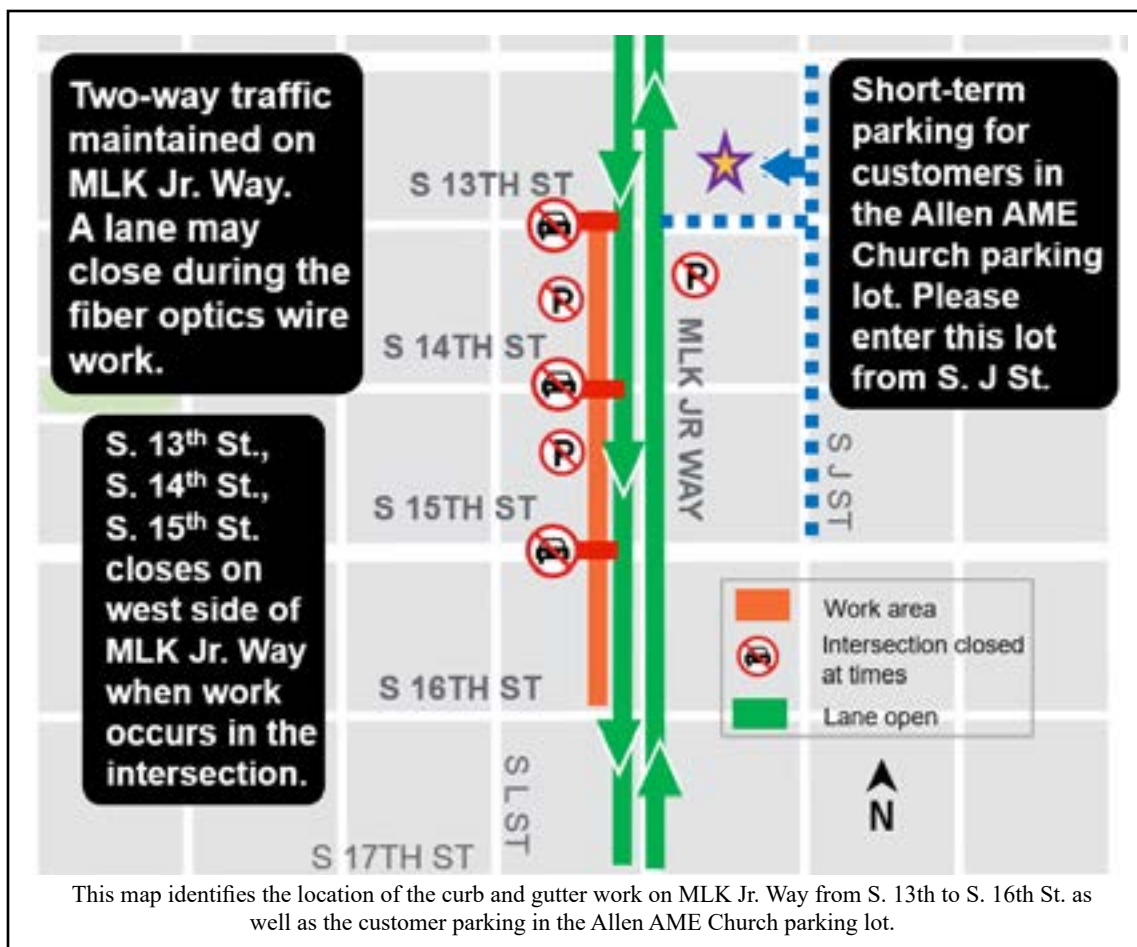
Hanging wire span above MLK north of 15th. Photos courtesy of Liz Ellis.



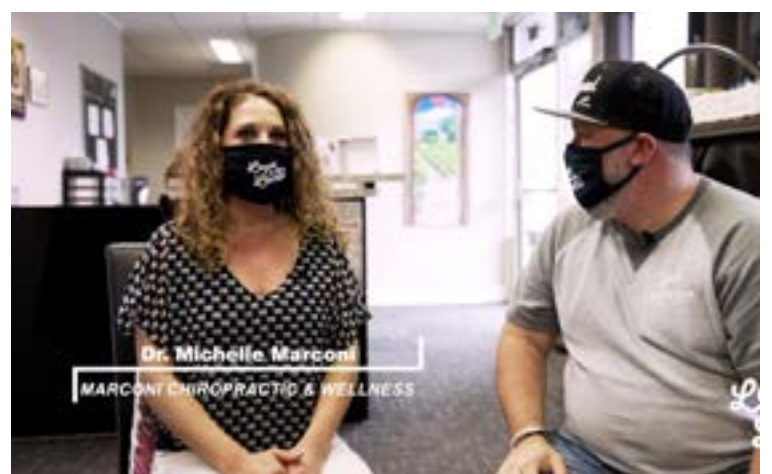
Conduit installation next to Johnson Candy Company.



St. Joseph Station 10-22-21



Loyal to the Local - Coretta Harwood, Scott's Funeral Home 1215 MLK Jr. Way, helps families celebrate their loved ones during difficult times. We appreciate this Hilltop business!



Loyal to the Local - Dr. Michelle Marconi, Marconi Chiropractic & Wellness, serves the Hilltop at 1002 MLK Jr. Way.

Koz on MLK

Construction Project Update

Provided By Rania Qawasma-Dana, Design & Construction, Koz Development

'Koz on MLK' - Tacoma, 6 stories, 100 thousand square Feet multi-family project is expected to complete construction spring of 2022. The project is 156 micro units consist

of studios, 1 bedroom, 2-bedrooms, 3-bedrooms and loft units, and 6300 square feet retail space facing MLK way. The building provides secure bike storage and enclosed parking garage with EV charging. Take a peek from People's Park at S 9th Street and MLK Jr. Way to see how this housing development is taking shape.



Koz on MLK



Provided By Barn Ulrich Rintz with Grit City Coop

Have you heard the great news? Grit City Coop is in ongoing communication with Koz Development to take a big giant step forward in our goal to open a cooperative grocery store in the Hilltop on S. 9th and MLK. Our membership voted 70% in favor of making this leap with the plan of opening up a new store in 2022.

Vision Statement: Grit City Co-op is a community driven initiative to open and operate a grocery store in the Hilltop area of Tacoma so that everyone has access to sustainable food at a fair price, while providing a living wage to workers and growing the local food system. We will facilitate conversations around where our food comes from, who produces it, and how it nourishes us.

To make this leap, we need your help. There are two ways to give:

1. Mail your \$100 check to Grit City Coop, PO Box 2332, Tacoma, WA 98401-2332
2. Go to our website, <https://gritcitycoop.com/> at the join button and pay \$100. <https://gritcitycoop.com/join-1/5tums7tjhc89p8ao59d8hh1-nm4tam>

If you have questions, please email gritcitycoop@gmail.com. Thank

TPU Water Heater Study Participants Needed

Tacoma Public Utilities will provide participants \$80 for participating in the study.



Tacoma Public Utilities is seeking study participants. Help regional utilities learn about the energy savings and satisfaction of smart water heater controllers by participating in a two-year study.

Smart water heater controllers provide hot water when you need it and save energy when you don't. As an added bonus, the controllers may help you identify hot water leaks or problems with your water heater. Findings from the research will help accelerate beneficial clean energy programs in our community and you'll receive \$80. A professional will safely install

the smart controller on your water heater for free at your convenience. You'll receive \$40 after the installation and \$40 at the end of the study.

To take part, TPU customers need to:

- Own your home.
- Have a standard electric water heater.
- Fill out an application.
- Take brief surveys during the study.

Click on the link below to find out more information and to sign up for the study:

https://www.mypu.org/community-environment/clean-renewable-energy/smart-water-heater-controller-study/?fbclid=IwAR3M-BYIS5xrtrRp_LYR68SLPtgwbe-fIZwtOr-DNNXzJ0hPDyYvDFLHgX7s

TPU wants to hear your questions! Call 253-502-8363 or send us an email at Rebates@CityofTacoma.org.



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TECHNOLOGY

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TCC

TRAINING diverse talents to access Pierce County's **in demand jobs**

tacomacc.edu/workforce

Attention small, minority, and women-owned contractors!
 Learn about upcoming contracting opportunities on
City of Tacoma's Links To Opportunity
 Streetscape Improvement Project

Meet & Greet

Prime Contractors and Subcontractors are invited to learn about the upcoming opportunities on the LTO packages, City of Tacoma's Equity in Contracting Program requirements, and network with potential partners.

November 30, 10 AM – 11 AM | Zoom Meeting

December 15, 10 AM – 11 AM | Zoom Meeting

REGISTER HERE

Project Description

The Links to Opportunity (LTO) project will enhance the corridor along Sound Transit's Hilltop Tacoma LINK extension route to increase accessibility and safety for residents and businesses. The project serves one of Tacoma's oldest historically Black neighborhoods and business districts, and the design was informed by nearly two years of grassroots outreach to the Hilltop community. Downtown: On the Go!, Hilltop Action Coalition, and Tacoma Housing Authority all assisted in the outreach effort. The final design is informed and defined by the community that it will serve and will honor the history of the corridor.

Project Scopes

237110, 562119, 541370, 561730, 541360, 238910, 237310 -

Preparation & Grading

- Surveying
- Site Demolition, Saw Cutting and Cleanup
- Concrete Removal - Sidewalks, Stairs, Walls
- Removal and Relocation of Site Features
- Clearing and Landscape Removal
- Adjusting Utilities to Grade

237110, 237130 - Drainage and Storm Sewer

- Schedule A Storm Sewer Pipe 3-in Diameter for Roof Drains
- Trench Drains
- Controlled Density Fill
- Installing Manhole

237110, 238990, 237310, 453998, 561990, 238210 -

Paving and Traffic

- Installing Base Course Materials
- Installing standard and Colored Concrete Sidewalk
- Sandblasting Decorative Strips
- Installing Plastic and Painted Traffic Lines and Symbols
- Traffic Control and Signage
- HMA Paving for Sidewalks

238210 - Illumination

- Surveying
- Site Demolition, Saw Cutting and Cleanup
- Concrete Removal - Sidewalks, Stairs, Walls
- Removal and Relocation of Site Features
- Clearing and Landscape Removal
- Adjusting Utilities to Grade

561730 - Erosion Control, Roadside Planting

- Tree Protection
- Root Barrier
- Installing Small, Medium and Large Plants and Trees
- Mulching, Seeding and Fertilizing
- Installing Irrigation

238990 - All Other Specialty Trade Contractors

- Installing Fencing
- Streetscape Features including Benches, Lean Rails, Seats, Chess Board
- Bicycle Racks and Corrals, Repair Station
- Pavers, Interpretive Text, Welcome Mats

Tacoma's Hilltop Neighborhood



Project Schedule

Planning Completed: 2018
 Design Completed: 2019
 Right of Way Completion: Winter 2021
 Construction Begins: Spring 2022
 Duration: One Year (pending Sound Transit Schedule)

Contact Information

For more information, reach out to Jon Kulju, City of Tacoma Project Manager.
 253-591-5204
JKulju@cityoftacoma.org

Hosted by MBDA-Washington Business Center & Equity in Contracting - City of Tacoma



Sort the Sound

With all the new recycling changes, what goes where?

Provided By Christy Joshua with City of Tacoma Solid Waste Management Environmental Services Department

Do you know what goes where? Play "Sort the Sound" Tacoma's new waste sorting video game! Play all five levels and build a new park. Great for all ages; this game is available in five languages. You might

even find the legendary Sortsquatch in the game. Play Sort the Sound at <https://tacomawa.recycle.game/>!

Glass Drop-Off Locations Update

On Monday, January 4, 2021, residential curbside glass recycling collection for customers in single-family homes and duplexes was replaced with drop-off stations throughout the

city. This includes the Hilltop Safeway glass drop-off location, which is now open! Located in the back of the Safeway at 1112 S M St, Tacoma, WA 98405.

Changing the curbside program to glass recycling drop-off locations has had environmental, economical, and safety benefits which saves the City about half a million dollars per year and helps eliminate on-the-job safety hazards for staff related to glass recycling pick up.

Pierce Faith Works: A Collective Impact Network

This groundbreaking exhibition features over 150 works of art, photographs, rare documents, and more, celebrating the achievements and contributions of Black Americans from 1595 to the present day. Exhibition open through November 28, 2021.

By Carolyn Read

Are you in a congregation that has some activities that support ending homelessness that may need some volunteers? Are you and individual that wants to help ending homelessness, but you don't know where to start? Do you see yourself as someone with a moral voice and want to influence our leaders to make decisions that help the vulnerable population?

If so, you'll be excited to hear that several faith communities are now working with Associated Ministries and others on developing a collective impact network, called Pierce Faith Works. The goal is to build networks and relationships so that we can collaborate and have a greater impact on solving homelessness in Pierce County. We want to use our collective power and influence to bring positive change to the community and specially to end homelessness. Likely many of you are associated with a congregation that helps those that are not housed --such as a food bank, meal program, clothing closet, housing/sheltering opportunities. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could turn to each other and build a network so that we could rely on each other to support a call to action? or work in collaboration with each other on some common goals and objectives? Just think of how much more powerful our collective impact would be on ending homelessness!

One of the things that Pierce Faith Works is working on as a collective is Training for volunteers that want to help organizations that work with

those that are unhoused. Our first session of the season was October 5th. Please join us for the December session on the 7th at 6:00 PM.

Join Pierce Faith Works for a free zoom session: Homelessness 101 TRAINING- December 7th, 2021 6-8PM.

Learn more about homelessness in Tacoma and Pierce County. A good place to start for:

- people interested in working with local shelters, safe lots, or other shelter options as staff or volunteers
- people already engaged in this work and interested in networking with others
- anyone who wants to know more about homelessness in Pierce County

Session Presenters (6-7 pm): Rosemary Powers & Theresa Power-Drutis; New Connections

Reflection in Action Facilitator (7-8 pm): Joel Hellenkamp; Social Justice Commission, St. Leo Parish

Here is the link to register... spread the word!

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/Homeless101>

Joel, a social worker from a hilltop parish, attended the training and said it was 'right on the mark' and helpful for providing confidence for volunteers that may find themselves in uncomfortable situations with others that have big challenges and needs. After his training, he worked during COVID by making phone calls to folks in the hotels and now works

in the warehouse at Food Connection. Once COVID calms down, he plans to get more involved in face-to-face connections.

Nora from First United Methodist church said that they attended with the training because people were living on the street at their doorstep. She said the training helped them overcome misinformation and fears and armed them with good information, facts and skills. By starting with the training, they gained confidence and to be able to engage with the community in a way that works for them. They now lead a group, "Housing, Justice and Friends" which recently provided moral support while witnessing a recent Tacoma encampment sweep.

In addition to the training, we are hoping to collectively support in our community network is advocating for additional revenue for housing. We are doing this by asking the Pierce County Council to approve the 1/10th of 1% tax for housing. If you are willing to give a 3-minute public comment at the end of a Tuesday county council meeting supporting this tax, contact Carol Collieran at cacolleran@msn.com. She will set you up on our schedule and provide notes for you to use.

Let us know what you are doing and keep your eye out for stuff from Pierce Faith works. Lets start rowing together and see what we can accomplish! If you want to get involved in any of these efforts, contact Carolyn Read readcarolyn@comcast.net.



Good References:

Pierce County 2021 Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/7309/2021-Comprehensive-Plan-to-End-Homelessness>

Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness <https://www.pchomeless.org>

Pierce County and the City of Tacoma present
RENTAL ASSISTANCE
Eviction prevention for Pierce County residents behind on rent.

The Pierce County and Tacoma Housing Help will provide emergency rent and utility assistance to renters throughout the Pierce County who have experienced a reduction in household income or an increase in expenses or other financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes residents of all cities within Pierce County. Submission of a rental assistance application is not a guarantee of payment.

Eligible applicants can receive assistance to pay past due rent and utilities from March 13, 2020. Assistance is based on need, eligibility, and available

funding. The total assistance amount available will depend on household need. Rental Payments will be issued directly to the landlord. Utility payments will be issued directly to the utility company.

Rental and utility assistance can be applied for on a single, centralized online portal at <https://housinghelp.piercerentalassistance.org/>.

For questions about this program, please email hsrent@piercecountywa.gov.

Join HAC's mailing list and keep on top of the HAction!
Email hacoffice15@gmail.com today and start receiving HAC eNewsletters along with the digital Hilltop Action Journal.

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\$3 drop in fee
or free with membership

METROPARKS
TACOMA
People's Community Center

Honors, Awards & Scholarships

We are trying to spread the word about Honors, Awards and Scholarships to as many people as can be reached.



By Perry L. Newell, Funding College Project

The Funding College Project, and Cash for Kids are non-commercial activities and have been asked to supply to individuals, organizations, newspapers, and community bulletin boards serving the area with information about active honors, awards, scholarships and insightful advice. Take a look at the scholarships available below with December application deadlines and share them with those who may benefit. Thank you!

Angela Award - Sponsor: National Science Teachers Association - Amount: \$1,000 - Closing Date: December 15, 2021 - Description: Award is open to female students in grades 5-8 who are residents of the United States, US Territories, or Canada. Applicant must have a strong passion for STEM. Link: <https://www.nsta.org/awards-and-recognition-program#angela>

Community Service Scholarship - Sponsor: Morris Bart, LLC - Amount: \$2,500 - Closing Date: December 15, 2021 - Description: Scholarship is open to students currently enrolled or accepted to attend an accredited college or university in the upcoming term. Applicant must have at least a 3.0 GPA and a history of community service, volunteerism or fundraising in their community. Applicant must submit an essay on, "what is the meaning of service?" Link: <https://www.morrisbart.com/about/scholarships/community-service-scholarship/>

Distraction-Free Driving PSA Scholarship - Sponsor: Distasio Law Firm - Amount: \$2,500 - Closing Date: December 15, 2021 - Description: Scholarship is open to graduating high school seniors and current college students who have at least a 3.0 GPA. Application must create a video warning fellow teen drivers against the dangers of using a cell phone while driving. Link: <https://distasiofirm.com/about/scholarship/distraction-free-driving-psa-scholarship/>

No Sweat Scholarship - Sponsor: Cirkled In - Amount: \$2,500 - Closing Date: December 31, 2021 - Description: Scholarship is open to students 13 years of age or older who are legal residents of the United States or the District of Columbia. Applicant must create a free Cirkled in account. Link: <https://www.cirkledin.com/scholarships/>

OppU Achievers Scholarship - Sponsor: OppLoans - Amount: \$2,500 - Closing Date: December 31, 2021 - Description: Scholarship is open to U.S. citizens who are graduating high school seniors or current undergraduate students with at least a 3.0 GPA. Applicant must submit an essay on a given topic related to financial literacy. Link: <https://www.opploans.com/oppu/scholarship/>

Save for Future Scholarship - Sponsor: Coupons Plus Deals - Amount: \$3,000 - Closing Date: December 31, 2021

Description: Scholarship is open to college juniors and seniors of all nationalities and majors who are at least 16 years old and are enrolled at an accredited university or college all around the world. Applicant must submit an essay on a given topic related to saving money. Link: <https://www.couponsplusdeals.com/scholarship>

Scholarship Detective Scholarship - Sponsor: Scholarship Detective - Amount: \$1,000 - Closing Date: December 31, 2021

Description: Scholarship is open to high school and college students who are permanent residents of the United States. Applicant must submit a short online form and answer in 140 characters or less how they plan to use the scholarship money. Link: <http://www.scholarshipdetective.com/scholarship/>

Just Poetry Contest - Sponsor: Live Poets Society of New Jersey - Amount: Up to \$500 - Closing Date: December 31, 2021 - Description: Scholarship is open to all U.S. high school students. Applicant must submit an original poem with 20 lines or less. Link: <http://www.justpoetry.org/submissions>

Achieve Today Scholarship - Sponsor: Achieve Today - Amount: \$1,000 - Closing Date: December 31, 2021 - Description: Scholarship is open to any current students at an accredited U.S. university or college. Applicant must submit a video OR essay on personal development or high performance. Link: <https://www.achievetoday.com/scholarships>

AfterCollege/AACN Nursing Scholarship - Sponsor: AfterCollege - Amount: \$2,500 - Closing Date: December 31, 2021 - Description: Scholarship is open to students who are seeking a baccalaureate, master's or doctoral degree in nursing. Link: <https://www.aftercollege.com/content/article/aftercollege-aacn-scholarship/>

C.I.P. Scholarship - Sponsor: College is Power - Amount: \$1,000 - Closing Date: December 31, 2021 - Description: Scholarship is open to students age 17 years or older who plan to start a program of higher education within the next 12 months or who are currently enrolled in a program of higher education. Applicant must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. Submit a short online application. Link: <http://www.collegeispower.com/scholarship.cfm>

Find out more about the Funding College Project at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/572667429453561>.

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beyond the bell

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TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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September 2021

Discover before & after school activities at your school

Clubs & Activities, Sports, Field Trips, and Childcare at Your School

Tacoma Public Schools and community partners have come together to offer Beyond the Bell. Beyond the Bell lets you choose from more activities at your school than ever before. Choose from options for before and after school, in-service days, and school breaks.

Everything is all in one place. Go to your school's website or the TPS Family App and look for Beyond the Bell.

You will find descriptions and schedules for all activities offered at your school. Check for free opportunities and discounts.

Beyond the Bell is in all elementary schools across Tacoma Public Schools.

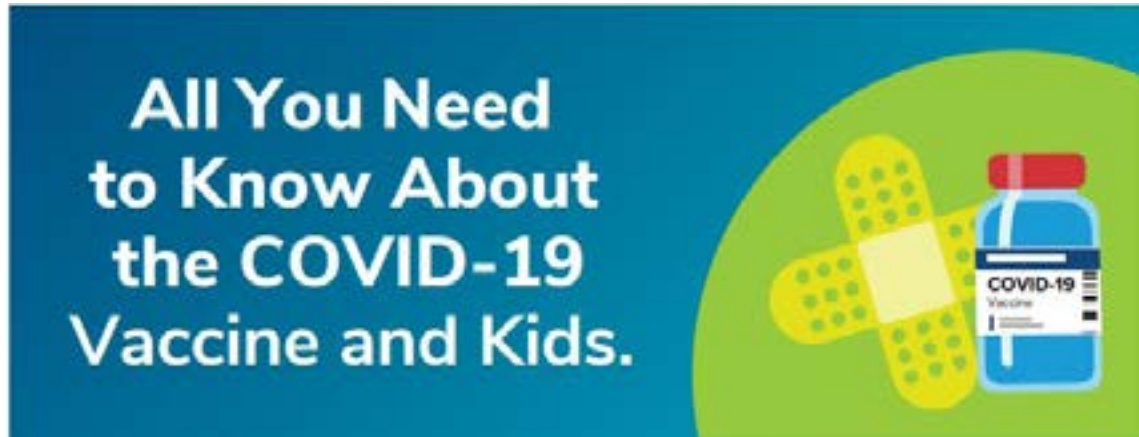
Register on your school website or the TPS Family App

Register on your school website or the TPS Family App

Beyond the Bell is part of the Tacoma Whole Child movement—coordinated by Greentrike and funded in part by Tacoma Creates.

TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS **TACOMA CREATES** **greentrike OSTI**

Vaccine Information for COVID-19



Find Your Dose

Get accurate information from your Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Find your vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccines are the most effective tools to limit the spread of COVID-19. Everyone 5 and older is eligible to get vaccinated. Find your free dose today at tpchd.org/vaxtothefuture.

Pfizer vaccine is available for anyone 5 and older. Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are authorized for people 18 and older. You are fully vaccinated 2 weeks or more after your second dose of Pfizer or Moderna, or your single dose of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.

If you need a ride to an appointment or can't easily leave your home, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department can help! Call them at (253) 649-1412, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. They'll return messages left over the weekend the next business day.

For help with trip planning, contact Pierce Transit's Customer Service office at 253.581.8000 (option 1, then option 1 again), use Pierce Transit's online Trip Planner at <https://tripplanner.piercetransit.org/#/app/tripplanning> or download the Transit app at <https://www.piercetransit.org/transit/>.

Around the Sound provides transportation for people with limited mobility, including those who use wheelchairs or scooters. Call (253) 858-7088 or visit <https://atstrans.org/>.

Looking for COVID-19 FAQs? Check out Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department Frequently Asked Questions to get some answers - available at <https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/diseases/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions>.

Sign-up for health department notifications and you'll receive an email on what's new with COVID-19

community vaccination clinics. This is the quickest way to learn about COVID-19 community vaccination clinics. Sign up at <https://www.tpchd.org/i-want-to/about-the-health-department/sign-up-for-notifications>.

We can all do more to help stop the spread of COVID-19: wear your mask, if you're sick stay home, wash your hands frequently, get tested.

For more information, please visit the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department website at <https://www.tpchd.org/?splash=http%3a%2f%2ffind-yourphasewa.org&isexternal=true>.

Have questions? Give the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department a call at (253) 649-1500. They are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, except Thursdays when they stay open until 6 p.m. You may also send an email to or email info@tpchd.org.



COVID-19 Vaccinations At People's Community Center

TPCHD provides vaccines close to home.

Metro Parks Tacoma People's Community Center

The Tacoma Pierce County Health Department will be offering Covid 19 vaccinations at Peoples Center on the following dates and times:

- Dec 3-10am-1pm (12 years and up)
- Dec 10-3pm-7pm (5 years and up)
- Dec 17-10am-1pm (12 years and up)
- Jan 7-3pm-7pm (5 years and up)

The morning vaccination clinics will offer Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson. Vaccines will be available to everyone 12 years and older. The afternoon vaccination clinics will only offer Pfizer and will be available to everyone 5 years old and older. Booster shots are available to those permitted/recommended by the CDC. People's Community Center is located at 1602 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way.

COVID-19 Vaccine Access In Your Neighborhood

Hilltop Regional Health Center - 1202 MLK Jr. Way - Appointments are recommended. Call (253) 722-1855 or register here <https://hipaa.jotform.com/211816150936151>. Walk in appointments may be available.

Sea Mar Community Health Center - 1112 S Cushman - Appointments are recommended. Call (1-855) 289-4503 to register. Walk in appointments may be available. More information is available at <https://www.seamar.org/covid-vaccine.html>.

Lost your COVID-19 Vaccine Card?

If you lost your COVID-19 Vaccine Card, you can call the Washington State Dept of Health at 1-800-325-5599 or submit a request at www.doh.wa.gov/youandyourfamily/immunization. You will receive a new immunization record, showing your Covid-19 vaccine.

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Tacoma Public Library Eastside & Hilltop Library Services Study

Read about the history of library services in the Eastside and Hilltop Neighborhoods. Find about efforts to restore them.

By BERK Consulting & the Tacoma Public Library Northwest Room Archives and Special Collections

From the late 1980s until 2011, the Swan Creek branch and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. branch served the communities of Eastside and Hilltop. These branches were core to each community, offering a range of library services, classes and trainings, technologies, and community meeting spaces.

The Swan Creek Library Branch served the Eastside community from 1989 through 2011. Located at the intersection of East 38th Street and Portland Avenue East, the branch was built with funding from an ambitious \$15.8 million library bond that voters passed in 1984 (all other library buildings were remodeled or rebuilt with this bond). It opened to the public with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 20, 1989. The library offered community meeting rooms, adult basic-education materials, and a collection of books in Southeast Asian languages. In May 2001, due to budget cuts, TPL turned the branch into a “magnet library” by reducing the collection and partnering with Tacoma Community House to provide services as the Swan Creek Library and Literacy Center, increasing its weekly operating hours from 45 to 66 hours. March 20, 1989. The library offered community meeting rooms, adult basic-education materials, and a collection of books in Southeast Asian languages. In May 2001, due

to budget cuts, TPL turned the branch into a “magnet library” by reducing the collection and partnering with Tacoma Community House to provide services as the Swan Creek Library and Literacy Center, increasing its weekly operating hours from 45 to 66 hours.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. branch was located at the intersection of South 19th and South Cedar streets. The branch was made possible by the 1984 library bond. The Library Board chose the name for the branch in October of 1986 after public commentary, and groundbreaking took place on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1987. Governor Booth Gardner memorialized King to a cheering audience of 500, including many members of the local Black community. The library opened November 7, 1988 and dedication took place on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1989.

Budget cuts to the library system escalated following the 2008 financial crisis. The Swan Creek and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. branch were closed in 2011 due to rising operational costs, costly deferred maintenance and capital repair needs, low circulation statistics, and a small collection size. At the same time, hours of service were reduced across the library system. The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. property was sold in 2012 and the Swan Creek property was sold in early 2013. This decision diminished library access for residents of the Eastside and Hilltop communities and intensified equity gaps that

continue to have repercussions today. **Efforts to Restore Library Services**

The practical impact and symbolic meaning of this disinvestment in historically underserved neighborhoods with high BIPOC populations cannot be understated: the branch closures have been a significant loss and detriment to the communities there, specifically the African American community in the Hilltop neighborhood and the Latinx and Southeast Asian communities of the Eastside neighborhood.

In 2014, following a series of four community cafes, a grass-roots interest group, called the Hilltop Library Planning Committee, was formed to pursue the effort to restore library services on the Hilltop. While the Library has made some attempts to address the service needs of these neighborhoods including a micro-library pilot at the Eastside Community Center and funding outreach librarian staff in the years since, it became clear that a comprehensive and updated understanding of community needs and resources was needed. This Feasibility Study is the next step in series of efforts to right historical wrongs, rebuild trust with the communities of Eastside and Hilltop, and ensure that provision of library services in Tacoma lives up to community expectations and the City’s stated values.

The City-funded Feasibility Study to restore services to these communities was poised to kick off when the COVID-19 pandemic struck, making



A scene from the Swan Creek Branch, courtesy Tacoma News Tribune, 2011.

the availability of funds for the study uncertain. Those funds were reinstated by the City of Tacoma in 2021, and the Feasibility Study is now underway.

The Eastside and Hilltop neighborhoods have evolved in many ways since the library closures happened a decade ago. Libraries have also evolved since those branches were initially built in the 1980’s. Modern libraries come in many sizes and shapes and forms. In addition to material collections, they can offer a wide array of programming, services, community partnerships, and access to different resources.

This Feasibility Study is a comprehensive effort to determine the best possible options for library services

in the Eastside and Hilltop neighborhoods of Tacoma considering current needs, interests, budget, and other resources. Opportunities for community input will be ongoing throughout the study period of September 2021 to June 2022. The Feasibility Study team will present its findings in June of 2022. Here are some ways to engage with the study:

- Stay up to date on the effort on the study website: <https://www.tpleastsidehilltop.org/>
- Contribute your opinion of neighborhood needs and interests here by December 31, 2021: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TPL-Eng>
- Stay tuned for a January neighborhood workshop and additional engagement meetings.

Communicating Through Art

Speechless Tacoma man finds voice through his art.



By Dementia Friendly Pierce County

“The glitter is our favorite,” Cheryl says. “It’s really important.” Picking up on her son’s grin, she brings him into the conversation with a natural grace that only good parents and former teachers can manage. “Isn’t that right, Nathan?” Cheryl says, “We really like the glitter.” Nathan nods emphatically.

Nathan is enrolled in the Opening Minds through Art (OMA) program through Lutheran Community Services Northwest. This activity focuses on bringing art to people living with dementia and other cognitive challenges. At almost 50, Nathan is younger than most participants, but no less extraordinary.

Nathan was 14 when he was struck by a drunk driver while riding his bicycle. He spent a year in a coma that medical professionals weren’t sure

he would ever wake up from. “It’s a miracle that he’s alive,” Cheryl says, patting her son’s hand affectionately. The accident left Nathan with aphasia - a disorder caused by damage in a specific area of the brain that controls language expression and comprehension.

People living with dementia and other cognitive challenges, such as traumatic brain injury, often have aphasia. Studies agree on the benefits of art therapy; filmmaker Guillermo Florez said in his documentary about aphasia, *Speechless*, that: “Art is a visual means of communication that is accessible for people with aphasia from any walk of life.” Opening Minds through Art offers something beyond just art; it offers fun. OMA is based on abstract art inspired by real artists. It uses a variety of mediums and multiple layers in each project. Each week the artists sing a welcome

song, followed by the instructor demonstrating the project that they’ll be working on that day.

“Then the magic happens,” Cheryl says. Bold, expressive works of art. Colorful, powerful creations. Nathan’s artwork has been drawing a crowd on Cheryl’s Facebook page. People express appreciation in the comments; there have even been offers to buy some of Nathan’s pieces. But that’s only half of it. “He’s speaking more,” Cheryl says, pride humming in her tone. Cheryl echoes this statement when asked if there’s anything she wants people to know about OMA, “Take the class.” If you or someone you know in Pierce County or the surrounding area is living with dementia or another cognitive challenge,

Dementia Services Build Community, Get Involved

Help Us Build a Dementia Friendly Pierce County

“The Dementia Friends information session was helpful to us because it has allowed us to view people with dementia as some of the most



precious, sensitive, and valuable human beings. We have a new and profound appreciation for them! Thank you Lutheran Community Services for helping us become Dementia Friends.”

~ Janet Brown
Beacon Senior Center
Activity Coordinator

Three ways you will make a difference:

- 1) **Listen and Advocate** - Invite us to present our one-hour virtual or in-person information session to your organization, business or community group.
- 2) **Volunteer** - We will find the right role for you to help create a Dementia Friendly Pierce County.
- 3) **Recommend** - Share our information about Dementia Services with others.

To learn more about Dementia Services and our programs, please contact us at:

Phone: 253-272-8433
Email: dementiaservices@lcsnw.org
dementiafriendlypc.org



and looking for an activity, consider Opening Minds through Art. The activity is free, all supplies and materials are dropped off at the artist’s

home, and the 6-week sessions are virtual. For more information contact dementiaservices@lcsnw.org or 253-272-8433.

Thoughts On Healing Circles And Hilltop's Unhoused Neighbors

"Residents who live in the Hilltop, housed or unhoused can make a contribution to a thriving Hilltop community." ~ Alumni Larry Norman

By Dr. Marcia Tate Arunga, Dean of The Evergreen State College Tacoma

As the encampment sweep continues in the Hilltop, this is a moment to reflect about the housing crisis that is occurring around us. We hope that our unhoused neighbors will receive the opportunity to be housed in a safe and warm space through the cold season, however we are all aware that emergency housing is not a permanent solution. There is a lack of sufficient housing, and a need to examine the systemic forces that perpetuate the unhoused pandemic.

Tents began emerging on Evergreen-Tacoma's property following the encampment sweep that took place at People's Park more

than two years ago. First about half a dozen tents arrived, then 12, then 20, eventually totaling 49 tents within the camp at its height. Mandates surrounding COVID-19 prohibited encampment removal on city property during COVID restrictions.

As a learning community, we began to return to Evergreen-Tacoma and it became necessary to reach out and communicate with our unhoused neighbors. During this time, the community engaged in an inquiry and dialogue process. We determined this to be key to coexisting peacefully.

Evergreen-Tacoma called upon its alumni and other community partners to formulate most effective ways to address our unhoused neighbors needs through Healing Circles.

Informal outreach began and quickly illuminated our mutual humanity. These conversations engaged topics such as communal respect, fostering safety, and amicable cooperation. As we learned the very real and pressing needs of the encampment, we wanted to partner with organizations who have built some reliance with our unhoused neighbors.

Our alumni included community activist Larry Norman, Leah Ford from The Pierce County Health Department, Tara Newton from The Rainbow Center, Merrill Pusey of the First Peoples Center at Evergreen Olympia, and many more. Through their efforts and extended networks, we were able to partner with more organizations including, the AIDs

Foundation, the Needle Exchange, the Lived Experience Coalition, and a host of housed neighbors and current Evergreen students. All of the community partners brought information, resources, and attention to the well-being of the unhoused. As Alumni Larry Norman observed, "Residents who live in the Hilltop, housed or unhoused can make a contribution to a thriving Hilltop community." With that spirit, our neighbors both housed and unhoused, students, alumni, and community workers all pulled their social and community capital together. Out of this effort emerged a RICH Conversation, based on the acronym of the values at Evergreen State College, Reciprocity, Inclusivity,

Civility, and Hospitality. This was an opportunity to invite our new Executive Vice President Dexter Gordon to witness first hand the stories of our unhoused neighbors. We used ongoing shared dialogue to discover our humanity and through our humility we shared meaningful stories about ourselves.

I was struck by the resilience that was in each other's stories, the number of those with roots in the Hilltop, loss of homes and family ties, displaced communities, gentrification and much more. Through dialogue, we began to consider that our unhoused neighbors are not in a permanent situation.



Photographs courtesy of Angela Carlyle.



We were introduced to the Healing circle process by Ashley. Ellis of BREATHE and the Pierce County department of health in 2020. There are some features that are used in this indigenous circle practice of dialogue. All participants were equalized inside the circle, and we listen to each other speak one at a time. There is the center piece that is a hand woven mat. On the mat, fruit or plants are some of the items placed to represent the human connection with all living things and the cycle of life. Water is placed to symbolize the life elements that humans share. We added a cup of soil from the college grounds to represent the need for healing and restoring the land as well as the humans in the neighborhood. The talking stick was symbolic of the agreement that the one holding the stick is the one who should talk. Eventually the walking stick was taken over by the microphone. Finally, an African cowbell symbolized the call for unity and understanding for the whole community.

For me, this journey has been about the relationship between humans. I realize that the healing is in the human connection. We need to make more of an effort toward compassion and recognize the power of dialogue when one person gets to hear the other. When we get a

chance to replace a stereotype with a name and story, we are getting closer to the beginning.

Beginning December 8th through 12th Evergreen has the pleasure of hosting Ashley Ellis from the BREATHE center to train us in the facilitation skill of healing circles. I had the honor of experiencing Ashley's training and found that it offered important ways to have a dialogue with other people.

Registration is still open for the healing circle training virtual training hosted by Evergreen State College, Tacoma. If you are a student and can commit to this three-day training, it will be considered the prerequisite to receive 2 credits for conducting your own healing circle during winter quarter. Please email Marla German at germanm@evergreen.edu with the heading "healing circle" to indicate your interest. If you are a community member interested in participating, please reach out to Henry Jauregui at HJauregui@tpchd.org.

Thank you!

Dr. Marcia Tate Arunga, Dean of The Evergreen State College- Tacoma



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Home In Tacoma: Impacts On The Hilltop

Hilltop is growing and a good future awaits by the hands of its people.

By Bengisu Cecik, HAC Journalist and Opinion Columnist for the Tacoma Ledger

Hilltops homes are varying in form, from single-family homes to now newly built apartments. The neighborhood of Hilltop is peaceful to walk through, and Hilltop itself is advancing every day. What does the future of housing for Hilltop look like? Let's take a look at the Home in Tacoma Project, which will help guide City Council planning decisions.

The Home in Tacoma Project is a part of Tacoma's Affordable Housing Action Strategy. Home In Tacoma goals are to 1. Increase housing supply, 2. Increase housing affordability and 3. Increase housing choice. During this past year, Tacoma's planning commission prepared a report on what they could do to help the community in terms of housing needs and how they can better advance living conditions and the neighborhoods that people live in.

Their planning process and outreach included two public hearings, an online survey, housing café discussion series, an interactive housing growth scenarios map, about fifty stakeholder meetings, and a citywide notice. The Planning Commission received about nine hundred comments on their preliminary recommendations. Based on the recommendations re-

ceived by the public, they made multiple changes based on ideas, questions and concerns.

The city of Tacoma's website has information about this project specifically under "Home In Tacoma Project: AHAS Planning Actions" (https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/planning_and_development_services/planning_services/current_initiatives_and_projects/home_in_tacoma_project_ahas_planning_actions). There you can watch the Home in Tacoma Introduction Video, two Home In Tacoma Project Information Sessions, click on the Home in Tacoma Project Interactive Website, and stay updated with upcoming meetings and events.

The history of Tacoma's neighborhoods is something fascinating to look into because in 1953 there was a Zoning Code that Tacoma enforced where traditional neighborhood patterns were not permitted for construction again. "A lot has changed since then. Tacoma has little undeveloped space left for new housing construction. There is growing interest in housing options that work for extended family, aging-in-place, generating rental income and living in walkable urban settings. For all these reasons, Tacoma is taking the opportunity to make sure our housing policies support the goals of our diverse commu-

nity," stated on the Home in Tacoma Project Interactive Website which can be accessed through the City of Tacoma's website.

There are two designations within this project, which are Low-scale Residential and Mid-scale Residential. Low-scale Residential supports housing types such as detached houses, duplexes, triplexes, cottage housing, and more. "Low-scale areas are generally quieter settings that are a short to moderate walking distance from parks, schools, shopping, transit and other amenities," noted the Home in Tacoma Project Overview. Mid-scale Residential supports housing types such as Low-scale Residential areas and moderate sized multifamily housing. The Tacoma Project Overview states that, "Housing is generally up to 3 stories tall, with 4 stories allowed in limited circumstances such as across the street from tall buildings. Mid-scale areas are generally close to shopping, transit and other urban activities, and provide a transition between dense centers and nearby Low-scale areas."

I had the chance to meet with Elliott Barnett, who is the Senior Planner for City of Tacoma Planning and Development Services, and has been working on this project from the start. We talked over many topics in concern with this project. One was the 1950's American Dream and how the ideal

image for that was one house and a yard. Another was Missing Middle Housing, which can also be seen in this project overview link at https://youtu.be/OI8qeWi_yF8. Missing Middle Housing is designed in a way to allow more people to live on a small footprint by utilizing multi-unit or clustered housing types compatible in scale with existing single-family homes. Missing Middle Housing intends to meet the growing demand for 'walkable urban living.' The types of residencies that Missing Middle Housing would have are courtyard apartments, duplexes, townhomes, and multiplexes. When we look at whether or not this would be good for Hilltop, it would benefit in different ways because more people would be able to buy or rent a variety of residencies in the specific neighborhood they want to live in, rather than having to look farther away due to lack of variety in obtainable housing choices.

Elliott raised an important point which is that most people can't buy the house they're living in currently due to the prices rising. According to The Council for Community and Economic Research, Seattle is the 5th most expensive city in the United States in the first quarter of 2019. In order to solve this regional problem, there needs to be a larger variety of housing types and options for Washingtonians. Elliott mentioned that

there are new buildings being built in Hilltop next to little ones, and the proposal recognizes this. A concern some people may have is that this new project will replace their neighborhood. This is not the case. Some people may fear their neighborhood changing and would want the neighborhood to remain like it was when they purchased their house years ago. As Elliott stated, change is coming our way, prices of homes are going up, and demand for housing will increase.

When it comes to this case, there are two different housing futures, one of them will be less and the second one will create more choices. There is already a placement risk as well. Prices of homes and cost of living will be higher. This project, therefore, benefits in terms of decreasing displacement, because it will allow for people to buy or rent a residence in their neighborhood that is suitable for them.

The design structure for Missing Middle Housing and how it will fit into Hilltop neighborhoods will have different types of residencies in appropriate places rather than it being a cluster of different housing types. This project will be a beneficial one as it thinks about Hilltop's present and future.

Home In Tacoma City Update

Final reading of adopting ordinance – December 7, 2021 (changed from Nov. 30, 2021)

By Elliott Barnett, Senior Planner for City of Tacoma - Planning and Development Services

The City Council is scheduled to take action on the Home In Tacoma Project recommendations in 2021. Some of the dates have changed:

- Final reading of adopting ordinance – Council has indicated the intent to take action on December 7, 2021 (changed from Nov. 30, 2021)
- City Council Special Meeting – date and time to be set soon (and posted at www.cityoftacoma.org/homeintacoma)

The City Council continues to work through potential changes to package. On November 16, 2021, the Council held a First Reading of ordinance adopting the package, then discussed the project at its November 23, 2021 Study Session. For more information, visit www.cityoftacoma.org/homeintacoma.

What's in the package?

The City Council will consider adopting the Home In Tacoma Project policy actions (Phase 1). The package includes:

Comprehensive Plan policy updates – changing Tacoma's housing growth strategy and calling for new zoning and standards supporting infill housing.

Near-term Code Changes – adding flexibility to Tacoma's current housing rules to promote affordability and infill.

Tacoma's Housing Action Plan – guiding long-term implementation of housing goals.

The complete package, including a new Housing Growth Scenario Map, is available at www.cityoftacoma.org/homeintacoma.

www.cityoftacoma.org/homeintacoma. If City Council adopts the package, the City will start work on zoning and standards (Phase 2)—we hope you will participate!

Background

It's getting harder to find housing in Tacoma. The City is considering changes to housing rules intended to help meet our community's housing supply, affordability and choice needs. For many years, Tacoma's housing rules for most neighborhoods have primarily allowed just one housing type—detached houses. Under these proposals, the City would allow housing types including duplexes, triplexes, cottages and multifamily to be built in Tacoma's neighborhoods as well. The City would adopt standards to make sure that the design and size of new housing is not too different from that of nearby houses.

Since the City Council's July 13th Public Hearing, the IPS Committee has been working to address issues raised at the hearing through changes to the proposals. The Committee's recommendations, which reduce the amount of Mid-scale and strengthen design, affordability and infrastructure policies, are included in the package now headed for a City Council vote.

How to learn more

The public can attend Council and Committee meetings, which are currently being held online, or view video recordings after the meetings. To find out more, visit www.cityoftacoma.org/homeintacoma, send an email to planning@cityoftacoma.org, or call (253) 591-5030 (Option 4). The City of Tacoma launched the Home In Tacoma Project to gain community and industry insight in updating Tacoma's housing growth policies and zoning. Please help to spread the word and continue to participate.

Wondering what happens on the Hilltop in between Hilltop Action Journal bi-monthly editions? Sign up for HAC's weekly eNewsletter at hacoffice15@gmail.com.

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How can we improve transportation in Pierce County?



We need your feedback!

The Pierce County Coordinated Transportation Coalition (PCCTC) is a dedicated group of people who understand that reliable transportation is important for people to stay independent and healthy in their community.

Please take five minutes to fill out an anonymous survey. Your answers will help us develop transportation services for people with limited or no transportation options.



PierceCountyWA.gov/Tsurvey



Call 2-1-1 for other languages or a paper copy.



Pierce County Coordinated
Transportation Coalition



Pierce County
Human Services



Hilltop Action Calendar Dec-Jan

Dec & Jan - People's Center (Metro Parks) memberships are FREE for kids under 18. <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/place/people-community-center>. Phone: 253-404-3915.

Dec 1 thru 12 - HBA Toy Drive. Please drop off your new and unwrapped toy to one of the following: Red Elm Café, Spun, Sam and Terrys, Johnson Candy, People's Barbershop, and 2nd Cycle. Donated toys will be handed out on December 18th from 2-5pm by the Peace Bus Santa (Kwabi) at the Tacoma Arts Community Center located at 1102 S 11th St, Tacoma, WA 98405. Live music provided by the Ben and Tony Show.

Dec 2 - Thursday- 7:00 pm. Tacoma Central Neighborhood Council meets virtually on Facebook. City Manager Elizabeth Pauli will update the 2021 year. Check their Facebook page for Zoom information <https://www.facebook.com/CNCTacoma>. For more information, email chair@cnc-tacoma.com.

Dec 4 - Saturday - 10 am to 1 pm. Annual Winter Glass Sale. Hilltop Artists. Hilltop Heritage Middle School. <https://hilltopartists.org/get-involved/calendar>

Dec 4 - Saturday - 4-6 pm. Housing Help at Tacoma Public Library Moore Branch at 215 S 56th ST - legal questions with eviction and help with rent or utilities.

Dec 6 - Monday - 6:00-7pm. HAC Virtual Weekly Update on HAC Facebook Live. Join HAC Board members with guests with Hilltop information and ideas. <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition>

Dec 7 - Tuesday. Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Each year on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Survivors, veterans, and visitors from all over the world come together to honor and remember the 2,403 service members and civilians who were killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Dec 8 - Wednesday - 5:30 - 7:00 pm. New Tacoma Neighborhood Council Meeting is on Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/newtacomanighbors> For more information, please contact NCNTBoard@gmail.com.

Dec 13 - Monday - 6:00-7pm. HAC Virtual Weekly Update on HAC Facebook Live. Join HAC Board members with guests who bring news and information of interest to Hilltoppers. Find out about the Dec 18th Hilltop Holiday Crawl! <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition>

Dec 14 - Dec 14 - Tuesday - 5:30 - 7 pm. Annual Carol Sing in Neighbors' Park (South 8th & I St). Raise your voice in song and celebrate the beginning of the season. Music lyrics will be provided. *If you would like to bring potluck soup or volunteer, contact 8thneighbors@gmail.com and let us know, so we can make a plan.

Dec 16 - Hilltop Library Planning Committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81960342310> with Meeting ID 819 6034 2310.

Dec 18 - Saturday - 10 am to 4pm. Hilltop Holiday Crawl. Pick up your Crawl Passport at HAC or participating businesses along MLK Jr. Way & S. 11th Street. Shop locally for seasonal gifts and enter the Holiday Business Raffle to win fantastic prizes. Find out more on HAC Virtual Weekly Updates or by visiting www.hilltopcrawl.com.

Dec 18 - Saturday - 2 - 5 pm. Holidayz on the Hill. Donated toys will be handed out by the Peace Bus Santa (Kwabi) at the Tacoma Arts Community Center located at 1102 S 11th St, Tacoma, WA 98405. Santa will also be available for pictures! Hot cocoa and hot apple cider generously provided by Red Elm Café.

Dec 20 - Monday - 6:00-7pm. HAC Virtual Weekly Update on HAC Facebook Live. Join HAC Board members with guests who bring news and information of interest to Hilltoppers. <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition>

Dec 21 - Tuesday. Winter Solstice, the first day of winter, is the shortest day of the year. Rejoice - the light starts to return tomorrow.

Dec 23 - Thursday - 8 am. Hilltop Business Association Meeting (HilltopBA.org). Open to the Public - Zoom Meeting ID 823 7351 3090, Passcode 157990, One tap mobile 253-215-8782, Zoom Link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82373513090?pwd=RGMxNUtVMGxocTNib0I-4RE5pdkhLUT09>

Dec 25 - Saturday - Christmas Day

Dec 26 - Sunday - Today is the first day of Kwanzaa which celebrates African culture and traditions. It is observed on December 26 through January 1. <https://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org>.

Dec 27 - Monday - 6:00-7:30 pm. HAC Monthly Community Meeting at People's Community Center in the Multipurpose Room located at 1602 MLK Jr. Way.

Jan 1 - Saturday - New Year's Day

Jan 3 - Monday - 6:00-7pm. HAC Virtual Weekly Update on HAC Facebook Live. Join HAC Board members with guests who bring news and information of interest to Hilltoppers. <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition>

Jan 8 - Wednesday - 5:30 - 7. New Tacoma Neighborhood Council is on Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/newtacomanighbors>. For more information, please contact NCNTBoard@gmail.com.

Jan 10 - Monday - 6:00-7pm. HAC Virtual Weekly Update on HAC Facebook Live. Join HAC Board members with guests who bring news and information of interest to Hilltoppers. <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition>

Introducing Lt. Cory Darlington...

...recently assigned as the Tacoma Police Department's Community Policing Division Sector One Commander in October 2021.

By Tacoma Police Department

Lt. Cory Darlington is a 31-year veteran of the department and a specialist in community and 'non-traditional' policing. He works collaboratively with other city departments as well as other agencies and community members to address concerns and achieve long-term results. Lt. Darlington previously served as a Sector Commander in Sectors Four and Two and this assignment is a return to his 'roots' having served as Sector One Commander in the beginning stages of the program from 2004 to 2008.

Lt. Darlington previously served as a commander in the Training and Hiring Unit - Administrative Services, and as the Traffic Commander. During those assignments, full budgeted staffing was achieved with an emphasis on hiring minorities and women. The department continues to exceed regional and national standards in terms of equity in hiring and retention of police officers. Under his leadership fatality and serious injury collisions were reduced significantly by direct participation in the Tacoma-Pierce County DUI Task Force and by many hours worked by dedicated motor officers, collision investigation officers and detectives, and officers assigned to DUI patrols. Fatality collisions at one time exceeded 25 per year and were reduced to the single digits.

Lt. Darlington has worked on several major city projects such as the Lincoln Revitalization Project as well as addressing many citizen and business district concerns. Lt. Darlington co-wrote (and updated) the city's Chronic Nuisance Ordinance and has applied it on several occasions, along with utilizing the Summary Suspension of Business License

for problematic locations, generating excessive calls for service negatively impacting the community.

Lt. Darlington works with Community Liaison Officers Scott Meffen, Cory Peyton, Ryan Beck and Andy Guiardinu. Each is committed and dedicated to addressing a myriad of citizen, neighborhood and business district concerns by seeking long-term strategies in addressing issues impacting quality of life for all citizens.

Lt. Darlington identified multiple problematic businesses and other locations in the sector that had generated excessive calls for service and reported crime, some for many years. The locations included motels, liquor establishments, apartment buildings, commercial properties and single-family residences where occupants were engaged in illegal drug activity, prostitution and other criminal and nuisance activity. Lt. Darlington collaborated with many agencies and worked closely with Community Liaison Officers in addressing these locations. Lt. Darlington also recognized the need for formal Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) training for the Community Policing Division. All personnel assigned to the division and many outside agency personnel completed the training that was planned and organized by Lt. Darlington in collaboration with the Washington State Crime Prevention Association. While assigned to Sector Four, calls for service and reported crime decreased significantly due to a comprehensive and strategic approach to problem-solving and effective community policing.

Lt. Darlington was also actively engaged in the City's Lincoln Business District Revitalization Program. Lt.



Darlington identified the district as a prime location for economic development and initiated measures to reduce criminal and nuisance activity in the district and decrease the perception of crime in the district. This included regular SET missions, increased community engagement, particularly with business owners, establishing bicycle patrols, and as a member of the Lincoln District Stewardship committee formed the initial 'grass roots' effort to promote the district for a \$10.5 million dollar revitalization project. Focusing on economic growth and supporting businesses were major objectives accomplished by Lt. Darlington.

For his ability in addressing complex community policing issues, dedication to duty, and outstanding service to the citizens of Tacoma, the Tacoma Police Department, and the City of Tacoma, Lt. Corey Darlington was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and will bring this type of leadership to his new role in Sector One.



Hilltop FED

Come get some HOT Soup each Friday in December!

Every Mon, Wed and Fri between 11am and 2pm stop by for free food. No questions asked. No Identification required. Items change daily.

Donations may be dropped off when Hilltop FED is open. You can also mail items to the HAC office at 1116 Earnest S Brazill St., Tacoma WA 98405. Arrange drop offs at hacoffice15@gmail.com. Donate online through Hilltop Action Coalition's PayPal at https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=2FP36QYKYK33Q.

Jan 20 - Thursday - 8:00 am. Hilltop Business Association Meeting (HilltopBA.org). Open to the Public - Zoom Meeting ID 823 7351 3090, Passcode 157990, One tap mobile 253-215-8782, Zoom Link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82373513090?>

Jan 17 - Monday - 6:00-7pm. HAC Virtual Weekly Update on HAC Facebook Live. Join HAC Board members with guests who bring news and information of interest to Hilltoppers. <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition>

Jan 20 - Thursday - 6:00-7:30 pm. Hilltop Library Planning Committee meets via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81960342310> with Meeting ID 819 6034 2310.

Jan 24 - Monday - 6:00-7pm. HAC Virtual Weekly Update on HAC Facebook Live. Join HAC Board members with guests who bring news and information of interest to Hilltoppers. <https://www.facebook.com/HilltopActionCoalition>

Jan 31 - Monday - 6:00-7:30 pm. HAC Monthly Community Meeting at People's Community Center in the Multipurpose Room located at 1602 MLK Jr. Way.

Do you have local events to share with the Hilltop Neighborhood? Email them to hacoffice15@gmail.com with full links and flyers in JPEG format. We'll share them in our weekly eNewsletter and the Hilltop Action Journal.

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