

HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL

April-May 2021 | Hilltop Action Coalition | Volunteer Organized | www.hilltopactioncoalition.org

A Champion For Our Community



Portrait of Kris Brannon courtesy of local artist, Jymes Alexander.

Remembering Sonic Guy

Kris told me a couple years ago, "The old me was small, petty, and angry. The new me is large, generous, and caring. And I'll tell you, I've never been happier."

By Jack Cameron, Grit City Magazine

Let me tell you what it's like to walk down the street with Sonic Guy in Tacoma. Forget having a long, uninterrupted conversation with him. It's not possible. Within minutes someone, an old friend, an acquaintance, or more often than not, a complete stranger will walk up and say, "Sonic Guy!"

No matter what you and he were talking about, he will stop and give this new person his full attention. He'll smile. He'll sign an autograph or take a picture with them if they want. He'll use a level of smarm and charm that most people can't pull off authentically. He'll thank them for taking the time to say hello. Then he'll get back to you and whatever you and he were talking about.

I knew Kristopher Brannon aka Sonic Guy for over thirty years. And as I write this less than two days after his death, I find it hard to believe I'll never have that experience again. Kris and I became friends in high school. We were in drama class together. We used my dad's video camera to make videos in class that I wish I still had. We briefly worked at the Tacoma

Central movie theater together. I only lasted a few months at the job. He was there almost until it closed down. Years later, I would go with him out to places like Baldy's Road House in Milton and watch him kill (and bomb) at Open Mic stand-up. And then one day, a few months after Seattle's NBA team, the Seattle SuperSonics was sold to Oklahoma, Kris put on a Sonics jersey, made a cardboard sign, and started attending every sporting event, rally, parade, gathering, and birthday party he could find. He became Sonic Guy.

His message was simple and direct: Bring Back Our Sonics. Week after week, month after month, year after year, if there were a lot of people in one place in Western Washington, odds were pretty good Sonic Guy was one of those people. He attended thousands of events, met tens of thousands of people, and was seen by millions.

And as his friend, I absolutely did not get it. He didn't take endorsement deals. He didn't ask anyone for money. He would sometimes get free tickets to events, but that's as far as it went. He was inexplicably spending a lot of time and money on what I saw

as a hopeless cause and doing it all for free. What could he possibly hope to gain from this?

I didn't get it until we walked down 6th Avenue on a hot day in July during Tacoma's Art on the Ave. and I saw it. I watched the eyes of men, women, and so many children light up as they saw him. They became excited. It was a highlight of their day. He never seemed to tire of it. When a person approached Kris, he treated him like an old friend he hadn't seen in a while. (I know because I am an old friend of his.)

Sonic Guy couldn't actually bring the Sonics back. I think he knew that. But it didn't matter. He brought the Sonics back every day by sharing the joy and excitement of a local NBA team with each and every person he met. He literally was Sonic Guy and in that regard he was phenomenally successful.

Kris told me a couple years ago, "The old me was small, petty, and angry. The new me is large, generous, and caring. And I'll tell you, I've never been happier."

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Hilltop Spring Crawl

April 18-24

Hilltop Virtual Marketplace April 18-24

Hilltop Happy Hour April 23, 3-6PM

Spring Crawl April 24, 10AM-4PM



See Page 7 for Details

Hilltop Action Journal

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

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Hilltop Action Coalition

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

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Hilltop Action Coalition is
recruiting Board Members!
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HAC Virtual Weekly Updates

Community Updates & Special Guests! A casual, fun, community centered meeting space.



Find out what's going on in the Hilltop Neighborhood with HAC Hosts Brendan Nelson, Alyssa Torrez, and Michealea Lemons! Each Monday at 6:00 PM on Facebook Live they share community updates and information about local events in the Hilltop. If you have a resource or event to share, please email hacoffice15@gmail.com.

HAC Virtual Weekly Updates have Special Guests each week that share empowering information we hope will improve your quality of life. Each speaker will have a Q&A time where your questions from the chat log will be answered. We'll also share guest

contact information and important resource links.

Can't make a 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.

Please support HAC's Virtual Weekly Updates by taking the 1 Question Attendee Survey. This takes the place of the meeting sign in sheet and you only have to take the survey once per quarter. Thank you! Attendee Survey Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1BO_yMNT6kwz1zFIGI4whL5SqH-qkE_UJA4UsAlcsospM/edit#question=1454933566&field=1388310339

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

Hilltop Family,

Over the last year, I've witnessed so many groups, organizations, residents, and elected leaders working together to ensure that the Hilltop continues to be a strong and vibrant place to live, work and play. The challenging, yet fruitful dialogues that are taking place encourage me. I hope that we continue seeking commonplaces of understanding to discuss projects and proposals that directly affect our community. I firmly believe that each of us 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.

The Hilltop Action Coalition continues our commitment to working with all stakeholders to build stronger and more unified partnerships. We feel it is our responsibility to be actively engaged and have hands-on involvement in the developments taking place.

We will work to ensure that residents are informed and connected to the many things poised to happen soon and look forward to continuing the journey with you all.



Love and Light,

Brendan Nelson
President, Hilltop Action Coalition

Remembering Sonics Guy



Photograph by Raimundo Jurado.

By Jack Cameron, Grit City Magazine

Continued from page 1.

I keep thinking about that in the wake of his death. I remember his dark days and dark moods. I know that being Sonics Guy took a toll on him until he found his peace with it. And when he did, it was something to behold.

He wasn't content to just find his peace though. He wanted me to find my own. He'd challenge me. He wouldn't let me just complain about politics online. He insisted I get

involved. Three days before this past election he sent me a text: "Election Day. You and me. Some old fashioned sign waving for Biden. Pick me up at 6:30am." It wasn't a request. He insisted on positivity and activism.

Now, after only 47 years of life and with the Sonics still only a part of our past, Kristopher Brannon aka Sonics Guy has died of a heart attack. I can't imagine what his sister, his mother, and the rest of his family are going through. I know he got to see his mother for the first time in eight months just a few days before his death and how great that he felt about

that. I'm sure his mother will cherish that memory. The last time I saw him I drove him around running errands with him and talking about old times. I wish I knew that was the last time I'd see his face or hear his loud laugh.

When he started out as Sonics Guy I thought he was insane, but now I believe. We will have a NBA team again. And when we do, I hope they'll make a retired jersey for Sonics Guy. He's earned it.

I love you and miss you, Kris. Thanks for every moment you spent with me. Go Sonics.

Hilltop Tree Canopy Increased by 107 Trees

Pierce County's Giving Tree Events collaborates with multi-organizations to increase Hilltop's Tree Canopy by giving free trees away to local residents.

By Kristine Coman

Find out more here <https://www.co.pierce.wa.us/4080/Pitch-In-For-Parks>. Pierce County also has Pitch In For Parks volunteer opportunities.

It's wonderful when organizations come together to support positive actions in our community. Pierce County Pierce County Parks and Recreation collaborated with Tacoma Tree Foundation, Puget Sound Beekeepers Association, and the Pierce County Noxious Weed Board to provide Giving Tree Events in 2021. These events are all over Pierce County and offer a free tree and pollinator seeds for everyone.

Recently, Evergreen-Tacoma and Hilltop Action Coalition joined the collaborative effort to increase Pierce County's tree canopy by holding a Free Tree Giveaway on March 7th. They set up the trees outside in Evergreen's parking lot with social distancing measures in place. 107 trees were given away including Douglas-fir, English Walnut, Chinese Chestnut, Kentucky Coffee tree, Paw Paw, Cherry tree, Apple tree, and Elderberry.

You have two more opportunities to attend a Giving Tree Event:

-Saturday, April 17th 10AM - 2PM at Chambers Creek Regional Park - 6320 Grandview DR W, University Place 98467

-Thursday, April 22 1PM - 6PM at Sprinkler Recreation Center - 14824 C Street S, Tacoma 98444

For the Hilltop, we hope to have another Free Tree Giveaway event during the Hilltop Spring Crawl on Saturday, April 24th. Stay tuned for a Spring Crawl updates during April 12th, HAC Virtual Weekly Update at 6PM via Facebook Live.

In 2019, the City Council adopted a new plan for stewardship of Tacoma's trees - the Urban Forest Management Plan. This plan houses the vision for Tacoma to enhance urban forest resources, including increasing the tree canopy cover from approximately 20 percent in 2018 to 30 percent in 2030. City of Tacoma recognizes the wide range benefits of trees and parks and that those who live in the lower opportunity neighborhoods have the least canopy coverage. Free trees for the Hilltop makes Hilltop healthy for everyone.

Tree Canopies provide clean air and sequester carbon which reduces the concentration of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. Did you know that evaporation from trees works as a natural air conditioner? Find out more about the positive effects of trees at <https://canopy.org/tree-info/benefits-of-trees/>.

Litter Free 253

TEAM HAC

WHEN: Sat, April 17th, 9am to 12pm
MEET AT: People's Park
South 8th Street

Social Distancing Guidelines in Place

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/71702598621235001/false#/invitation>

Email Kristine at hacoffice15@gmail.com for more information.



HAC VS. HBA for Litter Free 253

Keeping Hilltop Beautiful!

Join the fun! HAC and HBA are partnering together to make Litter Free 253 a little more exciting for Hilltop. They'll meet at 9:00AM at People's Park for the kick off where a litter pick up station will be set up. You'll want to get their early to get a free litter grabber.

Team HAC and Team HBA will clean up the Hilltop Spring Crawl footprint by splitting Martin Luther King Jr. Way down the middle with each team taking a side from 9th Street down to 13th Street. We hope to have time to go back into the neighborhood a street or two if time allows.

Bags of litter will be counted to determine which team won. HAC will provide a Hilltop STAR trophy to the winning team and HBA will supply the pizza! Sign up today for Team HAC at <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/71702598621235001/false#/invitation>. Kristine will be there to greet you along with HAC Board Members Alyssa Torrez and Michealea Lemons on Saturday, April 17th at 9AM. See you there!



The City of Tacoma has 3 types of trash: 1) Homeless Trash, 2) Illegal Dumb Debris, and 3) Litter. The City takes care of homeless trash and illegal dumps. Please call 311 to report areas that need City attention. Litter Free 253 Volunteers will be focusing on removal of litter only.

Hilltop Tacoma Link is 75% Complete! Find Out What's Next...

Sound Transit will be hiring more employees in the near future for the Tacoma Operations and Maintenance Facility.

By Liz Ellis, Sound Transit

The Hilltop Tacoma Link project is now 75% complete, and people are excited about riding the train in Hilltop! While the contractor is making good progress, we still have about a year of construction to go. I'd like to give you an update on upcoming construction in Hilltop, encourage neighbors to keep supporting Hilltop businesses, and let you know about new job opportunities with Tacoma Link.

Construction will continue through 2021. Then, we will test the trains and systems. Hilltop Tacoma Link opens

for service in 2022. We look forward to riding Tacoma Link with you in Hilltop!

Last year, crews installed two sets of track and most of the power poles in Hilltop. The contractor also installed new sewer, stormwater and water utilities as well as some signals and lighting – all while working safely to protect workers and the public during COVID-19.

In 2021, this project will reach key milestones – the expanded operations and maintenance facility will be completed this spring, and five new light rail vehicles will arrive in the fall. In the months ahead, crews will

install signals and lighting, curb and gutter, and overhead wires along Martin Luther King Jr. Way. The contractor will deliver the buildings for the traction power substations and will build the platforms and canopies for four stations on Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

To encourage customers to shop at businesses during construction, we're asking people to be "Loyal to the Local!" As part of the Loyal to the Local campaign, we created videos of the Hilltop Business District as well as individual businesses, such as The TShirt Men, Johnson Candy, Grit City Ciderworks, Mr. Mac, Red Elm

Café, Spun, and Fish House Café. We also wrapped a Tacoma Link train, asking folks to shop Hilltop, Stadium and Commerce St. Last year, we supported virtual events in Hilltop and now proudly sponsor the Hilltop Spring Crawl.

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](https://www.soundtransit.org/get-to-know-us/jobs). Please consider applying for these jobs!

If you have questions or concerns about the Hilltop Tacoma Link project, please contact me at 253.208.0586 (call or text) or email 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. In addition, I could meet you in Zoom or other virtual meetings. Let's stay connected!



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

1. Tacoma General Station near South 3rd Street
2. 6th Avenue
3. Hilltop just south of South 11th Street
4. St. Joseph Station near South 18th Street

Station renderings for the Hilltop District Station and the St. Joseph Station are on the next page.

Trains will run every 10 minutes, offering convenient service to the Stadium and Hilltop neighborhoods. This project also expands the existing operations and maintenance facility in the Dome District to hold five new light rail vehicles.

Link Facts

- Open: 2022
- Length: 2.4 Miles
- Stations: 6 new & 1 relocated train
- Services: Every 10 min.
- Funding: Partnership among Sound Transit, City of Tacoma, Federal Transit Administration and other grant sources.
- Projected Ridership: 2,000 - 4,000 riders by 2026

Hilltop Link Station Renderings & Progress Photos

Renderings courtesy of Sound Transit. Photographs courtesy of Liz Ellis.



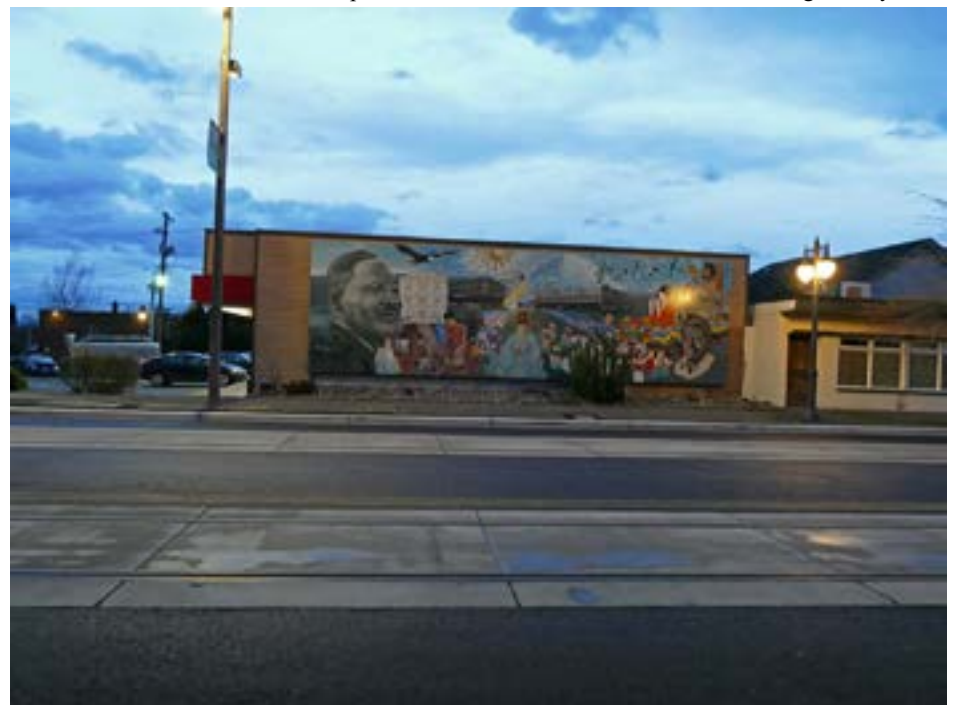
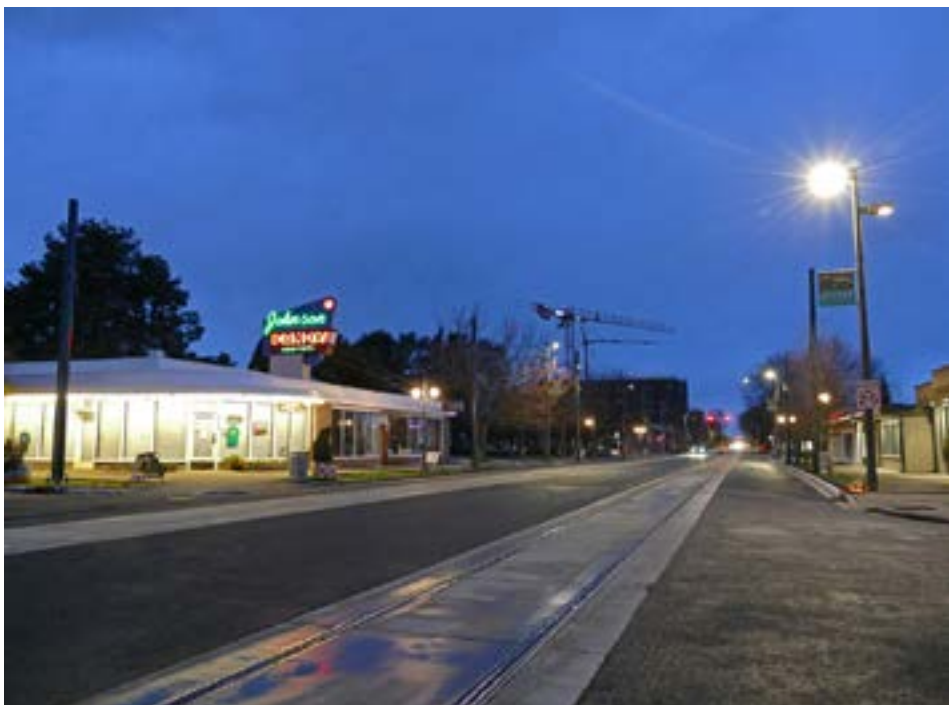
Hilltop District station is located on Martin Luther King Jr. Way just south of South 11th Street.



The St. Joseph station is located at Martin Luther King Jr. Way near South 18th Street.



This photographs show the concrete pour around the tracks on Martin Luther King Jr. Way between South 9th Street and South 7th Street in March. Below are photos of 2 sets of tracks on Martin Luther King Jr. Way.



Loyal to the Local Supports Local Businesses

You make a difference in your community when you visit your local neighborhood restaurants, shops and services. Sound Transit is committed to building stronger, more vibrant communities by connecting people and places in Hilltop. Be loyal to your local.

Sound Transit's Loyal to the Local Program makes sure we know our local businesses are open during the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension construction by providing access signs and promotional opportunities. Did you know Sound Transit had the TSM Shop make their Loyal to the Local face masks? You can pick up a couple from Hilltop Action Coalition for free on April 24th from 10am to 4pm during the Spring Crawl.

Sound Transit collaborated with SpaceWorks to connect with local artists for murals that brighten up construction areas. They also

provided social media marketing by creating videos that highlighted Loyal to Local businesses along the link route.

Did you know that Sound Transit sponsored the first Hilltop Business Crawl in August 2020? They also sponsored the Hilltop Holiday Crawl last December and is providing a Cherry Blossom level sponsorship for the Hilltop Spring Crawl. Their support for these community engagement opportunities show how much they care about the success of Hilltop businesses during the impacts of construction.



Check out the Loyal to the Local Hilltop Video on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYW-ITGU5xA>



Get your printed masks, t-shirts and other items at The TSM Shop located at 920 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Call 253-212-1698 today!



"Welcome to Hilltop" mural to the left of SPUN Tacoma, 1307 Martin Luther King Jr. Way.



Keep Up-To-Date with Hilltop Light Rail Link Construction



Get the latest Hilltop Link construction updates by visiting Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/groups/505066506854906/?notif_id=1616800420039653¬if_t=page_linked_group_activity&ref=notif

**After-hours Construction Hotline:
888-298-2395**



The Fish House Cafe is a legacy Hilltop business with delicious fish-n-chips at 1814 Martin Luther King Jr. Way.



A great picture of both sets of rails and two-way traffic.

People's Choice Award

The Hilltop Holiday Crawl People's Choice Award was given for the best holiday decorations. The winner is

SPUN Tacoma Clay Arts Studio & Gallery!



Jennifer English and April Sanders with SPUN Tacoma receive the People's Choice Award from Brendan Nelson, HAC Board President.

Jennifer English and April Sanders with SPUN Tacoma were overjoyed to receive the People's Choice Award on March 8, 2021. HAC Roving Reporter, Brendan Nelson, had the honor of presenting the award, live, on the HAC Virtual Weekly Update. Watch Jennifer and April receive their award here: <https://www.facebook.com/116095881827916/videos/842172073177832> beginning at 8 minutes 12 seconds. Lots of smiles!

Want to find out what SPUN Tacoma is all about? Visit their website site at <https://www.spuntacoma.com/> and find out how you can *Get Dirty* at SPUN. Check out the SPUN Clay Arts Studio & Gallery Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/spuntac>. You can contact Jennifer or April at (253) 347-3457; or, stop by the Gallery at 1307 Martin Luther King Jr. Way



Hilltop Spring Crawl Offers Safe Ways to Engage

Choose the Crawl that fits your schedule: Virtual Hilltop Marketplace, Hilltop Happy Hour, and Spring Crawl in-person community engagement opportunity!

Hey Hilltop.... It's time for the Hilltop Spring Crawl! Whether you feel the need to stay inside; or, can no longer fight the urge to play outside, we have the format for you.

April 18-24: Visit the Virtual Hilltop Marketplace at hilltop.com and support local businesses in a safe manner from your couch or favorite chair. Relax and shop the easy way.

April 23, 3-6PM: Kick off the Spring Crawl with Hilltop Happy Hour. HAC and HBA are 'happy' to sponsor this event. Hop on over to the Hilltop Action Coalition (HAC) office located at 1116 Earnest S. Brazill Street and spin the HAC Prize Wheel for a chance to win free drink tickets at Crawl participating establishment. *Must be 21 years of age or older to win a drink ticket, which does not include a tip for the server. All other HAC Prizes are free

to all ages. Come on down to HAC and help get the party started on the Hilltop! While you're at HAC, be sure to pick up your Passport to fun.

April 24, 10AM-4PM: Come by HAC to grab your Passport and get your first Stamp! Collect 4 Stamps at local Crawl participating businesses listed on the back of the Passport. Complete the contact information and turn your Passport in for a chance to win great prizes from the Hilltop Business Raffle. Feel free to cut your Passport out of this newspaper (below). A completed Passport will also allow you to vote for the People's Choice Award - be sure to vote for your favorite local business! Feel free to snap a picture of your completed Passport and email it to hacoffice15@gmail.com. Please make sure your contact information is legible or listed in the body of your email.

April 26, 6PM: Tune in for the Business Raffle Mon, April 26 during the HAC Virtual Weekly Update via Facebook Live. HAC and the Hilltop Business Association are adding Grand Prizes to the Hilltop Business Raffle. Yes! That's two opportunities for you to win a Private Watch Party at your local Cinemark Movie Theatre for you, your friends and family.

We wanted to take a moment to thank our Hilltop Spring Crawl Sponsors: Sound Transit, Hilltop Business Association, EPIC, The Community Market, and Downtown on the Go. Your generosity has made this community engagement opportunity possible and we are so very appreciative.

Please play safe and wear a face mask. Social distancing measures are in place at all Spring Crawl locations.



Spring into Hilltop Businesses

VIRTUAL MARKETPLACE APRIL 18TH-24TH
HILLTOPCRAWL.COM

HILLTOP POP UP MARKET
SATURDAY, APRIL 24TH 10AM-4PM

PRINT YOUR MAP AND PASSPORT AT
HILLTOPCRAWL.COM
VISIT 4 BUSINESSES (ONLINE OR IN PERSON)
AND TURN INTO HAC TO WIN PRIZES

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

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Brought to you by:



Tacoma Opens 2nd Round of Resiliency Grant Program April 9

Fifty micro businesses with five or fewer employees, including owners, are eligible for City of Tacoma's \$10,000 COVID-19 Resiliency Grant! Application Opens April 9, 2021

In an ongoing effort to mitigate the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 on Tacoma's micro businesses, defined as five or fewer employees including owners, the City of Tacoma's Community and Economic Development Department established a COVID-19 Resiliency Grant Program in October 2020. In the first round of the COVID-19 Resiliency Grant Program, 64 Tacoma micro businesses received \$10,000 grants to help offset the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and cover expenses for payroll, inventory, mortgage/rent, or utilities not covered by other funding sources for COVID-19 assistance.

"Tacoma is a compassionate, resilient city," said Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards. "As we move gradually toward economic recovery, we must continue to support one another. It is my hope that we can help more of Tacoma's micro businesses navigate these tremendously difficult times with this second round of our Resiliency Grant Program."

The application period for the second round of the Resiliency Grant Program begins April 9, 2021 and ends April 23, 2021 at midnight. On April 9, you'll find the application open on the Make It Tacoma website <https://makeittacoma.com/>.

Micro businesses must be located within Tacoma city limits, with a current business license, and have

been operating for at least a year as of March 16, 2020. The majority owner must have a household income of no more than 80 percent of area median income and they must be able demonstrate that they have experienced a loss of income due to COVID-19. Some home-based micro businesses may qualify if they are located within lower economic opportunity areas in Tacoma. To find out if you live in a lower economic opportunity area, visit <https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=175030> to view Tacoma's Equity Index.

Application details are on <https://makeittacoma.com/>. Questions regarding the Resiliency Grant Program may be directed to Shari Hart at resiliencygrant@cityoftacoma.org or (253) 591-5208.

As the situation evolves, general information about the City's response to COVID-19 will be posted on the "What's Going On" section of the City's website located at https://www.cityoftacoma.org/whats_going_on/coronavirus. Information about COVID-19 is available at TPCHD.org/coronavirus.

The application DEADLINE IS APRIL 23, 2021 at 11:59pm. Recipients will be chosen via lottery and notified on May 11, 2021.

Information provided by Shari Hart and Make It Tacoma.

Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Opens April 8

A Program designed for live venue operators.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) Program is designed to assist live venue operators (fixed seats, ticket sales, public promotion) or promoters, theatrical producers, live performing arts operators, museum operators, motion picture operators and talent representatives who demonstrate a revenue reduction due to COVID-19. Entities of these types owned by state or local governments (for example, museums or historic homes) are eligible to apply if the governmentally-owned entity also acts solely as a venue operator, museum, etc. and not also include other types of entities. In addition, the business must have been in operation as of February 29, 2020, and requires a venue to have defined performance and audience spaces. If a particular mobile entity does not have a fixed venue, they are not eligible to apply for an SVOG.

If you received funding under the CARES Act, you can still apply for an SVOG. Any entity that receives a PPP loan on or after December 27, 2020 (whether First Draw or Second Draw), will have the PPP loan

amount deducted from the SVOG amount, even if the PPP loan was forgiven.

Have questions? Read the FAQs to learn more at <https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2021-03/3-12-21%20SVOG%20FAQ%20FINAL-508.pdf>. renderings of similarly artistic works.

You can check out the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Eligibility Requirements here: <https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2021-03/SVOG%20Eligibility%20Requirements-v2.pdf>. Be prepared by using the Preliminary Application Checklist at <https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2021-03/3-11-21%20SVOG%20application%20checklist-508.pdf>.

SVOG Webinars
April 13, 9:00-10:30am <https://wsbdc.eccenterdirect.com/events/99271496>

April 27, 9:00-10:30am <https://wsbdc.eccenterdirect.com/events/99271497>

Don't miss this opportunity! Sign up today to be notified when the SVOG Application opens at <https://www.svograntportal.sba.gov/s/>.

“

We invite you to learn more about our small, but mighty, liberal arts program. We offer a unique curriculum that reflects the diversity of our tight-knit learning community.



— DR. MARCIA TATE ARUNGA
Dean of the Evergreen State
College - Tacoma

Application fee currently waived! Link in profile.

The Evergreen State College-Tacoma



NEED FUNDS FOR YOUR SMALL BUSINESS OR NON-PROFIT?

If you're struggling due to the pandemic, loans and grants are available. We can help you find what you're eligible for, and provide free technical assistance to help you apply.

Take our Small Biz/Nonprofit Survey
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JWHMJVW>

- Who's eligible? Small businesses, sole proprietors, "gig economy" workers, nonprofits, immigrants, people with non-fraud felony convictions and/or student loan defaults, non-profits, faith-based organizations, Tribal Business Concerns, and others. Also, you can use your PPP loans for more types of expenses.

- Are any other funds for small businesses available? Yes, there are also Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL- <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/covid-19-economic-injury-disaster-loan>) and Shuttered Venue Operators Grants (SVOGs- <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/shuttered-venue-operators-grant>).

- Do I have to pay it back? You can apply for PPP loan forgiveness. 99% of applicants are approved. <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/pay-check-protection-program/ppp-loan-forgiveness>

- Will I owe taxes on my PPP loan? No. PPP loans are tax-free, even when forgiven.

- I already got a PPP loan, can I get another one? Yes, many qualify for a Second Draw PPP loan. <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/pay-check-protection-program/second-draw-ppp-loan>

- When is the deadline? March 31st. Please apply ASAP! More info: <https://www.smallbizhelpwa.com/>

FREE PPP LOAN ASSISTANCE



Michael Scholzen, Store Manager
Umpqua Bank, Tacoma Main Branch, Tel.: (253) 620-5301, Email: Michael.Scholzen@umpquabank.com

THIS REMINDER BROUGHT TO YOU BY...



SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATOR
TACOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

williamfactory.org



Free Civil Legal Aid

TACOMAPROBONO
www.tacomaprobono.org

LFO Help at The R.I.S.E. Center

Waive or reduce LFO's for low-income people.

By Carly Roberts, Executive Director with Tacomaprobono Community Lawyers

WHEN
Sat, April 17, 10am-1pm
Sat, May 1, 1pm-4pm

WHERE - The R.I.S.E. Center located at 2136 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Tacoma WA 98405. This is an in-person event, space limited, RSVP required at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdlGkW3UaMLnL4uYCrE7F3PxRovDMc0r7U87VamlyolacCteg/viewform>.

WHO - Tacomaprobono Community Lawyers, Arms Around You, Monarch Consulting LLC, R.I.S.E. Center and Northwest Community Bail Fund in collaboration with Pierce County Superior Court, District Court and Municipal Court prosecutors and judges.

WHAT - With the cooperation of these local community organizations and Pierce County courts, people who sign up for LFO Intake Days will have an opportunity to receive a court order reducing or waiving their existing Legal Financial Obligations. **WHY** - Legal financial obligations, or LFOs, are the fines, fees, costs and restitution imposed by the court on top of a criminal sentence. Nearly every person convicted in a Washington court receives a bill for LFOs at sentencing.

People with money can pay their LFOs immediately without the added cost of interest or collection fees, but people who are poor cannot do so and may remain tied to the criminal justice system for years solely because of court system debts.

For example, a person who can only afford to pay \$20 per month in an effort to repay the average \$2,500 LFO debt, may remain indebted to the court even after years of regular payment. In fact, a person who owed \$2,500 in debt will owe \$300 in interest by the end of the first year that the LFOs are owed. At a rate of \$20 per month, a low-income person will never be able to pay off the interest that accrued on the debt, let alone the initial debt itself. LFOs cannot be discharged in bankruptcy, and many never expire.

Those who are unable to pay their LFOs have difficulty obtaining jobs and housing, perpetuating the inequity in our community which has a disproportionate impact on people of color and populations which are underserved, underrepresented and vulnerable, adding to the homeless crisis. Tacomaprobono Community Lawyers seeks to end homelessness by addressing its root causes, working with community and government partners to provide targeted solutions to the kinds of civil legal issues, such as LFOs, which keep people living in a cycle of poverty.

Please contact Carly Roberts at carly@tacomaprobono.org for more information.



SIGN UP FOR LFO INTAKE DAY!

APRIL 17, 10 am-1 pm
MAY 1, 1 pm - 4 pm

**** IN-PERSON EVENT/SPACE IS LIMITED ****

The R.I.S.E. Center
2136 M.L.K. Jr Way, Tacoma, WA 98405



NORTHWEST
COMMUNITY
BAIL FUND

ABOUT LFO INTAKE DAY

Do you have criminal fines (Legal Financial Obligations) in Pierce County Superior, Pierce County District, or Tacoma Municipal Courts?

Have you had difficulty paying them?

LFO INTAKE DAY is a day to speak with a lawyer, and request relief from your debt.

Please bring proof of income if possible.

YOU MUST RSVP

We cannot assist walk-ins.

Each person attending will receive resources and a COVID-19 care package (\$100 food card included)

QUESTIONS? Send us an e-mail!
outreach@tacomaprobono.org



RSVP NOW!

Point your smartphone camera at this QR Code to sign up.



COVID-19 Business Info Series Conference Calls: Wednesdays 11AM

Pierce County is open for business. As the COVID-19 outbreak continues to evolve, they're here to help businesses access the resources and information they need. Click here to join on your computer: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_ZG_Kjf-hT5WyNveLmUGpiQ?_x_zm_rtaid=yLCqG2gXTVi-JqZfwIN_bw.1617821134283.94eedadb8639f7b834895747972f79a7&_x_zm_rhtaid=908.

iPhone one-tap to listen only: US: +16699006833,,843841095# or +19292056099, 843841095#
Other Telephone to listen only 1 (253) 215-8782 Use Webinar ID: 843 841 095

Business Info Series Details are at <https://www.tacomachamber.org/business-info-series.html>.



TacomaFIRST 311 Offers Online Resources



Community members can utilize TacomaFIRST 311 online resources to access more than 700 answers to commonly asked City-related questions. By visiting cityoftacoma.org/TacomaFIRST311, community members can submit and track more than 100 types of requests for City services and direct questions to City departments, including the Environmental Services Department.

For more information on City services, contact the TacomaFIRST 311 Customer Support Center by dialing 311 within Tacoma city limits or (253) 591-5000 from anywhere else or email csc@cityoftacoma.org.

Metro Parks Tacoma Community Centers Reopening In April & Summer Programs

After a year plus of quarantine and a cold winter of being cooped up inside, many families are feeling the need to get outside and do fun activities together, safely!



By Courtney Acoff, Community Outreach & Engagement Specialist for Metro Parks Tacoma

Metro Parks Tacoma is happy to announce that Community Centers are reopening in April. Center at Norpoint, Eastside Community Center, and People's Pool will be first to resume limited operations, currently planned for the end of April. We are planning for People's Center and STAR Center to continue to operate McKinney-Vento Camps for unhoused youth until the end of the school year. We are evaluating different options that would allow for limited public access around the camp schedules.

You may be wondering what Community Center operations will look like and what will you be able to do. The State directives are ever-evolving, but with the current phase, you can expect the following with your

Community Center Membership:

- Indoor and outdoor fitness classes so you can choose which is best for your comfort level
- Community Center Hours will be based on peak times
- Health screening/temperature checks upon arrival
- Social distancing and face covering requirements
- Extensive cleaning protocols

The simplified pricing structure for memberships can be found at <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/cc-update-3-24-21/>

Summer Programs Update:

Summer Camps: Summer camps will be held at Center at Norpoint, Titlow Park, Wapato Park, Tacoma Nature Center and more. Registration opens in early April.

Summer Lunches: The Grab and Go Summer Lunch Program will return at parks throughout Tacoma. Exact dates and locations are not yet known.

Athletic Fields: Athletic Field reservations are being accepted. Get information

Picnic Shelters: Picnic Shelter reservations begin April 1 for dates from April 10 and beyond. Book a shelter online. (Catered events in the picnic pavilions at Point Defiance Zoo and Northwest Trek are not available at this time. The Owen Beach and Gig Harbor Viewpoint shelters are not available to reserve this year.)

Facility Rentals: It is unknown at this when facility rentals will resume but it is likely that outdoor rental venues will be available before indoor venues. We are waiting on Governor phasing guidelines.

Outdoor Pools: Kandle Pool and Stewart Heights Pool are planned to open this summer. An opening date has not been set yet.

Spraygrounds: Spraygrounds typically open the first weekend in May but due to COVID-19 this may not be the case in 2021. Updated info will be posted at metroparkstacoma.org/updates.

Courtney Acoff may be reached at courtneya@tacomaparks.com or by calling 253-305-1099.



Youth Baseball Registration is open!

Tacoma Public School students as well as home school and private school students are eligible to sign up. Coaches are volunteers and will be either a team parent or a member of Tacoma's Next Move Program. Your coach will pick a day and time that works best for the team parents. Practices will begin the week of April 26th. Games will begin on Saturdays starting May 8th – June 12th (No games on May 29th for Memorial Day Weekend). Games are held at either PECK Athletic Complex or Heidelberg Athletic Complex based on your age group. Sign up today at https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/activities-and-sports/category/youth-sports/youth-baseball/?fbclid=IwAR2e2mFAhZ0leI_6HvnVFs3ytcz1e-8hAz89Bwz9u3HI3jzhLda6OWPfyQk



Boys & Girls Clubs K-5th Baseball Registration

By Sarah Stochel, Athletics Coordinator for Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound

This league is for K-5th graders. The cost is \$65 for people who have been club members within the last year and \$75 for people who have not been/are not club members. Kids currently receiving free or reduced lunch are eligible for a scholarship. In order to be awarded a scholarship, you must send proof of free/reduced lunch to stochels@bgcsp.org. Tacoma public school students as well as home school and private school students are eligible to sign up. Coaches are volunteers and will most likely be a team parent. Coaches will pick practice days and times.

We have decided to move the deadline for baseball registration up to April 16th so it is the same as the Metro Parks deadline. Please make sure to register and pay by 5pm on April 16th if you would like

your child to participate in baseball. Parents can register online at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdVDZOZCXnJ28U66ipADYh1sAhuAQixMdjmgwUBmw5nuv3g/viewform> or in-person at the Lakewood, Schatz, Eastside or Davies club branches. To pay, go to <https://boys-and-girls-clubs-of-south-puget-sound-2.square.site/>.

Practices will begin the week of April 26th. Games will begin on Saturdays starting May 8th and ending June 12th (No games on May 29th for Memorial Day Weekend). Games are held at either PECK Athletic Complex or Heidelberg Athletic Complex based on age group. Practices will be an hour once a week and games will also be an hour once a week.

Social distance guidelines will be required and all participants, spectators and coaches must wear masks. Email stochels@bgcsp.org for more details.

Register online at <https://www.bgcsp.org/our-impact/youth-sports>

\$65 for BGC Members
\$75 Non-Members

K-5TH BASEBALL

K/1st: T-ball
2nd/3rd: Coach Pitch
4th/5th Boys: Incrediball
4th/5th Girls: Fastpitch

BGCSPS & Metro Parks will be following social distance guidelines and will require all participants, spectators and coaches to wear masks. We will be following capacity guidelines from the governor during all of our scheduled practices and games.

Games every Saturday
May 8th - June 12th

Kids receiving free or reduced lunch are eligible for scholarships. Email stochels@bgcsp.org for more information.

For questions about this league, email stochels@bgcsp.org

CrOssing thE Street
A Celebration of Teen Poetry
APRIL 17TH-18TH
WORKSHOPS • OPEN MIC • POETRY SLAM

REGISTRATION OPENS ON MARCH 8TH
SIGN UP AT [WRITE253.COM/CTS21](https://write253.com/CTS21)

CONTACT US: [KATE@WRITE253.COM](mailto:kate@write253.com)

Write 253

Loyal to the Local
SHOP HILLTOP & STADIUM

Recycle Reset

Glass Drop-Off Stations

Healthy Neighborhoods + Thriving Puget Sound = Better Tacoma

Residential (single-family homes and duplexes) curbside glass collection ended on January 4, 2021. Multiple glass drop-off stations are now available for customers to recycle glass, household batteries, and other recyclables. Hilltop has its own station! Find it at Hilltop Safeway parking lot: 1112 S M St. This new station is now open seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and will accept glass bottles, jars, and household batteries for free drop-off by residential customers.

This transition reduces the carbon footprint of collections, reduces operational costs, and increases safety for drivers. We switched to this glass drop-off model to reduce our negative environmental impact, and you can help by combining your glass drop-off trips with other errands.

For more information visit call 253-502-2100 or visit https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmental_services/solid_waste/recycling/glass_recycling_drop-off_stations

Recycle Right
Empty. Clean. and Dry

Tacoma SURFACE WATER SOLID WASTE WASTEWATER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

“Butterfly”



A poem by B.Lyte of Power 2 The Poetry <https://power2thepoetry.com/>

Who did I help? What did I learn?	Just need you to listen	If you don't be playing You get what I'm saying So don't quite kid Keep it pushing
Who did I help? What did I learn?	Experience the experiment Embrace the brilliance Always buy clearance Face your villains Make a difference Then make a million Ignore opinions Acknowledge your own existence Find equilibrium Keep on persisting You have dominion Fight system	Always looking forward Toward the optimistic side of things Glass half full never half empty All just energy on different frequencies Channel our inner being use our third eye for seeing Stop disagreeing learn how to reason This lyfe has way too much meaning Stop all the beating promote healing and balance Focus on our talents eliminate all the malice
Life can get crazy Don't let it distract you Embrace the positive Let the negative move past you	No pain No gain Beauty in the struggle Don't let it bring you under Be resilient And rise above it Take a chance Live life in abundance	All the ego All the evil And let us all just be good people
Peace positivity and light Is what I consume to nourish my insides	Impossible I'm possible Unstoppable I AM	Transformation hurts but it is necessary You must consciously intend to let go Of all that holds you back And all that doesn't serve you Because if not it will only serve to hurt you There are already many obstacles and barriers you must overcome So don't quite kid Keep it pushing
Peace positivity and light Is what I consume to nourish my insides	Impossible I'm possible Unstoppable I AM	Beautiful butterfly come out your cocoon Spread your wings and fly to the moon The possibilities are endless this universe is infinite Emerge from the shadows and be magnificent
Beautiful butterfly come out your cocoon Spread your wings and fly to the moon The possibilities are endless this universe is infinite Emerge from the shadows and be magnificent	Every day is a chance to discover self love Always remember the people you love I know life's tough it gets hard enough But please don't give up	Beautiful butterfly come out your cocoon Spread your wings and fly to the moon The possibilities are endless this universe is infinite Emerge from the shadows and be magnificent
This is my evolution My revolution My exclamation My proclamation My explanation For ignoring your expectations On the road to greatness	You can't be winning If you don't be playing You get what I'm saying	Power 2 The Poetry
Lord knows I'm patient Embrace the haters No instigating No accepting failure Never say never In it to win it go out and get it Listen to my heart and follow my intuition	Not worried about likes or mentions Don't need THAT attention	You can't be winning

The Patio At Alma Mata Rolls Out Spring Menu Items & Film Screenings

Having made it through the winter, Alma Mater's outdoor restaurant is announcing new menu items, cocktails, and a happy hour in time for the outdoor dining season.



Toast with pepper cheese schmear



Pork Belly Hash with roasted veggies and fried egg

By Rizelle Rosales

The menu items may not come as a surprise - regulars might recognize them as weekend specials in the past. Newcomers to the morning menu are overnight oats, biscuits and gravy, and a twist on the classic toast with pepper cheese schmear. A notable addition is the pork belly hash, a savory meat alternative to the crowd-favorite veggie hash.

The afternoon menu introduces a wedge salad with bacon bits and blue cheese, a slow-roasted pork belly sandwich with sliced apple and cilantro spring onion puree, and a filling chicken confit with roasted vegetables and spring onion puree.

There are some new cocktails to welcome into the afternoon menu as well - the 2nd Cycle fundraiser "Grit" City Sour cocktail is here to stay. Launched in February as a fundraiser for the Tacoma bike shop, the cocktail is now a mainstay on the afternoon menu. The newest fundraiser cocktail for BLK WINS: A Black History Project based in Tacoma is the Carter G: rum, velvet falernum, house ginger syrup, more rum, and soda.

Two new signature cocktails have arrived on the afternoon menu as well. Your Old Flame is a bright, acidic vodka soda with apple cider vinegar and firewater bitters. Leather & Lace sports a brown sugar washed mezcal, salt water, demerara and black walnut bitters.

In addition to the new menu additions, The Patio will be screening two films by Tacoma director, editor, photographer and animator Isaac Olsen. Semi-Iconic: The Battle of Dick Rosetti follows the story of Rosetti, founder of the band Squirt and his experience as a DJ for Seattle's 107.7 "The End." Strictly Sacred: The Story of Girl Trouble documents the influence of this band on the DIY indie music scene in the Pacific Northwest.

The Milk Gallery at Alma Mater will be hosting the Modern Margins: An Exploration of Gender art exhibit hosted by Handmade PNW. Featuring gender diverse artists from all around Pierce County, visitors will be able to see the art show by appointment throughout the month of April.

Stay tuned for other happenings at Alma Mater, including DJ sets, Sunday film screenings, an Earth Day art projection mapping installation from Permaculture Lifestyle's Ulysses Grant, and a land acknowledgement mural from Salish artist Paige Pettibon.

Alma Mater is a space to celebrate, nurture, and evolve with the Tacoma community through food, performance, work, education, and social exchange. For updates and more, find Alma Mater on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/almamatertacoma> and Instagram at @almamatertacoma. Please contact info@almamatertacoma for any additional inquiries.



Mary's Wings with crudite and buttermilk dressing



BLK Wins Carter G cocktail: rum, velvet falernum, house ginger syrup, more rum, soda

Two Tacoma Public Library Locations Now Open For Visits

Fern Hill and Swasey Libraries will welcome patrons for 45 minute sessions by appointment or walk-up.

By Jamie Gilmore, Tacoma Public Library Outreach Librarian

Tacoma Public Library has opened Fern Hill Library and Swasey Library for successive 45-minute sessions Tuesday through Saturday in which patrons can browse the collection, pick up their holds, and access computers and printing.

Patrons are encouraged to make appointments for their session at least 24 hours in advance; limited walk-up entry to the libraries is also available on a first-come, first-served basis.

All staff and visiting patrons are required to observe the state-mandated safety precautions including appropriate mask-wearing and social distancing. Time is allotted between sessions so that staff can clean surfaces.

"The health of our staff and patrons is of utmost importance as we open our doors for these needed library services such as computer access, printing, and browsing the collection," stated Director Kate Larsen. "We appreciate the community's patience, as in our case, our recent Budget Closure set back our progress towards reopening. The lessons we learn from

opening these two locations will set us up for success as we prepare to reopen more libraries in our system."

Fern Hill Library, in south Tacoma, is located at 765 South 84th Street. Swasey Library, in west central Tacoma, is located at 7001 Sixth Avenue. These libraries will offer four, 45-minute sessions each day on a Tuesday to Saturday schedule, with the first segment of each day for high-risk patrons:

- Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- Session 1 – 12:00 - 12:45 High-Risk Patrons
- Session 2 – 1:00 - 1:45 p.m.
- Session 3 – 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.
- Session 4 – 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

- Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays
- Session 1 – 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. for High-Risk Patrons
- Session 2 – 11:00 - 11:45 p.m.
- Session 3 – 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.
- Session 4 - 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

"It has been a year since COVID-19 caused us to close our doors and pivot our focus to virtual and walk-up services," stated Larsen. "We've seen our online resource usage skyrocket, and have enjoyed serving patrons

through TPL To Go curbside services and our wide-ranging online program offerings. We are thrilled to welcome patrons back for in-building visits."

TPL To Go holds pick-up services remain available at all locations, including the Eastside Community Center, and patrons can make appointments to pick up their holds, or drop by during TPL To Go hours.

TPL To Go hours:

- Tuesday and Wednesday 12 p.m.–2 p.m. and 5 p.m.–7 p.m.
- Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 10 a.m. –12 p.m. and 3 p.m.–5 p.m.

TPL To Go hours at Eastside Community Center: Tuesday 12p.m.–2 p.m.

Tacoma Public Library also offers 24/7 access to its virtual collections and eResources, as well as reference help by phone during normal business hours and a host of other virtual programs and features.

For more information, visit <https://www.tacomalibrary.org/> or call 253-280-2800.

Giving TREE EVENT

**RECEIVE A FREE TREE
& POLLINATOR SEEDS**

**SATURDAY
APRIL 17** **CHAMBERS CREEK REGIONAL PARK**
10 AM - 2 PM • 6320 GRANDVIEW DR W, UNIVERSITY PLACE, 98467

**THURSDAY
APRIL 22** **SPRINKER RECREATION CENTER**
1:00-6:00 PM • 14824 C STRET SOUTH • TACOMA, 98444

WWW.PIERCECOUNTYWA.GOV/PARKS

Tacoma Tree Foundation Pierce County Parks EVERYDAY ADVENTURES Pierce County WASHWA BEES CENTER BOARD

Hilltop Action Journal

For more details contact Kristine Coman at 253-442-8848 or email hacoffice15@gmail.com.



Advertisement Rates

- 5x7 in. quarter page \$50
- 10x7 in. half page \$100
- 10x15 in. full page \$200
- Purchase 2 months & get 1 month free

Foster Adoption Clinic

Community Health Care's Foster Adoption Clinic offers a one stop shop for medical needs and assists with locating other resources.



Desiree White, ARNP and Ben Rimmel, RN. Photograph courtesy of TNT.

By Cathy Hall, Community Health Care

Community Health Care is pleased to announce the opening of the newest program at our Hilltop location: the Foster Adoption Clinic. One of our Nurse Practitioners, Desiree White, has two adopted children of her own and discovered a need for specialized care for children in the foster system or in the adoption process. "One of the things that I recognized as an adoptive parent is that there were no resources available for me and my kids in the way that we needed them. And if I couldn't navigate the healthcare system for my kids, and I'm in healthcare, how in the world do we expect families who are not in healthcare to do it."

Many children in the foster system have significant medical or behavioral health issues and have histories of trauma that are not being addressed. Leaving these problems untreated can lead to more serious issues down the road, resulting in permanent scars, mental and physical.

Pierce County has nearly 1300 children in the foster care system. Desiree recognized the difficulty in finding appropriate treatment and came up with the proposal to provide

specialized care. The approach is based on the assumption that these children have experienced trauma or other adverse situations in their lives and treatment is provided with that in mind.

The former radiology clinic on the first floor of our Hilltop location has been transformed into a safe, welcoming place for children and families. The exam rooms are colorful and comfortable rather than clinical, helping patients to better relax. The walls are lined with superhero decals and flowers; there are book cases filled with soft, plushy toys and books to take home.

At the Hilltop clinic – or any of our health centers – we can care for everyone in the family in one place: pediatrics, internal medicine, behavioral health, dental care, maternity and women's health. The Foster Adoption Clinic can also help with locating other resources that might be needed. Our belief is that health care is not just medical or dental but involving the whole child and the whole family. For more information, call (253) 722-1771 or visit our website at <https://www.comhealth.org/services/foster-adoption-clinic/>.

Nettie Craig Asberry

This excerpt is made possible by Tacoma Historical Society's music history book, Sounds of Our City, by Kim Davenport.

By Kim Davenport

Nettie Craig was born in Leavenworth, Kansas, on July 15, 1865. She was the youngest of six children of Violet Craig, and the only sibling born free. Nettie's father was William Wallingford, the owner of the plantation on which Violet was a slave.

Nettie was a precocious child. She began studying the piano at the age of eight, and before long was composing her own music. Few women of any race attended college in this era. Breaking that barrier, Nettie would go on to earn not just an undergraduate degree, but also a Ph.D., which she received from the Kansas Conservatory of Music and Elocution on June 12, 1883. She is believed to be the first African American woman in the United States to receive a doctoral degree.

Nettie moved to Seattle in 1890 with her first husband, Albert Jones. She became the first organist and musical director in the newly established First African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. After Albert's untimely death in 1893, Nettie moved back to Kansas to be with her family. But it wasn't long before they would return to the Northwest, this time settling in Tacoma. Here she met Henry Joseph Asberry, whom she married in 1895. The couple would prosper in Tacoma. Henry was a well-known businessman and the proprietor of the Tacoma Hotel Barbershop who would go on to accumulate a considerable amount of property in Tacoma. Nettie joined the Allen AME Church as organist and choir director, and became one of the best-known music teachers in the city.

She presented dozens of students in piano recitals each year. Because her home was in one of the more diverse areas of Tacoma, the neighborhood we now call "Hilltop," her students were of all colors and from all walks of life. In 1902, Nettie organized the Mozart Musical Club, which sought to broaden students' knowledge of music history. This was especially important in an era before



Nettie Asberry, Courtesy Washington State Historical Society (0006_S92-2-47).

Tacoma's schools offered music.

Today, Nettie Asberry is rightfully recognized as a champion of social justice. In 1913, she founded the Tacoma chapter of the NAACP, the first chapter west of the Rockies. Always attentive to injustice, she led efforts protesting laws against interracial marriage, the establishment of segregation at Fort Lewis, race-based seating restrictions in Tacoma's theaters, and the showing of the controversial 1915 film Birth of a Nation. She was also responsible for Tacoma visits by a number of prominent African American leaders and musicians.

Providing the soundtrack to this life spent in service to community

and social justice was Nettie's piano, which she played every day and shared with her hundreds of students. At the age of 79, Nettie joined the Baha'i faith. Through this faith she pursued "harmony between the races" and implemented the principles of music – "the beauty of form, harmony, and expression of emotion," to bring people together.

Nettie Asberry died November 17, 1968, at 103 years of age. She donated her piano and library of music books to the Tacoma Association of Colored Women's Clubs, which created in her honor the Asberry Cultural Club. This club is still in existence and promotes black history in the schools and in the community.

The Evergreen State College-Tacoma

JOIN THE LEGACY

Our history on the hilltop is rich. We invite you to learn more about our learning community and how we can support your educational journey.

Our liberal arts program supports a variety of interests, values inclusivity, and tailors courses to meet students where they are.

- Now accepting students with less than 90 credits
- Scholarships available
- No application fees



[HTTPS://WWW.EVERGREEN.EDU/TACOMA](https://www.evergreen.edu/tacoma)



Thank you, Hilltop Action Coalition, for providing a platform for me to spread the word out about my service project. With your help, 65 emergency preparedness buckets were created and delivered to our homeowners. Many of our homeowners were very grateful and appreciative upon receiving their buckets. Our Community gets stronger when we all come together to build(and rebuild) it. Thank you again for providing me with the opportunity to outreach in the community.

~ Constance Goeke

Vaccine Information for COVID-19

*Sign up for community vaccination
clinic news today!*

By Marcy Boulet, Tacoma-Pierce
County Health Department

Do you want to get notified on COVID-19 community vaccination clinic news? 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 what's new with COVID-19 community vaccination clinics. Sign up at <https://www.tpchd.org/i-want-to/about-the-health-department/sign-up-for-notifications>.

Phase Finder is the best way to learn if you're eligible to receive the vaccine (<https://www.tpchd.org/?splash=http%3a%2f%2ffind-yourphasewa.org&isexternal=true>). If you register with Phase Finder, you will be notified when you can get your vaccine. Please share this information with your networks. If you have any questions or want more information around the vaccine, please reach out to me.

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>. Read their Flu News and Resources information at <https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/flu>.

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>. Read their Flu News and Resources information at <https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/flu>.



Leah Ford (above) with Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department assisted with organizing the Shiloh Baptist Church Vaccination



Clinic on March 22, 2021. Everyone registered in advance to receive the the Johnson & Johnson one dose vaccine.

HAC's Program Manager, Kristine Coman, was thankful to receive the vaccine (above). She spoke to others in line and found that, like herself, they were nervous and grateful at the same time.

COVID-19 Vaccine



Our next step to end the pandemic.

Why are vaccines important?

Vaccines protect us from diseases like measles, mumps, and seasonal flu. They helped stop the spread of other diseases like smallpox and polio.



How do I know a COVID-19 vaccine is safe?

Vaccines must pass tough safety measures before they become available like:



Vaccine trials.



FDA approval.



CDC safety monitoring.



Independent safety monitoring.

What happens when a vaccine becomes available?

Initially, supplies will be limited. People at highest risk will receive the vaccine first, like:



People who work in healthcare and first responders who treat patients with COVID-19.



Older adults in congregate care settings.

Learn more about COVID-19 vaccine planning, development and safety standards at [tpchd.org/covid19vaccine](https://www.tpchd.org/covid19vaccine).

2021 Pierce County Caregiver Conference *CHALLENGES IN CAREGIVING*

SATURDAY MAY 8
"GIVING CARE"

Focus on the care recipient.

SATURDAY MAY 15
"TAKING CARE"

Focus on the care giver.

Join us from 9:30 - 11:45 a.m. for a virtual event featuring free presentations offering information, support and encouragement for in-home family caregivers.

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!



PierceCountyWA.gov/caregiver



MEGA IMPACT.

Volunteers involved from the church have a vision to improve the quality of life in Pierce County. Especially during this pandemic, the vision center has been a life savor to many.

By Harlan Shoop

The Church of the Living God started in 1959 when a group of 4 missionaries came from Portland to discuss starting a church in Tacoma. After meeting in homes, renting several buildings, the church landed on 1954 South M Street in 1961.

Several servant leaders led the church until Rev. Lawrence White, now Bishop White, was called to lead the church in 1995.



Bishop Whit and his wife Audrey.

As a native son of the Great Plains of Nebraska, go Big Red! He and his wife Audrey of seventeen years have three children Monique, Matthew and Mark.

Bishop White worked for eighteen years incorporate management with Century link Communications Inc., (formerly US West Communications), before becoming a pastor and then a Bishop of his denomination. The church meets for worship (pres-

ently live streaming) at 11 am on Sundays. Children's Sunday school is starting to meet at 9:30 in a safe environment.

The Vision Center is an extension of the church's ministry. Although a separate organization headed by Bishop White, the center works with community partners such as the Urban League, Boys and Girls Club and Dept of Child Protective Services, to provide for the for youth and families. Volunteers involved from the church have a vision to improve the quality of life in Pierce County. Especially during this pandemic, the vision center has been a life savor to many.

In partnership with World Vision,



Emergency Food Network and Tacoma public schools, every Monday and Wednesday, the Vision Center is open to provide food boxes to fam-

ilies or individuals who need help. Bishop White says that there a lot more people coming since March of 2020 because of the pandemic. He also added that there is ample food supply for people in Pierce County. He would like to see more people making use of their Vision Center resources.

In the future he hopes to add the "Community Fridge Project which will expand the provisions for meals available to the community.

When asked why he does what he does, he said that his family in Nebraska, was struggling when he was a kid and remembers people providing some help at Thanksgiving and Christmas so that he and his family

received help with specific needs and wants to make sure others have that same joy he felt as a child that someone cared.



Church of the Living God is located on the Hilltop at 1954 South M Street, Tacoma WA 98405. Reach out at (253) 272-1900 or send a message on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cotlg202.org/>.

When asked about current challenges his church community faces he said that meeting online and live streaming are tough. So far they have worked out the technical details. Everyone is kept safe because of the precautions they have in place. He also said he has pastoral concerns for the physical and mental health of people during this time of isolation. People are experiencing domestic violence, depression and other health issues because of the pandemic.

Bishop White says that he and his wife came to Tacoma not with the purpose of creating a mega church with lots of people but a mega church in terms of heart and impact. The way to do that is to live out the love

of Christ here in Tacoma's Hilltop Neighborhood. And to invite people to come join them in their vision to live out the love of God through the Gospel of Jesus.



MELTARRUS WASHINGTON

This excerpt is made possible by Tacoma Historical Society's music history book, Sounds of Our City, by Kim Davenport.



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Meltarrus Washington

By Kim Davenport

Meltarrus Washington was born in 1919 on a farm in Columbia, Mississippi. One of 13 siblings who formed a family choir, Washington grew up singing, and couldn't remember a time when he didn't enjoy music. That said, it wasn't until he enlisted in the military that he learned to play a musical instrument.

Washington joined the Army in 1941, and began learning the clarinet at the U.S. Army School of Music. He shined shoes to earn enough money to buy a saxophone as well. The tenor saxophone would become his favorite instrument. By the time he was posted to Fort Lewis in 1944 as the drum major for the 21st Army Band, he was an accomplished musician.

During this time, there was increasing pressure to ensure that amenities provided to African-American soldiers on base were equivalent to those offered to white soldiers in the

still-segregated military. In Tacoma, Dr. Nettie Asberry was among those leading this push for equal treatment at Fort Lewis.

Dwight Eisenhower visited Fort Lewis in 1947 and recommended the expansion of the black non-commissioned officers club. Washington organized an all-black jazz band to play in the club's new ballroom. When President Truman signed Executive Order 9981, desegregating the armed forces, Washington seized the opportunity to lead by example, integrating his band with the inclusion of white trumpeter Neil Friel (b. 1930), a graduate of Tacoma's Bellarmine High School.

Washington also joined the formerly all-white 2nd Infantry Division Jazz Band, further integrating musical activities at Fort Lewis. Washington appears, second from left in the front row, in this photograph from 1949.

After retiring from the Army in 1962, Washington chose to stay in

the area, settling near Fort Lewis. He formed his own jazz group, the Mel Washington Trio. During his career, he shared the stage with jazz greats such as Count Basie, Quincy Jones, and Cannonball Adderly. Described as a "friendly musician who liked to make people dance," Washington was known for his kindness and generosity, qualities that helped him break down barriers of prejudice. His trio was the first African American group to perform regularly at venues such as Tacoma's Yacht Club and Elks Club.

The audience that was most important to Washington, though, was the hundreds of children he taught to play music. He worked as an administrative assistant for the Tacoma Public Schools for three decades, while volunteering his time to teach music. "He'd steer kids in the right direction," his son Larry said about him after his death in 2007. "He was a gentle giant. He used his horn to aid the troubled dudes."



Tacoma's Museum District Reopens

In April, Tacoma's Museum District reopens with new exhibitions and activities.

By Julianna Verboort, Washington State History Museum

After a year (more or less) of closure related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tacoma's Museum District is springing back to life with a bevy of new exhibitions and experiences for visitors. Each museum is implementing best practices for public health, including social distancing, one-way gallery paths, increased cleaning throughout the day, bolstered air filtration systems, and occupancy limits per the Office of the Governor, among other measures. Visitors will be required to wear masks or face coverings. With

these protocols in place, visitors can feel welcome to dive into the culture again.

"We are really happy to be at the point of safely reopening and welcoming our community again," said Jennifer Kilmer, Washington State Historical Society's director. "Stimulating exhibitions, cultural engagement and education are critical nutrients to feed resilience as folks begin to recover from the challenges of the past year. We know people are eager to get out and enjoy new spaces and opportunities to learn and connect, and the museums are ready to fill those needs."

Some of the museums will initially

operate with reduced schedules. Some will also continue to offer online programs and all offer online educational resources. Check each museum's website for hours and admissions information before you go, as each organization's situation can change.

Brent Mason, executive director at the Foss Waterway Seaport, shared similar thoughts about the role of museums in the community right now. "Museums play a critical role in restoring our sense of progress and community by bringing us together virtually and physically to learn about art, culture, history and the natural world around us, about one



Photo by Michael Simmons. The Chihuly Bridge of Glass provides a stunning walkway linking the museums on Pacific Avenue with the museums along Thea Foss Waterway. Access the bridge on the west side at the plaza outside of the Washington State History Museum, and on the east side atop the graceful staircase that wraps around the landmark cone at the Museum of Glass.

another and our diverse cultures and backgrounds, through experiences that are transporting, enriching, and,

especially important at this time, joyful."

With spring around the corner it's a great time to revitalize your mind and spark your imagination by visiting these six amazing museums. See what's new and reconnect with culture and community. Planned opening dates, hours, and websites for the museums are listed below:

Washington State History Museum
Opened April 2, Tue-Sun, 10AM-5PM; and every 3rd Thu, 10AM-8PM with free admission from 3-8PM. Website: www.WashingtonHistory.org. Reopening Highlight: Just the Ticket! Hop aboard for a journey through the history of railroad passenger travel in Washington.

Museum of Glass
Opened April 3, Fri-Sun, 10AM-5PM. Website: www.MuseumOfGlass.org. Reopening Highlight: Museum of Glass is excited to welcome the Hot Shop Team back to the Cone, and reopen with two new exhibitions, Counterparts: Glass + Art Elements and René Lalique: Art Deco Gems from the Steven and Roslyn Shulman Collection.

America's Car Museum
Opened April 2, Fri-Su, 10AM-5PM, last entry at 4:30PM. Website: <https://www.americascarmuseum.org/>. Reopening highlight: Let 'Zoom' have a different meaning as you leave the office behind and fill up on LeMay – America's Car Museum's high octane exhibits.

Children's Museum of Tacoma
Opens April 12, with limited daily sessions by reservation only. For more information about hours and how to make a reservation, see <https://playtacoma.org>. Reopening Highlight: The downtown Children's Museum of Tacoma will reopen with a fantastical new climber that allows for big body movement and inspires imaginative play!

Tacoma Art Museum
Opens April 16, Fri-Su, 10 AM-5PM. Website: www.TacomaArtMuseum.org. Reopening Highlight: Painting Deconstructed: Selections from the Northwest Collection. Take a deep dive into the art of painting by focusing on core components that come together to create a finished image.

Foss Waterway Seaport
Opens June 3, Thu-Sun, 10AM-4PM, and every 3rd Thu 10AM-4PM with free admission from 4-8PM. Website: <https://fosswaterwayseaport.org>. Reopening Highlight: Explore our newly refreshed Rails to Sails exhibit.

Free Museum Passes are available from Tacoma Public Library. Visit <https://www.washingtonhistory.org/visit/tacoma-museum-district/> for Museum District information.

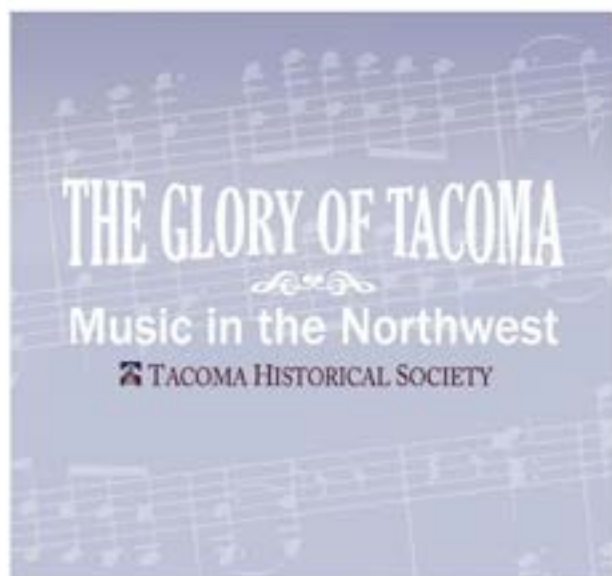
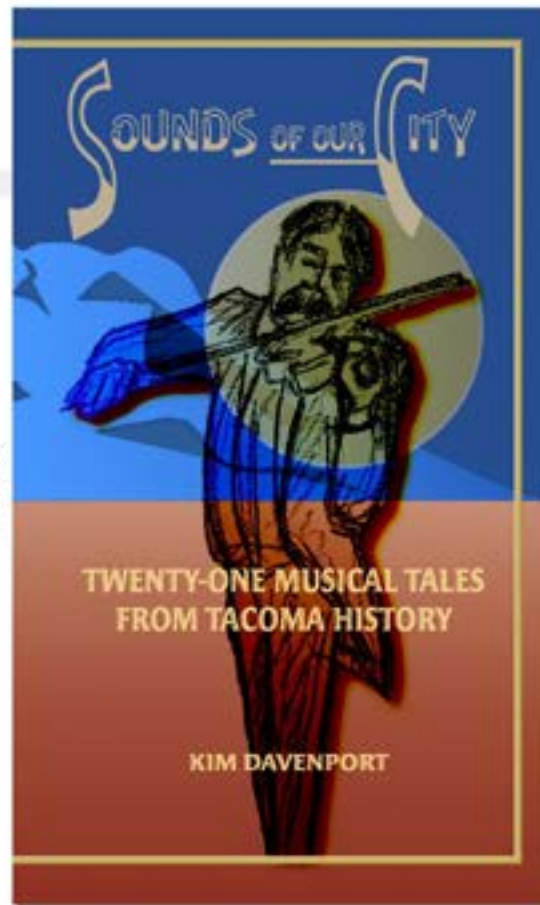
Tacoma's Musical History

New Book and Exhibit Explore Music from Tacoma's Past

Sounds of Our city: Twenty-One Musical Tales from Tacoma History, the latest book in Tacoma Historical Society's *21 Tales* series, celebrates people who have left a musical mark on our city throughout its history.

The twenty-one stories in this book do not necessarily represent the most famous or successful musicians ever to create music in Tacoma. They do not give us a comprehensive understanding of any particular musical genre. Rather, they teach us more about the history of the city we live in, through exploring the lives of musicians who were in one way or another shaped by Tacoma. First printing made possible by a gift from Ted Brown Music.

Reserve your signed copy today:
tinyurl.com/SoundsOfOurCity



Tacoma Historical Society's current exhibit, *The Glory of Tacoma: Music in the Northwest*, is on display in our museum through June 2021.

Tacoma's musical history is one of perseverance, activism, cooperation, and innovation. The performers, teachers, composers, conductors, and entrepreneurs featured in this exhibit formed an interconnected community which shapes the city to this day. Individual artists assumed multiple roles - teaching, playing, writing, and directing - creating a rich, collaborative environment for amateur and professional musicians alike. We hope that you will find inspiration in their stories. This exhibit is sponsored by Ted Brown Music.



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—
Learn how to navigate and accelerate your trades career with **Jessie Baines**, CEO at HULK



Start a Business!

(all business models welcome)

—
Learn what it takes to start your enterprise with **Drea Baines**, VP at NABE

Discover your next opportunity in the trades!

"I was a teenager working construction and landscaping for my uncle. Today I run a business that fully supports my family and helps build my community."

— J. Baines, HULK Construction, LLC

The greater Tacoma/Pierce County area is experiencing rapid residential and economic growth despite the challenges of a global pandemic. This is a critical time to ensure community participation and resilience.

Trades work provides local Black residents with an opportunity to earn exceptional wages while having a direct impact on improving our community.

Join HULK Construction for our first annual Career Development Conference for Black residents from the Tacoma/Pierce County area this April to learn more about your next opportunity in the trades.

Whether you're just starting out, are looking to advance in your trades career, or perhaps want to start a business—this is the conference for you! Contact admin@hulk253.com for questions.



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Join HULK Construction for their first Annual Career Development Conference for Black residents Tacoma/Pierce County. Register today at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/career-development-conference-2021-tickets-145782672899>.

Honors, Awards, Scholarships & More

Discovery the magic of winning Awards and Scholarships!



By Perry Newell

The events of 2020 have turned workplaces upside down. Under the highly challenging circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, many employees are struggling to do their jobs. Many feel like they're "always on" now that the boundaries between work and home have blurred. They're worried about their family's health and finances. Burnout is a real issue.

Women in particular have been negatively impacted. Women—especially women of color—are more likely to have been laid off or furloughed during the COVID-19 crisis, stalling their careers and jeopardizing their financial security. The pandemic has intensified challenges that women

already faced. Working mothers have always worked a "double shift"—a full day of work, followed by hours spent caring for children and doing household labor. Now the supports that made this possible—including school and childcare—have been upended. Meanwhile, Black women already faced more barriers to advancement than most other employees. Today they're also coping with the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on the Black community. And the emotional toll of repeated instances of racial violence falls heavily on their shoulders.

As a result of these dynamics, more than one in four women are contemplating what many would have considered unthinkable just six months

ago: downshifting their careers or leaving the workforce completely. This is an emergency for corporate America. Companies risk losing women in leadership—and future women leaders—and unwinding years of painstaking progress toward gender diversity.

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. More information can be found at: www.educatingouryouth.org. The Funding College Project is about finding and using techniques and strategies to support school aged and post high school activities. We work with students and families internationally. We identify, alerting interested parties to existing options, building contacts, answering questions, completing forms and nominations for prizes and awards.

Honors, Award, Scholarships

KUOW: Summer 2021 Online Intro To Radio Journalism Workshop - Teens will experience what it means to be a radio journalist in this fun, challenging, and hands-on virtual workshop. They will learn storytelling and audio production skills,

build confidence, and work with others while producing a radio story about one person in their lives. This is a PAID summer opportunity open to teens ages 15-18 who live in the greater Seattle area (King, Pierce, Snohomish, or Kitsap county, Washington). The final application deadline is 11:59 PM PST on Tuesday, May 4th, 2021. If you join our mailing list, you'll be reminded about upcoming application deadlines. <https://kuow.org/summer>.

Scholarships for Graduate Students - <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/graduate-students>.



Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes - Sponsor: Barron Prize - Amount: \$10,000 - Closing Date: April 15, 2021 - Description: Award is open to students between the ages of eight and 18 years of age who are permanent residents of and currently residing in the U.S. or Canada. Applicant must be currently working on an inspiring service project or have done so within the past 12 months. <https://barronprize.org/apply/>

barronprize.org/apply/

High School Students – Find a clearer path to college, earlier – Earn scholarships from colleges for your achievements as early as 9th grade Sign up—it is free! www.raise.me

International Awards for Eco-Conscious Youth - Action For Nature (AFN), a U.S.-based non-profit, has sought to recognize and reward young people ages 8-16 who are taking action to solve the world's tough environmental problems. <http://actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards/>

Youth Leadership Council - Youth Move National is seeking BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) and/or LGBTQ2-S+ Members (ages 16-22 years) to serve on our Youth Leadership Council where you will collaborate with our team to guide the expansion of a national youth peer support movement. For more information contact Tamara Manzer at: tamara@youthmovenational.org

Evergreen State College Tacoma - Did you know Evergreen-Tacoma is now accepting students with less than 90 credits? We invite you to learn more through the link in our bio. With our application fees currently being waived, it's a great time to pursue your bachelor's degree! <https://www.evergreen.edu/tacoma>

Litter Free 253 Sat, April 17 9am-12pm

Keep Hilltop Beautiful!

By Jo Davies and Cheri Solien

Litter Free 253 (LF253) is coming to our Hilltop Neighborhoods on April 17th, 2021. This city-wide event is sponsored by the City and your Neighborhood Councils (Central Tacoma and New Tacoma).

On April 17th at 9:00 AM, folks will gather at designated sites and be issued gloves and trash bags to go forth to collect litterbug litter (fast food trash, chip bags, candy wrappers, drink containers, etc.) that accumulate on our streets, curbs, and sidewalks. Impromptu encampment debris and garbage is not part of this cleanup effort. Cheri Solien reminded HAC that the City of Tacoma has 3 types of trash: 1) homeless trash, 2) debris such as mattress set out on the street/sidewalk areas, and 3) litter. Cheri believes it's important for the residents of Tacoma to know that they should pick up litter year round as that falls under the domain of being a resident.... in any city.

It's easy to join in, either with a team or as an individual. Register on-line at <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/71702598621235001/false#/invitation>.

Litter Free 253 shopping bags will be provided for the first thousand participants

- each Council District will have a limited number of free litter-grabbers to distribute (it would be great if you could bring your own).

So gather up your family, your friends and neighbors, your club members and church groups, your work buddies and service club. Make a date and sign up today to be a part of the second annual Litter Free 253 event on Saturday, April 17th.

Check out Litter Free 253@LitterFree253 Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LitterFree253>. For more information, please email litter-free253@gmail.com.

LF253 Press Release

Who can fill up the most trash bags with community litter? Prizes and giveaways will be awarded to the City's top litter-picker-uppers, so we welcome a competitive spirit at this fun outdoor community event. We hope you will participate to make this city-wide litter pick-up event a tremendous success. We all win with a beautiful, clean Tacoma!

*LitterFree253 will follow all COVID-19 public health guidelines as an outdoor event with social distancing & facial coverings required. Stay on top of all the latest details by going to <https://www.facebook.com/LitterFree253>.

Litter Free 253

Celebrate Earth Day by Cleaning Up Litter in Tacoma!
Register Now! bit.ly/LitterFree253

City Wide Clean Up Event ● Sat. APRIL 17 2021 | 9AM- Noon

Register now to find a litter clean up site in your community and sign up to pick up litter! Gloves, bags, hand sanitizer will be provided. Facial coverings and social distancing measures are required.

REGISTER AT bit.ly/LitterFree253 | facebook.com/LITTERFREE253

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