

HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL

Feb-Mar 2020 | Hilltop Action Coalition | volunteer organized | www.hilltopactioncoalition.org



Tacoma Community House receives Aetna 2019 Voices of Health Award

Improving health and well being in our Hilltop Community!

Aetna recently announced Tacoma Community House (TCH) as the winner of the 2019 Voices of Health competition for Pierce County, WA. Voices of Health is a celebration of grassroots non-profit organizations across the country that are working to address social determinants of health in their communities and includes a \$20,000 prize.

The participating non-profits in Pierce County promote health and well-being by addressing a wide range of community issues such as childhood obesity, access to affordable prescriptions and health care services, and providing food to the homeless, to name a few. Five organizations launched online voting campaigns – soliciting votes via their social media channels as well as through other marketing strategies - to compete for a \$20,000 prize,

among other prizes.

Tacoma Community House beat out the other Pierce County organizations for the \$20,000 top prize with 6,018 votes during the 4-week voting campaign.

“The purpose of this competition is to support local non-profits and their missions to improve health and well-being in our communities, who go above and beyond where they can, and the winners this year do just that,” said Floyd Green, vice president of Aetna Community Affairs. “We believe that addressing health concerns outside of the doctor’s office is crucial to overall health and well-being and the reason why these organizations are singled out for their achievements. We are proud of their efforts and congratulate them all.”

“Tacoma Community House is honored to be the recipient of Aetna’s

2019 Voices of Health award for Pierce County, WA,” said Lauren Walker Lee. TCH has proudly provided services to immigrants, refugees, and U.S. citizens for the past 109 years. While we are thrilled to receive this funding, we also salute our four other competing non-profit agencies, as they too provide invaluable services to our communities.

“The videos created by each non-profit are incredibly powerful. Each tells an insightful story,” said Green. “It’s a great reminder of how local grassroots organizations can and do have tremendous, positive social impact.”

The Voices of Health program is aligned with “Destination: Health,” a series of CVS Health business programs with an enhanced focus on helping people improve their health outside of a clinical setting.



Dwayne Dabbs from Aetna presenting the award to Tim Close, Director of Development, Lauren Walker Lee, Executive Director, and Jordan Woolston, Grants Manager, of Tacoma Community House.

Bates Technical College Celebrates 80th Anniversary

The Tacoma institution celebrates its past and looks forward to the future.

By MadCap

TACOMA, WASH. – January 13, 2019 – Bates Technical College is ushering in 2020 with increased excitement this year as it celebrates its eightieth anniversary. An ever-evolving and expanding institution, Bates Technical College has moved from humble beginnings in an elementary school basement to three campuses across Tacoma offering continuing education and technical programs. The college now serves approximately 3,000 career training students and

5,000 community members.

As the college celebrates this milestone and moves into a new decade, President Dr. Lin Zhou is especially reflective on the institution’s impressive past and exciting future. “Bates Technical College has provided members of the Tacoma community with a place to further their careers and make a difference for eighty years—and we will continue to do so for many more.”

The college shows no signs of slowing down as it focuses on growing its student population and investing

in advanced technology to continue to fill its important role in the South Sound’s educational landscape. “Our premier staff and faculty, coupled with our diverse and motivated student body, will allow us to enter into this anniversary year and beyond with renewed purpose and optimism,” says Zhou.

In 2021, the college is anticipating the opening of a new building at Downtown Campus on Yakima Avenue. The Center for Allied Health Education broke ground in 2019, and will provide the in-demand

allied health programs with access to much-needed high-tech facilities that will fuel the burgeoning South Sound health care landscape with skilled employees. Also on the horizon is a Fire Service Training Center, currently in pre-design phase, which will allow the college to continue to offer comprehensive, quality fire service training in a larger, updated facility that accurately reflects the needs of the industry.

For more information about Bates Technical College, go to BatesTech.edu/About-Bates.

About Bates Technical College

Established in 1940, Bates Technical College offers associate in applied science degrees (AAS), certificates of competency and certificates of training in hundreds of career areas. Bates Technical College helps students realize their potential for growth and success through innovative instruction in a nurturing, diverse environment. Students achieve their career and personal goals, strengthening the region’s social and economic vibrancy. Learn more at batestech.edu.



Tacoma History: Strom’s I.G.A. Grocery

By Steven Salstrom

Steven Salstrom, pictured below, started working in Tacoma, June 1982, running a printing company at

3801 South Union Avenue. Fast forward to 2020, Steven is now retired and has become a history buff, taking pictures of old buildings.

Recently, he recalled that his uncle had owned a grocery store on K Street in Tacoma (now Martin Luther King Jr. Way). Steven hopes this picture he found at the Northwest Room at the Tacoma Public Library will jar some memories and help him find out more information about his uncle’s grocery store.

Notes from the Northwest Room regarding the photo are as follows:

Thomas Strom, Sr. (2nd from left) and the whole staff of Strom’s

I.G.A. Grocery posed for this photograph in 1936. Strom’s Grocery occupied part of the first-floor retail section of Normanna Hall located at 1502 S. K Street.

Thomas Strom, Jr. is on the far right; next to him is his mother Anna. His sister Prudence, stands next to a John I. Ness. Standing behind the delivery truck is Thomas Strom, Sr. On the other side of the delivery truck a man identified as Eric Linder is resting his arm against the grocery truck.

If you know anything about this photograph, Steven Salstrom would greatly appreciate your emailing the HAC office at hacoffice15@gmail.com.



Strom’s I.G.A. Grocery Store, 1936
Photograph courtesy of Tacoma Public Library Northwest Room

Hilltop Action Journal Award-Winning Publication!

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Jennifer Schaal
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Harlan Shoop
Jane Trancho
Zeta Phi Sigma Gamma Rho Sority

Community Priorities

- Good Jobs and Local Hires
- Affordable Housing
- Safety through Community Policing
- 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.

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Hilltop Action Coalition is
recruiting Board Members!

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Hilltop Action Coalition

The Communications Anchor of the Hilltop Area

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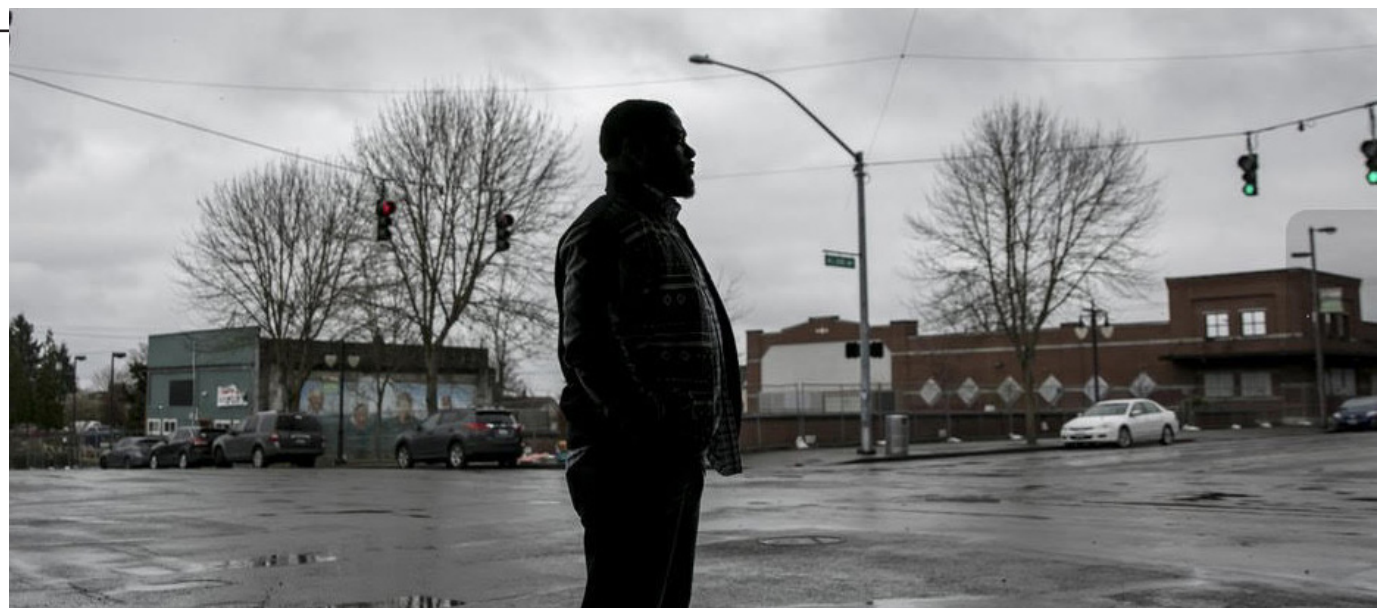


Hilltop Action Coalition Monthly Community Meetings 3rd Mondays @ 6pm

Community Healthcare Bldg. 1202 Martin Luther King Jr. Way

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

Light refreshments and childcare provided.



President's Message

By Brendan Nelson

Hilltop Family,

2019 was a year of great challenge and growth in the community, and our progress is due to your efforts. We thank you—our members, partners, and friends—for your tireless work and dedicated to supporting the Hilltop Action Coalition in moving forward. I am especially proud to work alongside our

amazing Board of Directors and staff. They are deeply committed to our organization and to the residents of our beloved Hilltop community.

We enter 2020 with determination, optimism, and gratitude. As our neighborhood continues to evolve and change, Hilltop Action Coalition will keep working for our community, especially those that are underserved. We are also encouraged by the opportunity

to strengthen our work with our elected officials, grassroots leaders and residents in advancing growth and development in the Hilltop.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such great partnerships that help to keep us grounded in our work. As always, we thank you and appreciate your commitment to our community, and we look forward to the upcoming year.

Peace and Blessings,

HAC December Community Gathering

By Jennifer Schaal

Each December, the Hilltop Action Coalition turns its monthly Community Meeting into a holiday gathering just to share a meal, enjoy each others' company, and celebrate the accomplishments of HAC over the past year. The 2019 gathering, held December 16th, may have been the best one yet!

Over forty friends of HAC, without whom none of our accomplishments would be possible, enjoyed a wonderful dinner of barbecue, mac and cheese, and peach cobbler "shooters" catered by Coretta Harwood of CJ's Catering & Craft. Chocolates covered the festive tables and great jazzy holiday tunes set the mood for the dinner. A kids table with free books, and a wall display of the Hilltop HAC quilt project-in-progress, rounded out the activities.

HAC board president Brendan Nelson and board secretary Jennifer Schaal co-presented a set of slides, produced by board member Jo Davies, with photos of the year's activities. Highlights of 2019 included the HAC Office Open House and the Neighborhood Cleanup, both held in July, and the September Ice Cream Social and October Candidates Forum that took the place of regular monthly Community Meetings last fall. Most of the dinner attendees had participated in or attended all of the events.

The HAC holiday gathering and its monthly Community Meetings are held in the Community Meeting Room of the Community Healthcare's Hilltop Regional Center at 1202 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6:00pm.



Coretta Harwood & Tess Jackson with CJ's Catering

Attendees worked on the Hilltop Community Quilt

HAC January Community Meeting

Brendan Nelson, Hilltop Action Coalition Board President, led the January community meeting with a moment of silence to remember those who are no longer with us. Bethany Montgomery with Power 2 The Poetry inspired us with her poem on transition and embracing ourselves as positive light beings that can make a difference in the world.

This meeting offered community members a chance to provide input for HAC's 2020 Vision of HAction. Attendees listed their opinion of positive past actions HAC has taken and listed new ideas moving forward.

It was a unique and inspiring opportunity for community members to lend their voices to the work of HAC and join the work towards a common goal: community action that makes a positive difference in Hilltop.

The HAC Board will go over the responses and feedback at their upcoming Board Retreat and will bring the Community HAC Vision 2020 to the February Monthly Meeting on Monday, February 24th. We hope to see you there to share the good news!



"Black Lives Matter"

By Bethany "B.Lyte" Montgomery
Founder & President of Power 2 The Poetry

Just know
I am a visionary
I am a revolutionary
Which means that pretty soon I will be in the obituary
But I will not let my dream die
My vision for the future will become alive
Black, white, and all in between with their fists held high
All in recognition of black pride

Black lives matter
And yes we do understand that all lives matter too
But obviously there are still too many people confused
Because black men, women, and children are being killed in the streets
Murdered in cold blood by the crooked police
So you see too many do not understand what this thing black lives matter means

Because obviously society does not value black lives
We must use #BlackLivesMatter just to drill the concept in their minds
Too many forget that black lives are not something that can just be thrown away
There is no justice
Murderers walk free instead of being locked away

Black lives matter
But don't get a messed up
No one deserves to be murdered in cold blood
Black, White, Asian, Mexican, Indian whatever the color of your skin
At the end of the day we're all human
And we all deserve the preservation of life
But don't get it twisted black people should not be afraid to drive
Because if they get pulled over by a cop they might get shot and die

Black lives matter
and you could say that I am biased because I am one of those black lives
But am I wrong for caring about my own kind
For caring about my own kin
For caring about people with my same skin
If we don't support our own then who will

Make America great again
Please America was founded on degradation and sin
Black lives matter and that's the concrete fact
So, if any of you want to belittle this movement then you can go back

You can go back to wherever it is
that you came from because as I recall this isn't your native land either
We didn't ask to come here
We were forced
But guess what
We're not leaving because our ancestors literally put their blood, sweat,
and tears into this soil
This is our home now
And it is our duty to make them proud

We must support our own because no one else will
Black lives matter
It's either kill or be killed
And I don't condone violence
There are plenty of other ways
So please comprehend the metaphors
I am attempting to convey
Survival of the fittest
Social Darwinism
Do I even need to explain
If we do not evolve to the environment then we will decay
Because year after year
They are killing us at a higher rate

But you want to know something even worse
Is we kill our own people even faster
Which makes it even sadder
When we say black lives matter
So, do black lives actually matter
As a matter of fact they do
But until we lead by example
They will keep killing us just as examples
To prove that this country never really changed
That black people still remain slaves

Black lives matter
And the solution is not in evolution
Throughout history the only way to bring forth change
Was through revolution
And as I stated previously
I AM A REVOLUTIONARY
So the revolution has begun
And I hope you all will join me
Black lives matter
Power 2 The Poetry

Learn more at power2thepoetry.com
<https://power2thepoetry.com/>
My TEDx Spokane Talk 2018

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City of Tacoma News

Tacoma Recycle Reset: A Global Issue at the

By Preston Peck

In 2018, the entire recycling industry was in crisis after China changed their policies on accepted materials and acceptable contamination (garbage) rates. Like other cities and counties, Tacoma felt this when prices for recyclables crashed, and the City was looking at losing \$1.8 million if there were no adjustments to the program. The City of Tacoma's Solid Waste Management (SWM) Division knew that something needed to make up this potential loss but was unsure how customers would view another rate hike to continue a program. SWM decided to go out to the community for input on four proposed options that would guide the City Council's decision on the future of the program. These options ranged from stopping the curbside recycling program altogether to enhancing it through direct funding for increased education and outreach. (Figure 1)

In early 2019, as part of the outreach for feedback on the proposed options, I was invited to come speak to the Hilltop Action Coalition about recent changes in the international recycling market, and how it was impacting Tacoma's recycling program. After giving a presentation, I asked those who wanted to provide feedback to fill out a survey on their current recycling habits, and which of the four options they thought was the best way forward for the program.

The survey was also available online, and in five non-English languages (Spanish, Korean, Khmer, Russian, and Vietnamese). Between January and March of 2019, SWM received over 6,100 survey responses from residential customers (single-family homes and duplexes) across Tacoma (Figure 2).

Over 75% percent of respondents chose Option 3 or 4, which was to continue the program as is, and/or enhance it through additional education and outreach. Additionally, there was qualitative data collected through the survey that indicated that people wanted to continue to recycle, however they were confused by what was accepted and wanted more education.

Simultaneous to the community outreach, SWM conducted an internal efficiency and safety audit to examine how to improve efficiency and services for customers, as well as better protect workers. The audit led to three main findings regarding the residential curbside glass program:

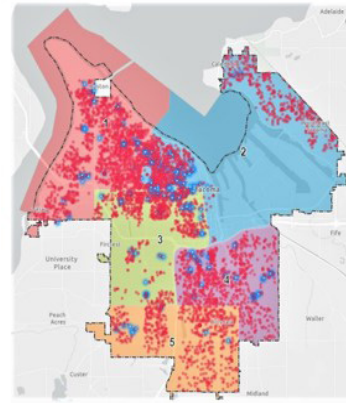
- Low participation rate (fewer than 25% of customers set out a glass bin for collection);
- Greenhouse gas emissions were not reduced due to low participation and sending out three to four trucks a day to pick up glass around the city, then a 64 mile round trip haul to the Seattle recycling facility; and
- Due to manual collection, it was a high safety concern for workers

Given all of this information, SWM staff recommended the following to the Tacoma City Council:

- Maintain residential curbside commingled recycling service, with minor adjustments to the list (removing shredded paper and plastic bags from the list)
- Stop curbside glass collection and provide satellite recycle centers and/or satellite glass drop-off boxes (effective in early 2020)
- Add a \$2.82 surcharge per residential customer per month to cover the increased costs of recycling and provide resources for improved customer recycling education (effective January 1, 2020)

Residential customers who qualify for Environmental Services' utility affordability assistance program (Discount Rate Program and Bill Credit Assistance Plan) will be exempt from the surcharge.

The Tacoma City Council unanimously approved the recommendations on October 29, 2019, and a new recycling surcharge of \$2.82 per month starting January 1, 2020 for all residential customers. Part of the monthly surcharge (\$2.32) will cover the increased processing, marketing, and shipping of recyclables due to the international market changes. The remainder of the monthly surcharge (\$0.50) will fund increased education and outreach for the City's residential curbside recycling program. City staff is



Survey responses:

Total = 7,438
Tacoma single family/duplex = 6,176

District	# Responses	% of Total
1	1813	29%
2	1406	23%
3	1194	19%
4	1016	16%
5	747	12%

Legend
■ Single Family
■ Duplex

working diligently to implement the changes and communicate these changes with SWM's residential customers through new materials and in-person visits.

Additionally, efforts are ramping up to reduce contamination in your blue recycling bin. The list of accepted items is being simplified, and residents are encouraged to use the Tacoma Recycle Center (3510 S. Mullen St.) for more difficult to recycle items like plastic bags, shredded paper (in a paper bag), and plastic clamshells. A new tool that customers can use to make recycling simpler is Recycle Coach, which is available for download on the Apple App Store or Google Play Store (Figure 5). This free app has a "What Goes Where" feature to tell you exactly what to do with confusing products and packaging. The "What Goes Where" feature is also available on the City's recycling website at www.TacomaRecycles.org.

The City is working to make this transition as smooth as possible for our customers; however, it will require some adjustments and increased efforts to ensure that customers are recycling accepted materials, and that those materials are empty, clean, and dry. The City has many aggressive and admirable environmental goals, and recycling plays a part in successfully achieving those goals.

Once the drop-off locations are finalized in early 2020, SWM will send out a communications piece to all of our residential customers notifying them of the date that SWM will stop collecting glass curbside, the addresses of the drop-off locations,

and the hours. Until then, SWM will continue curbside glass pickup for our residential customers.

We want to encourage customers and residents to use the drop-off locations; however, we understand that some community members may not be able to transport glass to those locations. We would recommend for those community members try to coordinate with neighbors, friends, and/or family members, find their product in alternative packaging that is recyclable curbside (e.g. buying milk in a plastic jug as opposed to glass), or place their glass in the garbage, if they are unable to get it to the drop-off locations.

This is a global issue felt at the local level and the recycling industry as a whole is examining how to maintain programs with as little impact to participants as possible. SWM wants to collaborate with organizations like Hilltop Action Coalition, and others, to make sure that supporters know what is accepted in Tacoma's recycling program, as well as to help us get the word out to all 56,000+ residential customers that SWM serves on a daily basis.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, and thank you for recycling right!

Preston Peck with the City of Tacoma, Environmental Services Department; Recycle Reset Project Lead | Solid Waste Management at 3510 S Mullen St, Tacoma, WA 98409.

P: (253) 593-7707

E-mail: ppeck@cityoftacoma.org

1: Limited Recycling	2: Partial Recycling	3: Maintain Full Curbside Recycling	4: Maintain Full Recycling Plus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional 3% (\$1.33/month average) residential rate increase for additional landfill costs • Eliminates curbside recycling • 2 satellite drop-off recycle centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2.40 recycle surcharge/month • Eliminate curbside glass recycling • Provide satellite glass boxes or recycle stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.00 recycle surcharge/month • Remove problem items from commingle recycle list 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4.00 recycle surcharge/month • Remove problem items from commingle recycle list • Provide satellite glass boxes or recycle stations • Increased education on recycling

City of Tacoma Tree Coupon Program

The 2019-2020 Tree Coupon Program Season is October 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020. Coupon requests will be online only through March 15, 2020. Please visit https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmentalservices/urban_forestry/tree_coupon_program and click on 'Request a Tree Coupon using the online form' and get your Tree Coupon today! After your submit your online request, the coupon and an educational postcard will be mailed to the mailing address you provided. Coupons will not be available through the participating nurseries.

Tree coupons are valid for \$30 off each tree purchased, for up to three trees on your residential property, at

select local tree retailers (does not cover tax). These trees may be planted on your private property or in right-of-way areas (such as planting strips) abutting your private property. If you are a new owner of a property that already had a coupon issued to it and would like to plant more trees, please contact us at trees@cityoftacoma.org. For residents wishing to plant their trees in the Right-of-Way planting strip, a no-fee permit is required and can be submitted online or in person.

Tree Coupon Program Details

Tree Coupons are for one-time use per residential property. If you have redeemed a tree coupon in previous years for your property, you will not be eligible to receive a new one. For the purposes of this program, trees are

woody plants whose height is greater than 15 feet at maturity.

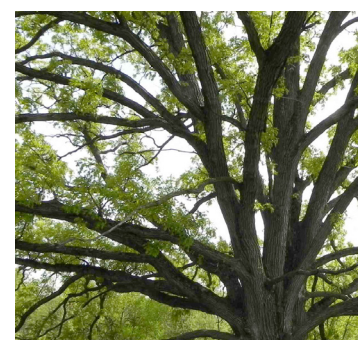
Tree retailers participating in the program at Alpine Nursery, GardenSphere, Gardenmeister Plant Shop, Gordon's Garden Center, Rosedale Gardens, Vasse Nursery, Watson's Greenhouse and Nursery, and Woodbrook Native Plant Nursery.

About This Program

Well-placed and well-tended trees can enhance energy savings, storm water management, air pollutant filtration, ambient air-cooling and of course, beauty in the landscape. The City of Tacoma has a goal of increasing its tree canopy cover from roughly 20% to 30% by 2030. We need more trees throughout our community to benefit from all of the services that trees provide!

What You Need to Know Before You Buy a Tree

- Anticipated height and width at maturity



- Plant deciduous trees on the SW or SE side of your home for summer shade and winter sun
- Plant evergreen trees to block winter winds
- Call 811 before you dig the hole for your new tree to make sure you won't hit utility lines
- Plant small (max ht. 25') trees under power lines
- Water new trees from April to October for three years following planting to establish roots
- Watering bags or buckets and soaker hoses helps save water
- Water in early mornings or late evenings



Small Business Loan Program

The City of Tacoma offers various business loans to help launch, retain, or grow a business. Staff from the Community and Economic Development Department can work with you to help you understand which loans may be right for your business and the requirements associated with each. The business loans available include the following:

- *Small Business Revolving Loan Fund
- *Micro-loan Revolving Loan Fund
- *Grow America Fund
- *Historic Rehabilitation & Repair Loan
- *Fire Safety Loan
- *Business Façade Improvement Loan

For an overview of the requirements and differences between the loans, please contact Will Suarez by calling 253.591.5590 or via email at will.suarez@cityoftacoma.org.

What types of housing do you want to see in Tacoma?

The City of Tacoma is thinking about how to make Tacoma a place everyone can call home.

Join the discussion about how to:

- Diversify housing types
- Create affordable housing options
- Enhance the character of our communities while planning for growth.

Accessory Dwelling Units



Cottages



Duplexes and Townhomes



Fourplexes



Multifamily



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Get Involved in the Discussion About Housing

As part of the City's Affordable Housing Action Strategy, we are launching the At Home In Tacoma project to evaluate diverse housing types and inclusionary zoning options throughout Tacoma. The intent is to increase housing supply, create affordable housing options, and increase the choice of housing types throughout our neighborhoods.

Through 2020, Tacoma's Planning Commission is asking the community to join in a discussion about housing needs, development trends, zoning, and neighborhood change. Using community ideas and feedback, the Commission will make recommendations to the City Council for future Comprehensive Plan, Zoning, and Land Use Regulatory Code amendments.

Participate by:

- Comment in person at the Planning Commission public scoping hearing at 5:30 p.m. February 19 in the City Council Chambers (747 Market Street, First Floor)
- Provide written comments by February 28, 2020 to Planning Commission, 747 Market St., Room 345, Tacoma, WA 98402
- Email comments and questions to: planning@cityoftacoma.org
- Sign up to receive project updates: planning@cityoftacoma.org

For information, please visit: www.cityoftacoma.org/planningforhousing

We welcome your participation. To request this information in an alternative format or for language translation, please contact the City of Tacoma at 253.591.5030. For TTY or speech to speech users, please dial 711 to connect to Washington Relay Services.

Tacoma Hilltop Link Light Rail Update

The Tacoma Hilltop Link Light Rail Project is well on its way to serving the Hilltop Community in 2022! As of the end of January, the contractor will begin the track installation process on MLK Jr. Way from South 19th ST to South 15th ST. Construction crews will be performing these activities in phases:

- * Installing underground electrical vaults
- * Removing asphalt and soil
- * Moving rail into place in the street
- * Pouring concrete around the rail

far as Division Avenue. The process for rail installation are shown below (examples are from Stadium Way).



Remove Asphalt & Soil



Grade & Move Rail into Place



Build Forms & Pour Concrete

First, a crew will install the electrical vaults in the center of MLK Jr. Way, starting at South 19th ST and moving north one block at a time. During the vault installation, two-way traffic will be maintained on MLK Jr. Way. After several vaults are installed, other crews will work in a sort of assembly line fashion in a three block section. They will remove and haul away asphalt and dirt on one block, move the 300-foot long rail strands into place on a second block, and pour concrete around the installed rails on a third block. After this work is complete, people will be able to drive on the street with the newly installed track.

The contractor will install one set of tracks on the west side of MLK Jr. Way. When installation is complete, crews will return to install a second set of tracks on the east side. Track will be installed on MLK Jr. Way throughout the year as

Want to know more? Contact Liz Satterthwaite, Sound Transit Outreach Specialist, at 253.208.0586 or by email at liz.satterthwaite@soundtransit.org.

What's up (and down) at People's Park?

By Theresa Power-Drutis
January 31, 2020

The tents are down and orange plastic barrier fencing is up. Posted sporadically along the fence line are signs informing us that large segments of the park will be closed until sometime in the spring. Feelings are mixed.

According to Marina Becker, with MetroParks, the cost of the cleanup is being shared by the city and the Parks Department; the total cost of the cleanup is not yet known.

People's Park became a visible and controversial symbol of the crisis of homelessness in Tacoma in 2019. Some people saw a large encampment in a community park as an opportunity to direct attention and resources toward reducing homelessness. Others were frustrated that – once again – the Hilltop neighborhood was forced to absorb unequal social costs of poverty. Neighbors, business owners, reporters, and media outlets asked, “How did we get here?”

A Brief History of Homelessness in Tacoma

Decades of short-sighted planning regarding public housing - and a myriad of other social problems - contributed to a loss of low income housing stock, increased evictions, and homelessness.

2016 and onward: Sweeps of homeless encampments under bridges and by rivers lead to more visible encampments in Tacoma.

Peoples Park is among the places campers began to gather. Other parks also became encampments – all of these parks are in low income or remote areas.



Orange fencing and signs are up.

Some residents see shelter as a human right but believe that communities also need parks and green space. Many provide testimony at council meetings and call on City and County Council members to take leadership by designating safe camp spaces for unsheltered people. They suggest numerous spaces within the city that can be used for camping without depriving residents of parks, common spaces, or thriving business districts. Others frame it differently; Tanya Webking of the Tacoma Tenants Organizing Committee, stated, “People are feeling rejected and humiliated by the fact that lawn is more important than they are.”

December 1, 2019

- City of Tacoma and the Parks Department plan to enforce the no camping code (already on the books) beginning on December 1.

- Just prior to the deadline, the city pushes that date to mid-December, when they plan to install emergency housing.

- City of Tacoma signs a nearly \$400,000 contract with the Low Income Housing Institute (LiHi) to build Tacoma's first-ever Tiny House Village, 22 “micro-units” designed to provide housing for 35 people through early spring.

- The city partners with Metropolitan Development Council, Associated Ministries and Tacoma Ministerial Alliance to coordinate service providers, advocates and faith-based communities to add shelter sites throughout Tacoma.

December 19, 2019

- The tiny house village opens with 22 “micro-shelters” that provide shelter for 35 people experiencing homelessness.

- LiHi provides portable restrooms, garbage services, drinking water, and 24/7 site management and security.

- The site is slated to close in April when construction of a new building on that property is scheduled.

- When asked, city staff cannot say where the tiny houses will be moved or what will happen to those currently residing in the houses.

Friday, January 3

- Tacoma police post 72-hour notices warning that enforcement of the city's park code will begin the following week

- City gives notice that enforcement of park code will begin “a half hour after dusk when the park closes to day-use” on Tuesday.

Tuesday, January 7

- Tacoma Police close down the encampment at People's Park just after dusk.

- Bins are provided to store

people's belongings

- Temporary fences are erected so that workers can clean up and remove hazardous waste left behind.

- City staff report that park is expected to remain closed through the next week.

- Campers who are unable to transition to the tiny homes move to nearby parking strips and sidewalks.

- City staff report that the city confirmed adequate beds were available at area shelters before setting the deadline and enforcing city park code. “The City has identified daily for the past several weeks that shelter capacity is available for the people experiencing homelessness.”

... and yet, here they are, back on the sidewalks and parking strips of our community, being told to “move on.”

I walked around the park today and was disheartened to see half an acre of mud that was once community green space. It is unconscionable to sacrifice parks in neighborhoods that are already disproportionately



impacted by homelessness simply because it is easier than establishing safe parking lots and campsites. It will take time to build up the low income housing stock needed to shelter everyone. Meanwhile, Tacoma has ample property to provide safe, clean campsites for everyone who needs it.

The Tacoma/Pierce County Coalition to end Homelessness is a network of individuals, non-profit organizations, government agencies, and community businesses working together to reduce homelessness and build the community resources needed to shelter us all. We invite our neighbors (sheltered and unsheltered) to join us each Friday at 9 am to continue this work.

Let's do this.

Contacts/Resources

Linda Stewart, Director Neighborhood and Community Services: (253) 591-5225

Tacoma/Pierce County Coalition to end Homelessness: www.pchomeless.org

Youth News & Events

EnviroChallenger: Free Educational Program Teaching Environmental Lessons in Tacoma Classrooms



Heads up educators! The Center for Urban Waters has an EnviroChallengers Program that teaches FREE environmental lessons about science and social responsibility with fun activities for Tacoma's 2nd through 8th grade classrooms, community youth groups and homeschooled students.

Each lesson contains supplies and supports Washington state standardized test objectives. As an example, elementary school lessons for grades 6th through 8th include: Why Plant a Tree; Clean-Go-Bingo-can you clean without chemicals; Save Our Salmon – is something fishy going on; and, Water, Water Everywhere – how can you keep it clean. Middle School Lessons for grades 6th through 8th include: Our World is in Jeopardy – what can you do to help and Surface

Water Investigation – can you solve the mystery. These are just a few lessons available through the EnviroChallengers Program.

Booking a lesson is easy – only 1 week in advance notice is necessary. Good news: EnviroChallengers can visit your school, community group or homeschool group up to 5 times per year!

Once students have been visited by the EnviroChallengers, they can 'Take the Challenge' by applying the environmental lesson at home, fill out a pledge form (on line) and enter to win a monthly prize.

Interested? Contact envirochallenger@cityoftacoma.org, call 253-573-2364 or visit City of Tacoma website, www.cityoftacoma.org, and put EnviroChallengers Program in the search field – click on EnviroChallengers – you will be

led to a page where you can click on Lesson Descriptions, Book a Lesson, Art Projects, Action Projects, Take the Challenge and Resources.

There are also EnviroShorts videos to give you a better understanding on topics that EnviroChallengers teach. Schedule an EnviroChallengers Program today and inspire youth to live more sustainable lives today so they can have a healthier tomorrow.

Mission Statement: Enhancing Tacoma's quality of life by promoting environmental health through public information and education.

Program Goal: Use a dynamic program that teaches students and the public how their actions affect our environment and how changing their behaviors can improve water quality, reduce waste and protect habitat in Tacoma.

Program Background: The City debuted the EnviroChallenger program in 2000. The program's classroom teachers have since reached hundreds of thousands of students in public, private and home schools, plus countless citizens during community events. The program, offered free to schools, is funded by rates from the Environmental Services utilities in Tacoma's Public Works Department. These utilities are Wastewater, Surface Water and Solid Waste management. We have since expanded the program to include art, high school internships throughout the City, summer Environmental Service certificate program expand workforce development opportunities.



Youth Symposium at Tacoma Community College for Middle & High School Students

Hosted by: Zeta Phi Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

On March 14, 2020 a Youth Symposium will be held at Tacoma Community College in Building 11 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This is a FREE and exciting event for all Pierce County middle school and high school aged students! Breakfast and lunch will be provided at no cost to attending students. Students can register online at:

<http://bit.ly/YouthSym> or in person on the day of the event.

The Youth Symposium is designed to highlight prevalent concerns

that impact our youth daily and to provide educational, scholarship, and career information beyond high school. This symposium will address career readiness, healthy living & choices, and financial health. Local community colleges, universities, and technical colleges will be represented at the symposium for students to gather and obtain information.

The following are some of the workshop classes that will be offered in 30-minute segments:

*STEM Workshop, by the Museum of Flight

*TCC Financial Literacy Workshop, by Tacoma Housing Authority and Sound Credit Union

*Self Defense Workshop

*Hair and Beauty Care Workshop, by a local barber and hair experts

*LUSH Products Workshop, Students will make bath balms

Please help spread the word and provide this information to parents and students that could benefit from attending this event. Help us empower and elevate our youth to their full potential!



Multiple Pathways to Graduation (House Bill 1599)



In 2019, the Washington State Legislature provided students with multiple pathways to graduation by passing House Bill (HB) 1599. HB 1599 expands the ways Washington students show their readiness for their next step after high school. Building off a robust plan (High School and

Beyond Plan) and quality instruction across core academic areas, completing a graduation pathway helps prepare students for what comes after high school graduation. It also signals to employers and postsecondary education/training institutions a student's readiness for

that step. What has changed? Starting with the Class of 2020, students have an expanded number of ways to show they are ready for the next step after high school.

*Statewide high school assessments (Smarter Balanced or WA-AIM)

*Dual credit courses in English language arts (ELA) and math

*High school transition courses in ELA and math

*Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Cambridge International courses (or tests) in ELA and math

SAT or ACT

*A combination of meeting ELA and math requirements from the list above (for example, completing a transition course in math and meeting the graduation standard on the Smarter Balanced Assessment in ELA).

*Sequence of career and technical education (CTE) courses, including completing a Core Plus branded program

*Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)
HB 1599 directs the State Board of

Education to adopt rules for each of the pathways to provide additional clarity to the new law. Find out how to review or comment the proposed rules by contacting sbe@k12.wa.us.

Other statewide graduation requirements (a High School and Beyond Plan and the required high school credits) are applicable for the Class of 2020, in addition to any locally determined graduation requirements.

Life After High School: Making Youth Dreams Come Alive

As you likely know, there are new graduation requirements for the Class of 2020 per 2019's House Bill 1599 that include updates to developing a High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP), completing 24 credits and choosing at least one of the new Graduation Pathways. To help all students graduate career and college ready, middle and high school staff should provide time annually for all students to engage in academic and career exploration activities that can guide them toward a meaningful first step after high school.

If you're looking for more detailed information and/or FREE resources on the new graduation requirements, both the Washington State Board of Education (SBE) and OSPI have developed websites that address each of the three "buckets" of graduation requirements (see links below).

WA State Board of Education:
<https://www.sbe.wa.gov/our-work/rulemaking>

WA State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction:
<https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/graduation/graduation-requirements/multiple-pathways-graduation-house-bill-1599>

In addition, The ReadyWA coalition has also partnered with OSPI to create additional HSBP resources for school counselors and other school staff, including short animated videos for students, staff and families, which can be found on ReadyWA website (<https://readywa.org/beyond/en/>).

They have a High School and Beyond Plan process which is a graduation requirement that supports students in exploring coursework that is aligned to their interests, keeps track of major assessment scores



and logs work and other relevant experience. The Plan is designed to enable students to successfully pursue education or training after they graduate high school.

For Hilltop students, consider participating in a local college and career network support systems offered by Graduate Tacoma. They are dedicated to increasing Tacoma Public School graduates, especially students of color and those living in a low-income family.

Graduate Tacoma assists with enrolling students in a college that suits their interests or a technical school, boosting postsecondary completion rates for Hilltop youth. Visit them today at: 919 South 9th Street, Tacoma WA 98405; call 253.272.1600; or visit them on the web at <https://graduatetacoma.org/tcsn/>. They care about youth! Come by today and see how they can help you be successful.

By the Class of 2020, Graduate Tacoma will have increased the graduation rate by 50% in Tacoma Public Schools and those seeking a college degree or technical certificate. Post secondary school or a technical certificate is one way to escape a life limited by low-income. Plan your route today!

Looking for post secondary school funding that you do not have to pay back? Check out the resources below and tap in to free money for school.

MultiCare Nurse Camp

Are you a current high school sophomore or junior wondering what it would be like to be a nurse or allied health professional? MultiCare's Annual Nurse Camp is your opportunity to explore these exciting careers — and thanks to gracious donations from a variety of community organizations and businesses, including MultiCare Health System, the MultiCare Nurse Camp is free. <https://www.multicare.org/nurse-camp/>

Making A Difference Foundation Scholarships

The MADF Scholarship Selection Committee awards up to 10 individuals with scholarships. Students selected will be awarded \$1,500 scholarship to apply towards college educational expenses. Past scholarship awardees can apply annually up to a maximum of 4 years. All Application Materials must be postmarked by March 31st,

2020 at 12:00 midnight. The MADF believes that education is the greatest equalizer. We make a difference in education by providing scholarships to individuals who are furthering their education. We also partner with schools, non-profits, churches, and other programs by making financial contributions to their educational programs. <https://themadf.org/college-scholarships/>

Health & Medical Sciences Scholarships

Take your pick of specialization. Medical disciplines are suffering from inadequate educational recruiting levels across the country. As a result, unique funding opportunities exist for college students who choose health related majors. <http://www.collegescholarships.org/scholarships/health-science.htm>

Scholarships for Women

Women are coming to college in such great numbers, the need to pay for that education becomes a requirement that can make or break the decision to stay. <http://www.scholarshipsforwomen.net/>



Funding College Project

The Funding College Project posts at least three times a week to identify Local, National and International Scholarships which can best be found at: www.educatingouryouth.org.

They seek to maintain quality resources and offer local families a basic confidential information form to complete and/or return for additional Comprehensive Services geared to meet the needs of individuals and families. They will send and identify resources for you to do with as you see fit. The Funding College Project is a "Structured Process" which may last weeks or years, depending on the goals and objectives of the applicants. It is expected that you will "Show Initiative and Follow Through" to assure us that you are on course, we may do more to cement relationships with sponsors or locate dollars for your needs.

The Funding College Project does not act as agents and does not participate in the funding of programs or people and serve to bring them to the attention those who do provide funding or assistance.

The Patricia Fisher Endowed Scholarship Fund

This Scholarship Fund was established by the Seattle Association of Black Journalists (SABJ) to honor Puget Sound native and journalist, Patricia Fisher. The scholarship fund helps students of African descent with a serious career interest in print, photo or broadcast journalism pursue their college education. Awards of \$500-\$2,500 are made based on scholastic achievement, financial need, and commitment to journalism. In addition to receiving the Patricia Fisher Endowed Scholarship, recipient(s) will also be matched with a mentor who is an SABJ member. The fund is made possible through the generous support of The Seattle Foundation and its donors. Application period: January 3, 2020 to March 6, 2020 Online application: <https://washboard.wsac.wa.gov/>.

Palmer Pathways Engaging Pierce County Youth

By Perry Newell

Seeing is believing. It doesn't take long to scroll through a few pages of Google image searches to start feeling like a career in the trades is just something people of color don't "do." We know this community couldn't run without the hard work of all workers in the trades, but we also recognize that the greatest tool our Scholars can have in their belt is the knowledge that they are not alone.

Are you thinking that a career in the trades might be for you? Apply to Palmer Pathways! The application takes just 5 minutes to fill out! tinyurl.com/PalmerPathways2019.

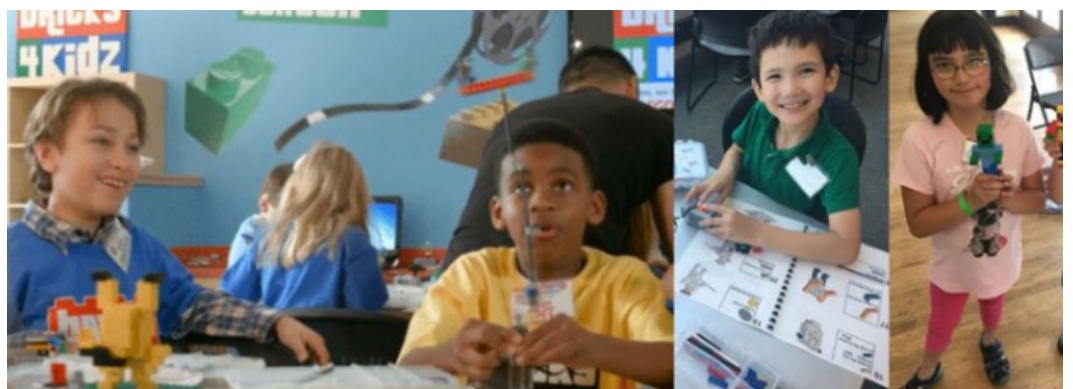
Palmer Pathways Initiative Aims to Re-engage Pierce County Youth and has partnered with WorkForce Central to offer mentorship and scholarships to young adults who want to pursue post-secondary education, including certificate training, two-year colleges and technical school.

With funding from WorkForce Central, the new Palmer Pathways Initiative will seek out young adults aged 16 to 24 who are not in school or working. Tuition and fees will be covered while the students are in school, and Palmer Scholars will provide a mentor for each — ideally, someone who works in the industry that student is pursuing.

The Palmer Pathways Initiative differs from Palmer Scholars typical offerings in that it includes trade schools instead of a standard four-year university pathway and recruits disengaged youth as opposed to current high school seniors. Like other Palmer Scholars initiatives, it focuses on first generation students and students of color.

"With a significant number of jobs currently available and projected growth in all key sectors, it is imperative that we, as a community, support all of our young adults to gain the necessary skills to fully participate in the labor market. Palmer Scholars' proven model will help us reach this goal," WorkForce Central CEO Linda Nguyen said.

In its first year, the Palmer Pathways Initiative will serve 15 students, with plans to increase that number the following year. For more information, visit palmer-scholars.org, call 253-572-9008, or email info@palmer-scholars.org.



bricks 4 kidz WINTER/SPRING 2020

Join Bricks 4 Kidz for LEGO based Coding, Minecraft, and Robotics! Offering a variety of single day workshops and weekly evening classes! Financial assistance available.

REGISTER AT www.metroparkstacoma.org/stem

Coding Classes Wednesdays 6pm-7pm \$52 7-14 yrs old	Feb 5-26, STAR Center class in the Schatz Boys & Girls Club Mar 4-25, Center at Norpoint
Coding Workshops Saturday 10am-12pm \$28 7-14 yrs old	Feb 22, Center at Norpoint Mar 28, Eastside Comm Ctr
Minecraft Workshop Saturday 10am-12pm	Apr 25, STAR Center \$28 6-12 yrs old
Minecraft Class Wednesdays 6pm-7pm \$52 6-12 yrs old	May 6-27, STAR Center class in the Schatz Boys & Girls Club

Financial assistance is available for Bricks 4 Kidz Programs and people are encouraged to apply. More information can be found at www.metroparkstacoma.org/contact-us/customer-service/

Hilltop Library Feasibility Study Update

By Kristine Coman

The City of Tacoma and Tacoma Public Library requested proposals for a feasibility study to help determine the need for future library services in the Hilltop and Eastside neighborhoods.

The proposals were to include restoration of library services to both neighborhood communities and how this may be accomplished. Community needs and goals were to be considered with budgets and creative funding to meet their objectives. The approved study provider will have six months to conduct the feasibility study; however, City of Tacoma reserves the right to extend the contract.

Proposals for the Hilltop and Eastside Feasibility Study were due on November 19, 2019. Proposal interviews were judged on overall impression of the firm's presentation and demonstrated capability for implementing the intended scope of work.

The Scope of Work below is directly from the Tacoma Public Library Request for Proposal Specification No. LB19-0357F Eastside & Hilltop Feasibility Study, SECTION II, p. 7: Scope of Work

- Community input and engagement (Survey, focus groups, etc.) to measure community desires and requirements for library service needs
- Proximity analysis to include other libraries and services
- Transportation options: traffic impacts and public transit
- Demographic projections and library service needs over time
- Location analysis, to include topography
- Cost options and pro/con analysis for:
 - a) New construction
 - b) Purchase of existing property
 - c) Co-location of libraries with other social/public services
 - d) Repurposing existing City-owned property
 - e) Alternative modes of service

- Design and functionality recommendations
- Ongoing maintenance and staffing cost analysis
- Identification of potential funding sources to achieve new construction/improvements/renovations

To view the entire Request for Proposal, please visit https://www.cityoftacoma.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6/File/cms/Purchasing/FormalBids/LB19-0357F.pdf.

As scheduled, the Feasibility Study Advisory Team and library staff wrapped up interviews on Wednesday, January 8, with the top candidate firm, BERK Consulting. BERK's references will be confirmed shortly.

In BERK's proposal, they acknowledge on page 13 of their proposal that:

The current provision of library services in Tacoma does not live up to community expectations and the City's stated values.

With the closure of the MLK and Swan Creek branches, library access for residents of the Eastside and Hilltop communities diminished. The practical impact and symbolic meaning of this disinvestment in historically disadvantaged neighborhoods with high minority populations cannot be understated.

The City of Tacoma and the Tacoma Public Library are now investing in an effort to right these wrongs. The focus of this project is to:

- Identify a financially feasible solution for reimaging and reinvigorating the Main Branch, and
- Determine how to provide services to the Eastside and Hilltop communities appropriate to current and future community needs and desires. This will involve:

1. Empowering community members, with a particular focus on youth, to voice their desires for current and future library services.
2. Combining community vision with projected population growth and anticipated changes in how people use libraries to determine facility options appropriate to current and future needs.
3. Evaluating potential facility and service options to determine a solution that is equitable, impactful, and financially sustainable.

The Hilltop Community looks forward to participating in outreach efforts and appreciates the acknowledgement of past disinvestment and a future facility option that is equitable and equivalent to library services provided in other districts. Stay tuned for more information in the next Hilltop Action Journal.



Proposition to place a Microlibrary in The People's Community Center

By Mary Cogger

You might have heard of the Tacoma Library proposition to place a microlibrary in the Hilltop neighborhood at The People's Center. Over a year ago, fall 2018 the library attended a regularly scheduled meeting of Hilltop Library Planning Committee (HLPC). Library director, Kate Larsen, introduced the idea of a kiosk to serve as a temporary library for the Hilltop.

A year later, in fall 2019, two community committees continued examining the idea. Now that the new year has begun, things are changing quickly with meetings of both committees considering the city's microlibrary option and whether to support it. Should it be endorsed by HLPC? Should the microlibrary be placed at People's Center? The following article provides some background.

Hilltop Library Planning Committee has been meeting for six years with a mission to have library services returned to Tacoma's Hilltop neighborhood. They seek a modern brick and board structure which includes multi-media services

and multi-generational literacy programming comparable to libraries in Pierce and King counties. A safe community space to congregate, study, and use library resources.

This fall, September 26, 2019, the committee suspended regular agenda to welcome Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards, Tacoma Library director Kate Larsen and the new microlibrarian, Jamie Gilmore.

Mayor Woodards expressed her support of a library on Hilltop and offered to write a letter backing a brick and mortar building in the Hilltop community. The mayor also informed the committee that the Rite Aid building has been purchased by the Fronterra Company, but the use is currently undetermined. She also requested that HLPC (Hilltop Library Planning Committee) support the proposed microlibrary at the People's Center.

Larson and Gilmore reported on the installation of the microlibrary in the Eastside Community Center. The machine ordered for Hilltop is waiting to be placed. After considering other locations, they feel the People's Center is a good location since it is owned by the city and has

good hours.

HLPC again discussed the placement of the microlibrary and how services would be provided especially in such a small area. A motion was made for to meet with the People's Center Steering Committee (PCSC) in order to discuss their views on the microlibrary placement.

Five members of the PCSC attended the regular HLPC October 24th meeting. Discussion focused on the placement of the microlibrary at People's Center. It was decided that both committees will work together to oppose installation of the microlibrary at the People's Community Center as proposed by the city. An ad hoc committee was formed to pursue further discussion.

On November 18th six members of the HLPC committee visited the steering committee. Together they toured two potential sites for the microlibrary at People's Center and verified that the facility is not adequate for library services on the Hilltop. The ad hoc committee is still meeting to address what can be done.

Currently, the placement of the microlibrary at People's Center is

in question. The Hilltop Library Planning Committee and the People's Center Steering Committee are unified to their opposition and will work together on a solution. Both committees also agree on the importance of a brick and board library in the Hilltop Neighborhood and will pursue that goal as well.

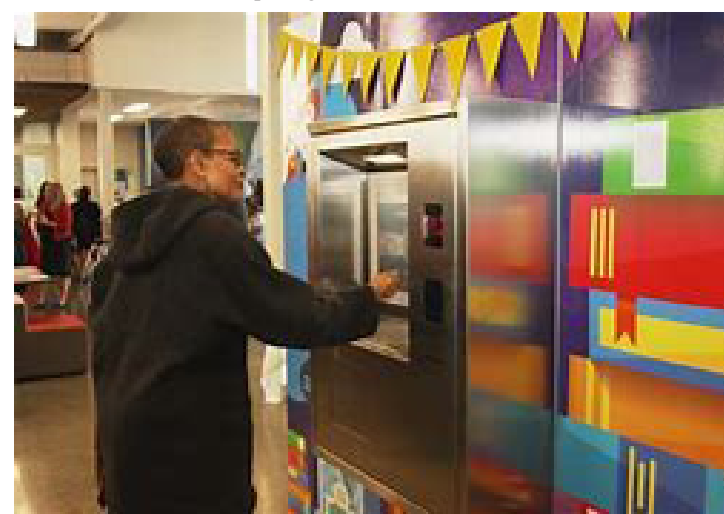
Please join the monthly community meeting on the 4th Thursday of the month. The meeting lasts from 6:00-7:30 P.M. at the Hilltop Regional

Health Center 1202 Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

You can also find Hilltop Library Planning Committee on Facebook and gain more information on the webpage www.tacomahilltoplibrary.org.

You can contact HLPC via email at Contact@TacomaHilltopLibrary.org Telephone: (253) 353 – 2447.

Below is a photograph of the current Microlibrary at Eastside Community Center located at 1721 E 56th St, Tacoma, WA 98404.



Microlibrary at People's Center?

By Mary Cogger

Pros as Proposed

Limited library service:

*Offers story time for toddlers and preschool. They can check out books.

*People's Center offers 105 hours of service per week. Other possible locations offer less.

*Library services will come sooner to the Hilltop than a permanent brick and board site.

*Little is better than none assuming the microlibrary is temporary.

*Tacoma Public Library will get a chance to interface with the community which will lead to a better relationship with Hilltop Library Planning Committee when a permanent library is built.

Cons as Proposed

Limited library service:

*Lack of adequate space for the micro library.

*Lack of adequate programming and staffing limitations. One half-time librarian.

*The microlibrary has a limit of 500 items, many will not be books.

*No ability to scan the entire system and order a book to be sent and held.

*No ability to search by subject or do research on a project.

*Limited hours of technical support on site.

Limited access:

*No easy access for the general public due to the locked doors between entry & library site.

*Kiosk holding materials at the microlibrary has no access for wheelchairs.

Equity:

*Does not provide equity with other areas in Tacoma.

Further Questions:

If the microlibrary is accepted the library services might stop there.

If the microlibrary is underutilized due to its limits, the library may use that as a reason not to fund a brick and board library equivalent to other neighborhoods.

What do you think? Tell your City Council your opinion TODAY by attending a Council Meeting or writing a letter. You can make a difference!



Council Meetings are held at the Tacoma Municipal Building at 747 Market Street in the City Council Chamber every Tuesday at 5:00PM. You are granted 3 minutes to provide a public comment at the beginning of each meeting. We encourage you to speak up for Hilltop.

Can't make a meeting, write a letter to City Council: 747 Market Street, Suite 1200 Tacoma, WA 98402-3766. Act today and bring a library to Hilltop tomorrow for our future generations.

2020 Census – Be Counted & Make a Difference

Census on the Hilltop

One of the most important things to know about the Census is that *Your Information is protected by law.*

The law requires the Census Bureau to keep your information confidential and use your responses only to produce statistics. They cannot publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you and will never share your information with immigration enforcement agencies such as ICE, law enforcement agencies such as the FBI or police, or allow it to be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits.

Census History

Thomas Jefferson directed the first decennial census in 1790. As required by the U.S. Constitution, a census has been taken every 10 years thereafter. In 1840, the Census Act authorized the establishment of a centralized Census Office. In 1902, the Census Office became a permanent organization within the department of the Interior. A year later, it was renamed the Bureau of the Census and moved to the new Department of Commerce and Labor. (Information provided by census.gov.)

Hilltop Action Coalition Helps with the Census



Hilltop Action Coalition is excited to announce that we've partnered with the @uscensusbureau to support the #2020Census! As a partner, we'll be working to ensure that our community is accurately represented. Let's get counted

Hilltoppers! Let the Census Bureau know how many people are in your family – this is for your children and your future. It's time to be counted and let the federal government know that Hilltop is here and we deserve funding based on our numbers. **Be Cool and Be Counted!**

The U.S. Constitution mandates that a census of the population be conducted once every 10 years for the purpose of reapportioning seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Census data are also used to determine how more than \$675 billion in federal funds are distributed annually to states and local communities for services and infrastructure, including health care, jobs, schools, roads and businesses. To learn about the upcoming census, visit 2020census.gov.

The 2020 Census at a Glance

Counting everyone once, only once, and in the right place.

The U.S. Census Bureau is the federal government's largest statistical agency. We are dedicated to providing current facts and figures about America's people, places, and economy. Federal law protects the confidentiality of all individual responses the Census Bureau collects.

The U.S. Constitution requires that each decade we take a count—or a census—of America's population.



The census provides vital information for you and your community.

- It determines how many representatives each state gets in Congress and is used to redraw district boundaries. Redistricting counts are sent to the states by March 31, 2021.
- Communities rely on census statistics to plan for a variety of resident needs including new roads, schools, and emergency services.
- Businesses use census data to determine where to open places to shop.

Each year, the federal government distributes more than \$675 billion to states and communities based on Census Bureau data.

In 2020, we will implement new technology to make it easier than ever to respond to the census. For the first time, you will be able to respond online, by phone, as well as by mail. We will use data that the public has already provided to reduce followup visits. And, we are building an accurate address list and automating our field operations—all while keeping your information confidential and safe.



KEY MILESTONES

- 2018**
 - 2018 End-to-End Census Test
 - 2020 Census questions sent to Congress by March 31, 2018
 - Six regional 2020 Census offices and 40 area census offices open
- 2019**
 - Partnership activities launch
 - Complete Count Committees establish
 - Census takers update address list in person
 - Remaining 248 area census offices open
- 2020**
 - Advertising begins in January 2020
 - Public response (online, phone, or mail) begins
 - Census Day**—April 1, 2020
 - Census takers visit households that haven't responded
 - Apportionment counts sent to the President by December 31, 2020
- 2021**
 - Redistricting counts sent to the states by March 31, 2021

Connect with us @uscensusbureau

Tacoma Tool Library is for You



The Tacoma Tool Library began as a simple idea in 2015: develop a sustainable, community tool lending library in Tacoma that is accessible to local area residents--regardless of income--that encourages reuse, repair, and reduced consumption of tools and other durable goods.

Four years later, we're proving that this concept works; since 2016, we've seen a groundswell of support, with over 1600 community members joining the Tool Library and 500 currently active.

We've amassed an inventory of over 2,100 items, taught ourselves and our community how to use and take care of those items, and have established a series of partnerships and relationships to divert tool donations we cannot use to other sources, keeping them out of the waste stream.

Staggeringly, we've seen 16,200 individual loans checked out, with the most popular tools in our inventory being chop saws, weed wackers, rotary hammers, pressure washers, and lawn mowers--there are at least three houses around the corner from the shop alone who owe the tidy appearance of their lawns to their Tool Library membership!

Along the way, we've also managed to build a community. Our active volunteer list numbers over 30. These volunteers are deeply committed individuals, and, given that our shop is nearly 100% supported by volunteers, it makes a huge difference in keeping our Library on a steady growth curve.

We've formed partnerships with the Tacoma Envirohouse, The Tacoma Audubon Society, Tacoma Housing Authority, Alma Mater, Food

is Free 253, The Hilltop Library Planning Committee, and The Productivity Parlor to name just a few. Come visit us during open hours and you'll find strangers eagerly sharing before and after photos of completed projects; volunteers orienting new members around the shop; or our inventory team taking apart a broken tool and piecing it back together. It's a lively, energetic space, teeming with conversation, ideas, and people empowered to D.I.Y together.

Last year, marking our steady growth as a Library and as a community, we were able for the first time to expand the hours we are open to serve the community by adding Tuesday nights to our schedule. We were also excited to launch a Tools 101 series- an educational program designed to close the intergenerational knowledge gap in tool usage & to create opportunities to assist other local non-profits with their projects.

Looking ahead to 2020, some of our goals include: increasing funding to support our senior citizen, student, and low-income discounted memberships, creating a more in depth maintenance plan for some of our specialty tools (did you know we have sewing machines!?), and expanding our workshop and education programing to reach even more folks.

We couldn't have done any of this without the support of Tacoma. More than 50% of our revenue comes directly from our members--many of you give above the \$40 suggested annual donation in order to help fund those in our community who cannot give- and that is truly what building a community looks like. We've also received support from the City of Tacoma's Sustainability Office- your tax dollars at work strengthening our neighborhoods.

We would love the chance to share our appreciation by inviting everyone to our



upcoming 4th Anniversary Fundraiser on March 22nd, 2020, from 3:30-5:30pm at Dystopian State Brewing. This is a family friendly event where you can come celebrate and support all we've accomplished together while learning more about what we've got in store for the future.

And speaking of that future, we want to hear from you! What role do you see the Tacoma Tool Library playing in our city? What can we improve? Where can we be of help and service? Are we representing Tacoma? Please send all thoughts and ideas to info@tacomatoollibrary.org

To learn more about us, search our inventory, make a donation, or become a member, visit www.tacomatoollibrary.org, or find us wherever your social media takes you.

Tacoma Tool Library
Located at 754 S 38th Street,
Tacoma, WA 98418
(954) 866-5253

Open hours:
Tuesdays and Wednesdays 5-8pm
Saturdays 10am- 1:30pm

*Tool donations also accepted on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 10am- 1 pm

TACOMA TOOL LIBRARY

4TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER

MAR 22ND, 3:30-5:30PM

DYSTOPIAN STATE BREWING CO. TACOMA

Is Tacoma an Age-Friendly City?

By Hally Bert, Down Town on the Go, Community Partnerships Manager

Tacoma is constantly changing and as we make plans for the future we must consider how needs will change. In 2020, Downtown On the Go is engaging in a discussion around how Tacoma is working to adapt to the needs of our aging population.

By the year 2030, there will be more people over the age of 60 than under the age of 18 in Pierce County. The City of Tacoma is taking on the challenge of becoming a livable community by AARP standards - that means ensuring equitable access to housing, transportation, and public space for people of all ages. Delve into each of these topics in curated forums with experts and community leaders from around Pierce County. All the forums are free and take place in the Pantages Theater Lobby from noon - 1 p.m. on the dates listed below.

The first forum focused on Aging in Place. This discussion explored the unique challenges related to transportation and accessibility for older adults in securing housing situations that meet their needs. Tanisha Jumper, City of Tacoma, moderated the discussion amongst leaders and service providers in

Tacoma and Pierce. Dr. Ali Modarres of University of Washington Tacoma, Adriane Wilson, community leader and organizer, and Matt Santelli of the Pierce County Aging and Disability Resource Center spoke at this forum that was sponsored by GeoEngineers. These conversations will continue in February and March:

February 21: Moving into the Future

As our community ages, fewer people will be able to drive and local services for people with disabilities and other needs will need to dramatically improve. Hear from experts on the existing gaps.

March 20: Public Spaces for All Ages

Who uses public spaces? 38% of older adults have a disability and 42% of people with disabilities are low income. Hear how parks, plazas, and other public programming honor those needs or miss the mark on serving our aging community.

For those unable to attend in person, we are partnering with Channel 253 and their podcast, "Crossing Division" with Host Evelyn Lopez to bring people a deeper dive after each show. Stay tuned for updates about availability and guests.

Making Inspiration a Reality – Apply for an Innovative Grant



By Jo Davies

"What our neighborhood needs is ..."

To make that dream a reality, an Innovative Grant may be the answer. The Neighborhood Councils' Innovative Grant program provides an opportunity for inspired citizens of Tacoma to create a positive impact in their community.

Any Tacoma neighbors, or group, of two or more can apply for and implement a project that will benefit their neighborhood. Grants may be used for a wide array of activities and projects so long as they are not used for personal gain or improvements to private property, unless there is a community benefit (such as a mural).

Projects are usually for placemaking, blight removal (think litter cleanups), environmental

stewardship (such as tree planting, community gardens), or community involvement/events (street fairs, block parties, ice cream socials). These funds can be used for professional services (such as a contractor to build a garden shed), but will not pay for staff time to implement the project or travel expenses; and will not pay for ongoing programs/services, or studies. Projects must be completed by March 31, 2021.

Each Neighborhood Council has \$18,000 to allocate and projects generally range from \$500 - \$8,000 each. Hilltop residents who live east of MLK are residents of the New Tacoma Neighborhood Council area; residents living west of MLK area in the Central Neighborhood Council area. More information about each Council is available on the City's website <https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/one.aspx?pageId=21111>.

This year the application and funding schedule has shifted to make it easier for neighborhood groups to apply. Instead of a hard deadline, applications for funding will be available through June 30, 2020, or until funds for a Council area are expended, whichever occurs first. Applications will be reviewed monthly for approval, so early applications are more likely to be funded (the early bird and worm

effect).

What would you like to see happen in your neighborhood? You can see what some other neighborhoods have done at https://cms.cityoftacoma.org/NeighborhoodCouncils/InnovativeGrant/2019/20171G_PastProjects.pdf

Want to explore some ideas? HAC will be happy to help, just call the office at 253-442-8848. You may also contact City staff and 253-591-2047 for further direction and support.

Some Past Project Winners
Graphics Wraps on Pedestrian Cans (6th Ave, Alder-Sprague)



2018 Tet Festival/
Vietnamese New Year



Community, Change, Dreams and Bar-B-Q Sauce

By Jenni Prange Boran

One of Tacoma's favorite and longest-residing community members is...from Texas.

Kay Littles moved with her young family to Tacoma in 1945, before Hilltop was even called Hilltop. Her father, Bob, had arrived the year before to set up house for her mother, her older sister, and Kay, but it wasn't easy.

"Housing was difficult, even if you had the money. Tacoma was sectioned into districts. Back then, most people of color couldn't rent or buy anything higher up the hill than what was then called K street. That's called redlining."

Her father, a chef in the military, rented two rooms in a house at South 21st and G street, her mother got a job at St. Joseph's and, at the age of four, Kay's story with Tacoma began.

Kay was attending McCarver Elementary when her father was discharged from the army for what Kay calls "bad feet."

"He went around town cooking at different restaurants but, being from Texas, everybody loved his Bar-B-Q.

Up here they didn't have any Bar-B-Q pits, no Bar-B-Q restaurants, in fact people didn't even hardly get out in the yard and Bar-B-Q."

Long story short, Bar-B-Q just wasn't happening in Washington, but Bob had a dream to open his own pit. After some planning and saving, he and Kay's mother Elizabeth were able to purchase a property in 1950 and contract the construction of a building that would house a little Bar-B-Q stand and also serve to rent out space to five mechanics. That little Bar-B-Q Pit outgrew its smaller digs and ultimately took over the mechanics' hub section of the building. Bob's Bar-B-Q Pit operated at that location for thirty years.

I ask Kay Littles, as I sit across from her at Bob's Bar-B-Q Pit's current location at 911 South 11th, what she thinks of Tacoma and, especially, of the state of the Hilltop now. Having opened its doors in 1989, the small building's two front-facing windows have looked out onto the heart of Hilltop for thirty years, witnessing decades of change.

"Back when I was coming up, people had good homes that they could give to their children. That was the generation I grew up in, but those children who were left those homes, they were caught up in the gangs and the drugs, a lot of times what they were left, they lost. Then gentrification came in and people were asked to sell their home for little or nothing. The value wasn't in them because the homes were not improved upon.

It was easy for the younger people because they weren't the ones who had to work so hard to get the house in the first place."

Kay points to a flyer for an upcoming local dance party posted to the wall. The flyer happens to feature a cartoon image of the seventies film character Super Fly, a stylish cocaine dealer who decides to convert his cocaine to cash to escape his life.

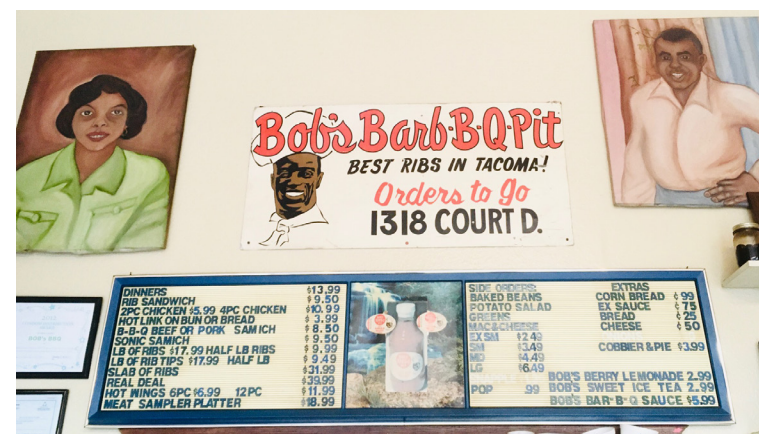
"They wanted to be like that, Super Fly. They had a desire for fast money, smart clothes. But some people got hooked on the drugs they were selling, then the gangs started coming up from California, and that was the beginning of it. So many lives I know that have been lost because of this fighting over territory and drugs."

"There used to be a time when you couldn't walk down 11th street and feel safe. Without fearing. There was shooting, dope dealers, doing whatever they wanted to do. You wouldn't know if your own child was being manipulated by gang members. Well, nobody wanted to live in that environment."

Kay says it was the late nineties when the city of Tacoma decided to clean it up. Things changed. Things are still changing, with rents skyrocketing and construction due to the expanding Link Light Rail complicating traffic, both on the streets and for small businesses. I ask her how she feels about this.

"I'm a person who likes change. I'm not afraid of change. I embrace change. I think change is good to a certain point. One thing we need here now is jobs for the people. A home for the people. They can't get jobs to earn money to get homes. That's why we see so many homeless people here. This city is too big. There are too many empty buildings for people to be on the streets. Something's gotta change that way too."

"The train should bring in a different atmosphere. It should open up a way for people to get jobs, get back and forth, bring more finances in this area."



She pauses, watching me jot down notes.

"This area needs more finances," she repeats, chuckling and flashing me a look that says, hey, we all know this is not breaking news.

She goes on to concede that it's not going to happen overnight.

"But maybe it'll get back to the way it used to be. This was a very, very nice area at one time. What I don't like is that the people who used to live here, they can't live here anymore because they can't afford it."

With that concern in mind, Kay describes having attended meetings regarding a planned affordable housing building at South 11th Street near L street, a building that would include potentially hundreds of low-income apartment homes, from one-bedrooms to three-bedrooms, as well as retail on the ground floor, offering space for Tacoma residents to run their own businesses. She even hints that she might like to move her business to one of those storefronts, to own her own space.

The space in which Bob's operates from now no longer belongs to Kay. She lost the building in what she calls a "bad loan" - and the building was purchased by someone with, frankly, more money. Money coming into Hilltop affects all sorts of people in all sorts of ways. But Kay says recent improvements in the area have

translated to more customers for Bob's.

As far as a generation working hard and passing down a legacy to their children, Kay opened today's Bob's in 1989 with her two sons, Bob's and Elizabeth's grandsons. Together they are carrying on the legacy of Bob's original Bar-B-Q Pit. "That was our dream," says Kay.

"Young people need to know in this era, in this day and age, to follow their dream. If you have a dream, don't be afraid to work on it, don't be afraid. Have a dream, make a plan, then go forth and work it out."

"So many people don't want to try, they say I can't do that, I won't make it, it'll fail. You can't have that spirit. You've got to believe you're going to make it. That's what my mom and dad said, they said 'we're gonna make it happen.'"

Sounds like good advice, considering Bob's Bar-B-Q has, combining its current incarnation and its original restaurant, been in operation in Tacoma for just over sixty years. On my way out, I ordered a pulled pork sandwich to go. I could taste the alderwood, the love, and the history.

If you have any exterior or interior photographs of the original Bob's BAR-B-Q Pit at 1318 Court D, please drop them by Bob's. Kay Littles would love to see them.



“Come as You Are, Leave as You Want to Be”

By Harlan Shoop

What do a South Sound Mini Maker Fair, the Puget Sound Pet Food Bank, the Hilltop Street Fair, and an Emergency Earthquake Disaster Center have in common? They have all been led by people who are members of the Center for Spiritual Living-Tacoma (CSL).

Question: Why do people go to the Center for Spiritual Living?

Why do you go to the center? Some answers are: “It’s my spiritual home. You can immerse yourself in unconditional love.” “I get to bring my full intellect and don’t need to conform to be there,” says an equity analyst. “I like its radical diversity and inclusivity. It supports the LGBTQ community, and people from all races, cultures and walks of life,” said another member. “I learn to apply the principles of positive spirituality to my life.” “It’s open at the top.” You are just as likely to hear a sermon about Martin Luther King or Mahatma Gandhi as you are citations from new physics or the book of Genesis.” “I love the people there—it’s a loving, spiritual community.” “I love our Compassionate Care team. We take care of each other when we are sick, hospitalized or challenged by life itself.” “For me it is an extension of AA and gives me additional support,” said another Board member. “We have wonderfully diverse music and a great choir.”

Question: What is the parent organization of your Center?

The parent organization in Golden, Colorado, the Centers for Spiritual Living, has a motto: “A World That Works for Everyone.”

Question: What is the focus of your teaching?

The Center in Tacoma focuses on six spiritual practices: Prayer, Meditation, Study, Service Sacred Giving, and Being a Beneficial Presence in Community. CSL has a creation-centered philosophy. It adheres to Paul’s idea of “being transformed by the renewing of your mind.” While based in Judeo-Christian tradition, its founder, Ernest Holmes, discovered spiritual

principles that weave a thread through all religions of the world, science, and philosophy. Religious Science, Unity, and Divine Science are part of the New Thought movement that grew out of Emerson’s Transcendentalism in the middle part of the 19th century. Centers for Spiritual Living have 400 churches/centers and are found in over thirty countries around the world.

Question: What might you be able to study at Center for Spiritual Living?

Short affordable classes are available. They can lead to a two-year program of spiritual coaching (practitioner studies) or even to Ministerial School. Most classes give practical tools for ways people can improve their lives through the application of spiritual principles.

Here are some spring offerings: *So You Want to Talk about Race?*; *The Power of Your Word: Meditation and Prayer*; *Myth and Spirit: a Study of Joseph Campbell*; *Whole Abundance*. Our summer offerings include *Mary Magdalene, Unconditional Love and Forgiveness, The Third Alphabet: The Mysticism of Francisco Asuña; Aging Gracefully, and Beyond Limits: The Basics of Science of Mind.*

Rev. Harlan Shoop added:

The leader of this dynamic spiritual community is Rev. Dr. Frances Lorenz. “When I came here in 1997, the North Slope Neighborhood had just drawn its boundaries and excluded our Center because since there was a vacant pulpit and no one had answered their survey. The Hilltop Neighborhood was just across Division street so I adopted it as my neighborhood and my home. Mario and I have enjoyed living on the Hilltop since 2002.” “I think we should rename Division to Vision Street as a reminder of the unity in diversity that Hilltop models for the rest of the city,” said Rev. Frances.

She says, “CSL doesn’t have a very large building, a classic craftsman house on J and Division that has been declared historic. But our outreach is to the whole city where our members are leaders who give freely of their service to Tacoma. We offer our space to the small groups: the Tacoma Film Club, Meaningful

Movies, Tripod as well as a Buddhist Mindfulness meditation group.”

Rev. Frances is active in the community, especially in the organization she has been involved in for over thirty years, Tacoma Sister Cities.

Her path into ministry was not direct. She had an early career in education in Texas, working in Head Start, principal of a Bilingual Model School, and finally as the Assistant to the Superintendent for Forming the Future which organized 20,000 people to restructure the educational system and ultimately passed a \$ 210 million dollar bond issue with 4-1 margins. This is the topic of a book she is writing to be released later this year called *Spiritual Democracy: Forming the Future*.

When she was a child at the age of 12 she had an extraordinary spiritual experience after reading Ernest Holmes’ *Science of Mind and Spirit*. At the time there were no churches or centers available in her state for her to attend. She didn’t find the church that belonged to the philosophy until thirty years later in Austin, Texas. After completing all the prerequisite classes, marrying Mario Lorenz, touring the country with a Vaudeville show, she ended up in seminary in Seattle, WA. She felt definitely called into ministry. After three years, she took her first church in Atlanta, GA. At the time her daughter Rev. Sonia Vargas was married and living in Seattle, and granddaughters began to be born. Frances heard the call of the grandmother. The church in Tacoma opened up, she applied, and the rest is history. She stepped into an historic building that was built by Rev. William Buchanan in 1909 and later led for forty years by Rev. Henry Victor Morgan, the father of historian Murray Morgan. In 1982 it became a Religious Science (CSL) church.

Question: What’s the role of your husband, Mario, at the Center?

“My husband, Mario, is a spiritual counselor at CSL and runs the Compassionate Care team. He is instrumental to the success of this ministry,” says Rev. Frances. “I don’t think it would be possible to sustain it without his undying support. He is my rock.”



The Center for Spiritual Living-Tacoma: Mario Lorenz & Rev. Dr. Frances Lorenz

Question: What’s the vision of the Center for Spiritual Living?

“There are two aspects of the vision at CSL: The first is that each of us is a divine expression of God, made in the image and likeness. Secondly, we are evolving in consciousness, and so is humankind. It’s not a political or cultural process, but a spiritual process . . . a spiritual process taking place in the one medium we share, Universal Mind,” said Rev. Frances.

Question: What direction do you think the world is going?

“The idea of Oneness is beginning to grow and deepen and break through into conscious awareness. At a deeper level, I believe that each one of us can feel a sense of oneness with each other and with all of humankind. But at the conscious level, it is still pretty much of an intellectual ideal yet to be realized. Consciously we are more aware of what separates and divides us than what unites us. However, that is beginning to shift in this new millennium. Science of Mind has helped me understand Teilhard de Chardin’s concept of “conscious evolution.” Instead of getting overwhelmed by problems, there is a lot we can do. Whatever we are consciously aware of, affects our own thinking, and we are already involved. Every time we think or talk about a problem, we are involved. Even when we try to avoid thinking about a problem, we are involved.”

Question: So, what is it that we can do?

“The consciousness of oneness has to come through the minds and hearts of those who are presently involved in today’s struggles. If we can’t directly do something about the issues, there is still a lot we can know in our own consciousness, and that starts with a higher vision. What if the body of humankind could experience an atmosphere of total love where we need not fear anyone else and where we have nothing to hide? There may be pain along the way, the pain of being locked into the old way or of letting go and moving into the new. That’s the Easter message of resurrection and finding new life, individually and collectively. All of this is entirely in keeping with what we know about God or Spirit: that Spirit expressing as Life through Love, has only one purpose: to express more and more of itself in ever new and more wonderful ways as us. We can dedicate ourselves to higher levels of living and leadership in our community. that will make a difference. Hilltop is a great example of how this unity through diversity is expressing itself. It’s an example for the rest of the city.”

Question: In a nutshell, what’s your basic invitation at Center for Spiritual Living?

Our basic invitation at the Center for Spiritual Living is this: “Come as you are and leave as you want to be.” They meet Sunday’s at 11am. 206 N. J ST.

Protect Your Mind

By Seanty

As the rain drops
And the pain stops
Let me ask you a question
This might put headspace in
different motion
Is peace is real
Doesn’t flow like a water stream
thirsty to feed life
Or we just stand by
I keep telling people that change
inevitable
You must adaptable
Your dreams must attainable
But don’t let these words suck on
you like leech
Cause Peace
Is always in the reach
I believe within
That peace is in
And that pain has come to an end
I mean let me slow down the pace
Cause life is race
But you create your own trace
Stare into the mirror and you can
see your own face
Don’t blinded
By the sick minded
Or Those who can’t get peace or
an’t even find it
We hear for quite some time
Don’t let these words live for to be
only mine
Cause it about that grind
To protect your mind

Cause this poem isn’t about the
rhyme
Or words come up to your ears so
fine
It
Isn’t
Bout
Time
It simple
Protect your mind....
Is the question will protecting the
mind
Ever end
Let just say it just begin
Cause don’t you give in
I mean why is this guy on stage
stressing
You probably wondering why is he
doing on this talking
Cause protecting
The mind
Isn’t a game
Life is out here giving violent
blows of exchange
People out here acting deranged
It time for change
I’m not a rapper
I’m walking truth
Truth that speaks to you
Deal the same blows
I’m different flows
That was created that beautiful
glows
So
Protect your mind ..

Disclaimer notice:
In order to distribute your materials you must add the following disclaimer language to your flier:
The district does not sponsor this event/activity/flier and the district assumes no responsibility for it. In consideration for the privilege to distribute these materials, the Tacoma School District No. 10 shall be held harmless from any cause of action filed in any court or administrative tribunal arising out of the distribution of these materials, including all costs, attorney’s fees and judgments or awards.

You’re invited to the 11th annual
Hilltop Healthy Kids & Family CARNIVAL

Celebrating
~ National Children’s Dental Health Month
~ National Heart Health Month
~ Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month
~ Black History Month

Saturday, February 29, 2020
12pm-4pm
People’s Community Center
1602 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way
Tacoma WA 98405
253.591.5321 (ext. 0)

Live DJ
Free T-Shirts
Free Food
Fun Games, Toys & Prizes
Bicycles & Gift Cards Raffle
Free Dental Cleaning Adults/Children
Free Blood Pressure Screening Adults/Children
Free Haircuts

Live Music + Lots of fun!

SPONSORS:
MultiCare, RETIREMENT, hug, FLYING SAUCERS, YOUTH FOR CHRIST, GOT CLASH, SENENCA, VIBRANT SCHOOLS, SALAL CREDIT UNION, NISSA, Health Department

Expanding Social Security Field Office Hours



Beginning on January 8, 2020, Sicoa Security field offices will remain open until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, with typical field office hours from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. You can locate the closest field office by visiting www.ssa.gov/locator or by calling 1-800-772-1213.

In another move to improve service to the public, Commissioner Saul announced that the agency is hiring 1,100 front line employees to provide service on the agency's National 800 number and in its processing centers. The agency is currently bringing onboard 100 new processing center employees and approximately 500 new teleservice representatives for the 800 number. An additional 500 hires for the 800 number will occur later in 2020.

"Improving service is my top priority. Increasing full public service hours at our nationwide network of

more than 1,200 field offices is the right thing to do and will provide additional access," Commissioner Saul said. "The additional hiring of National 800 number and processing center employees is an important step in the right direction to greatly improve the service we provide."

While the agency continues to improve both the access to and the experience with our services, it is important to note that most Social Security services do not require the public to take time to visit an office. People may create a my Social Security account, a personalized online service, at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Through their personal my Social Security account, people can check personal information and conduct business with Social Security. If they already receive Social Security benefits, they can start or change direct deposit online, and if they

need proof of their benefits, they can print or download a current Benefit Verification Letter from their account.

People not yet receiving benefits can use their online account to get a personalized Social Security Statement, which provides earnings history information as well as estimates of future benefits. Currently, residents in 40 states and the District of Columbia may request a replacement Social Security card online if they meet certain requirements. The portal also includes a retirement calculator and links to information about other online services, such as applications for retirement, disability, and Medicare benefits.

Many Social Security services are conveniently available by dialing our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call our TTY number, 1-800-325-0778.

This information is brought to you by the Social Security Administration Regional Public Affairs Office, Community Outreach. Questions? Email sea.orc.rpa@ssa.gov.

Are you a community volunteer with an interest in community planning, or disaster recovery planning? You may be interested in a free FEMA course on recovery planning coming this summer.



Securing today
and tomorrow

Disaster Recovery Planning Course

The FEMA training course AWR-356 "Community Planning for Disaster Recovery" will be offered Wednesday, July 15th from 8:00am to 4:00pm by the Suquamish Tribe at their House of Awakened Culture, 7235 NE Parkway in Suquamish, Washington.

The intended audience for the course includes citizen/community volunteers, public health, transportation, government administration, public works, and emergency management. Credit for the course is available for members of organizations that support continuing education.

The University of Hawaii's National Disaster Preparedness Training Center is sponsoring this course. For information and registration, go to <https://ndptc.hawaii.edu/training/delivery/2632/>, or email Amanda Bates at batesa@hawaii.edu.



Income Limits Raised For Seniors & Disabled Property Tax Exemptions

More Tacoma homeowners will qualify for property tax relief this year. The previous maximum household income allowed for a partial tax exemption was \$40,000 per year. The new maximum is 65% of the median household median, which in Pierce County is \$45,708.

If you are a homeowner at least age 61, or unable to work because of a documented disability regardless of age, and occupy your house at least 9 months a year, you may be exempted from all voted property taxes on your principal residence. In addition, the taxable value of your primary residence will be frozen at the current amount.

There are additional property tax exemptions for senior or disabled homeowners with household incomes below \$38,676 (55% of median) and \$31,644 (45% of median). Also, for military veterans, the required percentage of service-connected disability has been lowered from 100% to 80%.

To learn more about applying for an exemption, click on the "Property Tax Exemptions and Deferrals" tab on the left side of the Assessor's webpage then click on "Senior Citizens or Disabled Persons"

If you have further questions, call the Senior/Disabled Exemptions Team at 253-798-2169 from 8:30 am to 4 pm weekdays or visit us at the Pierce County Annex, 2401 S. 35th St. in Tacoma.

Sweet and Savory New Business Comes to the Hilltop

By Jennifer Schaal
Photo by Shaylee Sundby

Jessica DeVisser could not be more excited. The overwhelming community response to Tacoma Baking Company's opening "has infused us with energy and confidence," owner Jessica commented in a January 17th interview.

"We began our hours opening up at 7:00am but customers would be outside at 6:00am waiting for the doors to open" says Jessica, "so we changed our hours to open at 6:00am" to meet the demand.

After a soft opening that began in December, the Tacoma Baking Company storefront at 1316 Martin Luther King Jr. Way opened officially on Saturday, January 4th. Since then, the line of customers has extended throughout the store and often halfway around the block.

And the response keeps building. Over the past week alone, sales of the bakery's breads, bagels, croissants, French pastries and savory sandwiches have risen thirty-two percent. The company hopes to add soups in the near future. It turns out that the bakery's customers are more interested in savory bakery products than sweet. The bakery gets requests for vegan items, too, so that's a goal. Gluten-free items are also a future goal, but the bakery's current offerings already have a lower gluten content than many other bakeries' items thanks to a large refrigeration room in the back that allows for slow fermentation, which eliminates the need to add gluten to the dough before baking.

The tasty baked goods are not the only thing Tacoma Baking Company is bringing to the Hilltop. With sixty

current employees, and a goal to expand that number to two hundred, Tacoma Baking Company is bringing sorely needed jobs and an infusion of energy into the construction-dented business strip along MLK. Bakery revenue, along with collaborations with other local businesses and community partners, is helping to bring needed improvements such as security cameras and added parking lot lighting to neighboring businesses that have seen break-ins.

Future plans include a flower shop expected to open in March, and contracts to supply local restaurants with fresh bakery items. Participation in local farmer's markets is also a goal, as is the possibility of developing a vegan nut cheese. And "Starbucks is starting to source more bakery items from local small business owners" says DeVisser, with Tacoma Baking Company looking to be a supplier for the chain's several Tacoma locations.

This business growth will require a steady stream of hiring. When Tacoma Baking Company first put out an "all points bulletin" for bakers, says Jessica, the company was less interested in seeing resumes than in seeing statements of why people wanted to be a part of the business. As a result, employees are a motivated, high energy bunch who enjoy seeing eight of the company's ten owners on site at the bakery every day. Six of the owners are actual bakery chefs; only the company's two "angel investors" are not a part of daily operations.

The business also wants to take care of its employees. A small fee attached to each bakery purchase goes into a savings account that employees will be able to use for profit sharing, education assistance, or other benefits at their option. A partnership with Tacoma's Downtown On The

Go (DOTG) provides incentives for employees to walk/bike or take public transit to work. And Tacoma Baking Company's owners work hard to reduce the "body impact" on employees by streamlining movement through the production rooms and using high-end equipment such as the bagel making machine purchased from bagel shop that closed in Lakewood.

"We took their employees too" says Jessica, "as well as all the employees" left jobless when Metronome Coffee on 6th Ave. closed suddenly.

The bakery loves its Hilltop Tacoma location. "We couldn't do this in Seattle" says DeVisser, because the business environment there is so different. "Here, everyone is so supportive of whatever you want to accomplish."

Bluebeard Coffee was chosen as coffee supplier because they "showed up in a big way" and "checked in with us all along the way." Area restaurants Tibbits@ FernHill and The Table approached the bakery about supplying items for their diners. And DOTG's Amber Stanley of the ORCA for Business program has been a great partner.

The Hilltop's Recovery Café has been a big supporter, too, with five of the bakery's employees being members of that organization. The bakery wants to give back to the community in every way it can. "The City challenged us to have environmentally friendly packaging in place by Earth Day" says Jessica, and "we want HAC to publicly challenge us" as well, to "show us what you are doing



for the community." The bakery is helping Sherman Elementary with donated cookies to match milk donated from another source, and wants to do other event-based fundraisers where the company's owners will match the funds raised.

Folks can follow Tacoma Baking Company's progress on yelp, Facebook, Google, and Instagram, and the comments posted there from customers—both good and bad—are welcomed by the business. "Even harsh feedback is good feedback" says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, "because it helps us learn and improve."



Pictured from left to right, Chef Marie Price, Chef Jay O'Neill, Chef John Raney, Jessica DeVisser, and Chef Ashley Baird.



FEBRUARY

Feb 24 – Monday – How to do Business with the City of Tacoma 8:30am-9:30am (Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market ST Room 248)

Feb 24 – Monday – William Factory: Small Business & Entrepreneurship Workshops 3:00pm-6:00pm (Tacoma Community College, 6501 S 19th ST, Free Tickets at Eventbrite)

Feb 24 – Monday - HAC Monthly Community Meeting 6-7pm (Hilltop Regional Health Center - Conf Rm on MLK Jr Way)

Feb 24 – Monday - HAC Neighborhood Leaders Meeting 7:30-8:30pm (HAC Office, 1116 Earnest S Brazill ST)

Feb 25 – Tuesday – Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) for Teens 12 to 18 5:00pm-7:30pm (Tacoma Public Library Main Branch, 1102 Tacoma Ave S)

Feb 27 – Thursday – Hilltop Library Planning Committee 6:00pm-7:30pm (Hilltop Regional Health Center Conference Room, 1204 MLK Jr Way)

Feb 28 – Friday – February Winter Warmer 6:00pm-9:00pm (Hilltop Artists, 602 N Sprague ST)

Feb 29 – Saturday – Free Workshop: Pruning & Care of Fruit Trees 1:30pm-3:00pm (Envirohouse/City of Tacoma Landfill, 3510 S Mullen ST)

Feb 29 – Saturday – Hilltop Healthy Kids & Family Carnival 12:00pm-4:00pm (People's Community Center, 1602 MLK Jr Way, Boardroom)

Feb 29 – Saturday – Fix-it Fair – Bay Terrace 1:00pm-4:00pm (Bay Terrace, 2550 S G ST)

MARCH

Mar 3, 10 & 17 – Tuesday – Tech Time at the Library 4:00pm-6:00pm (Tacoma Public Library Main Branch, 1102 Tacoma Ave S)

Mar 3 & 17 – Tue – 2nd Cycle Volunteer Orientation 6:00pm-7:00pm (1205 MLK Jr Way)

Mar 4 – Wednesday – Tacoma 2020 State of the City Address with Mayor Woodards 6:30pm-8:00pm (Mount Tahoma High School, 4634 S 74th ST, FREE Tickets at Eventbrite)

Mar 5 – Thursday – Central Neighborhood Council Meeting 7:00pm-8:30pm (Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 S Tyler ST)

Mar 6 – Friday – Tacoma Pierce County People First 2-3pm (Partnerships for Action Voices for Empowerment, 6316 S 12th ST)

Mar 6 – Friday – LTAB- Tacoma 2020 College Indy Slam! 6:30-9:00pm (King's Books, 2018 St. Helen's Ave)

Mar 7 – Saturday – William Factory: Small Business & Entrepreneurship Workshops 1:00pm-4:00pm (Tacoma Community College, 6501 S 19th ST, Free Tickets at Eventbrite)

Mar 10 – Tuesday – Tacoma City Council Meeting with Citizen's Forum 5-7:00pm (Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market ST, City Council Chamber)

Mar 10 – Tuesday – 253 Find Your Dream 6:30pm (Eastside Community Center, 1721 E 56th ST, for Middle School students)

Mar 11 – Wed – New Tacoma Neighborhood Council Mtg 5:30pm-7pm (TPD Central Substation, 1524 MLK Jr Way)

Mar 11 – Wednesday – LTAB-Tacoma 2020 Prelims Bout #1 6:30-9:00pm (King's Books, 2018 St. Helen's Ave)

Mar 14 – Saturday – South Sound Sustainability Expo-2020 10:00am-3:00pm (Center for Urban Waters, 326 East D ST)

Mar 17 – Tue – People's Center Steering Committee Meeting 5-6:30pm (People's Community Center, 1602 MLK Jr Way)

Mar 17 – Tue – People's Center Steering Committee Meeting 5-6:30pm (People's Community Center, 1602 MLK Jr Way)

Mar 18 – Wed – A Show to benefit our Unsheltered Neighbors 5:30-8pm (Honey at Alma Matter, 1322 Fawcett Ave)

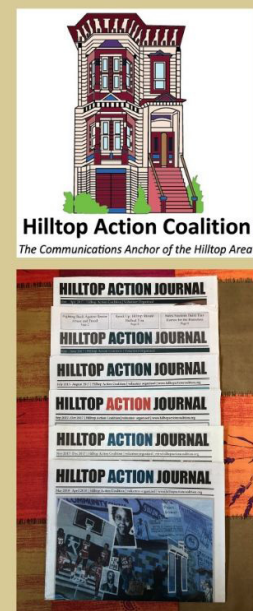
Mar 19 – Thursday – Hilltop Business Association Meeting 8-9:00am (Allen AME Church, 1223 MLK Jr Way)

Mar 19 – Thursday – Tacoma Human Rights Commission Mtg 5:30-7:30pm (747 Market ST Room 243)



Photograph courtesy of Raimundo Jurado.

Submit Articles, Photographs or Advertise in the HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL



WRITE ARTICLES FOR THE
HILLTOP ACTION JOURNAL

Write articles for the Journal

250, 750 or 1000 word counts
Photographs should be in jpg format.

Advertise in the Journal

Ad sizes (width x height in inches):
5x7, quarter page at \$250
10x7, half page at \$450
10x15, full page at \$850

Cost does not include tax. Content should be provided in Microsoft WORD format with high resolution graphics in jpg.

April Edition Deadline - March 27th

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

Tacoma Police Department has 2 New CLOs

By Jason Plute

Tacoma Police Department's (TPD) Community Liaison Officers, Intiaz Norling and Brandon Showalter, were recently promoted to positions of detective within the department. Sector 1 welcomes two new Community Liaison Officers (CLO), Ryan Beck and Scott Meffen, who join CLO Cory Peyton as the three CLOs serving Sector 1 and the Hilltop area. CLO Scott Meffen will be introduced to the Hilltop Community at the Hilltop Action Coalition Monthly Community Meeting on February 24th at 6:00 PM (Hilltop Regional Health Center Conference Room located at 1204 MLK Jr. Way).

TPD moved away from sharing CLO phone numbers and emails to better track the needs of the community. They now encourage people to call 911, report online, call the non-emergency number or reach out to 311, depending on the issue. The details can be found under "report an issue" on this page: https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/police/

operations_bureau/community_policing_division/sector_1 (Brandon Showalter's name is still listed but it's awaiting removal by the City's communications office.)

TPD found that CLOs were taking calls and emails and responding but there was a gap in tracking what citizens were contacting TPD about. The main reasons for the contact change are listed below:

- * Calls for service are now tracked
- * Can be used for Chronic Nuisance cases
- * Can be used for greater accuracy of workload of the entire CLO unit both as a department group and by sector for appropriate staffing
- * Better accountability for CLOs to respond
- * Customer receives tracking number and auto response which gives them assurance that their problem is being acknowledged

Information inputted helps capture the necessary and accurate information for proper dissemination, both inside police organization and with other city departments. Plus,

problems can be sent to multiple departments simultaneously. For example, drug activity in a neighborhood, gang tip line, speeding car complaints, etc., can be sent to both the appropriate unit sergeant and CLO for the location.

In addition, CLO's can see other notes added by other departments regarding the problem which helps CLOs have a better approach to solvability. Most importantly, this change eliminates duplication of work such as separate emails or phone calls to individual officer's email addresses or voice mails (which can be the cause of multiple officers responding to the same complaint). Overall, this allows TPD to provide better staff coverage for CLOs internally when one is out of the office and gives the end user a better experience.

Information provided by Jason Plute, Community Relations Specialist with Tacoma Police Department.

For more information, please contact him at (253) 830-6582 or via email at JPlute@ci.tacoma.wa.us.

Tacoma Police Department Tips of the Month

During cold winter months, drivers may be tempted to warm-up their cars while they stay warm inside their homes. Cars left running and unattended, locked or unlocked, are easy targets for thieves. Please follow the tips below so you are not left out in the cold:

- * Never leave your car running and unattended even for a minute.
- * Remove all visible items inside your vehicle. What may not seem valuable to you will encourage a thief to break in to see what else is inside the car.
- * Always roll up your windows and lock the doors, even when garaged.
- * Never leave your registration or title in the car. If stolen, it is easier for a thief to dispose of the vehicle and make you a target for identity theft.
- * Be alert when approaching your car - have a plan of action and keep your keys in hand. Check around, under and in your vehicle for suspicious activity. If you have concerns for your safety, immediately leave the scene and seek help.
- * Only park your car in busy, well-lit areas.
- * If your vehicle has an alarm or other anti-theft device, use it.

Theft is a crime of opportunity. Thieves normally seek privacy to commit their crimes. If you are going to a gym, a work out facility, a friend's home, or place of business, leave your personal items at home. Keep written records of valuables, including descriptions and serial numbers. Proof that property is yours can aid in the reporting process and recovery. The Tacoma Police Department wishes you a safe 2020!



Lutheran Community Services Bus Rapid Transit Comes to Tacoma

By Wendy Morris

Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) is proud to announce three new programs focused on dementia services. Through a federal grant, as part of the nationwide Alzheimer's Disease Program Initiative, we have started some exciting and groundbreaking work in Pierce County!

According to Dementia Services Director, Maria Holt. "Alzheimer's affects everybody in one way or another. Our programs will raise public awareness of what dementia is and how it affects people, and help remove the stigma that people with dementia and their care partners face as well as provide opportunities for support and interaction, with the ultimate goal of making our communities more inclusive for people with dementia."

During 2020 we will begin offering three new dementia-friendly services, in addition to our existing programming. The new programs are:

Dementia Friends: Focusing on community education, our goal is to increase awareness for dementia and reduce the stigma associated with it.

Memory Ensemble: Partnering with community theaters and trained volunteers, people with dementia will use improvisation techniques to draw upon their remaining strengths and use imagination rather than memory.

Opening Minds through Art (OMA): People with dementia will be matched with trained volunteers to create works of art in this 12-week program.

These three new programs will join our current three social engagement programs - the Early Stage Memory Loss Zoo Walk, Memory Café and Music Mends Minds.

To learn more about Dementia Services and our programs, please contact us at 253-272-8433 or dementiaservices@lcsnw.org

By Jane Trancho

Major change is coming to a bus route that runs through The Hilltop. Pierce Transit is currently in the design phase to convert major portions of the #1 Bus Route into a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route.

What is BRT?

BRT is a new public transportation concept that combines aspects of Light Rail with the flexibility of a bus system. BRT uses innovative buses that stop at Stations similar to Light Rail and use level boarding, off-board fare payment and real-time arrival information at stations, Wi-Fi capability and green light priority signaling for more frequent and dependable service.

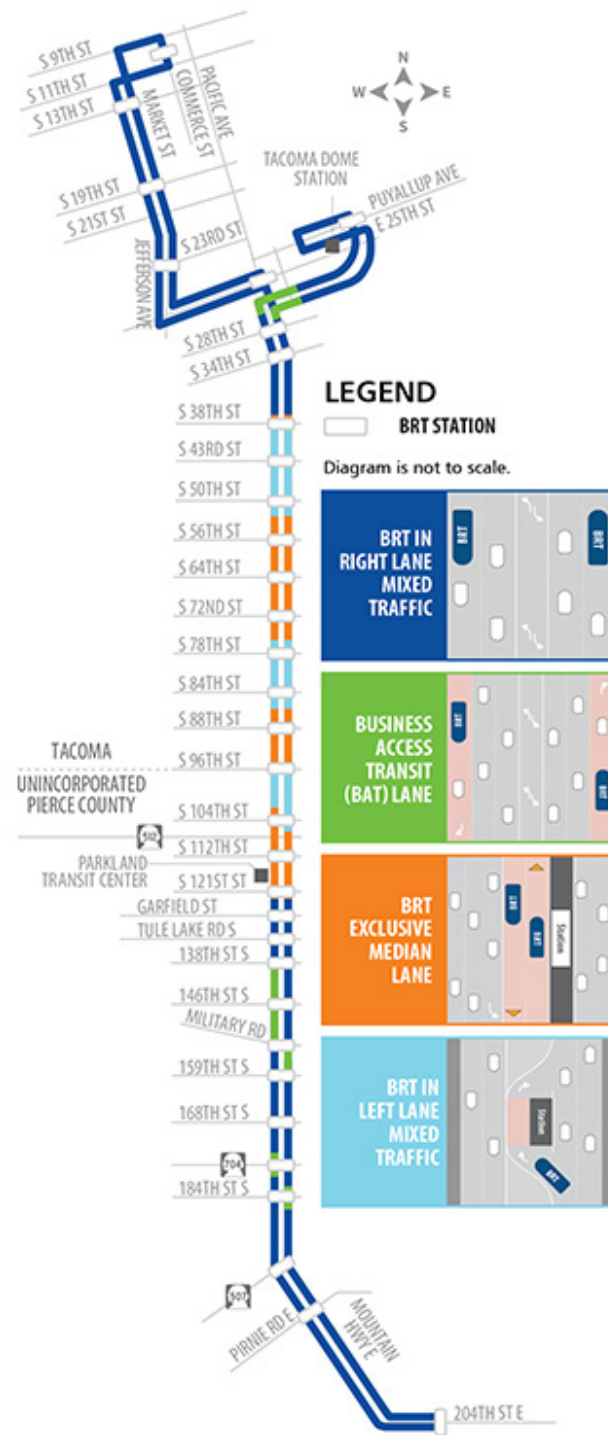
How will this change the #1 Route?

This new system will be built to run from downtown Tacoma to Spanaway. It will follow the same route down Pacific Avenue at stations located roughly every half mile. Changes to the route also include a loop to the Tacoma Dome Station and shifting the route through downtown from Pacific Avenue up to Jefferson and Market Streets, ending at the Commerce Street Station. The route between downtown Tacoma and Tacoma Community College will continue as a separate route and will connect to the new BRT at Commerce Street.

When will this happen?

Pierce Transit is still in the Design Phase of this project and plan to begin construction near the end of 2020, with service planned to begin in early 2023. HAC is participating in a Community Committee with Pierce Transit and other groups and will continue to provide updates as plans evolve and more information is available.

For more information from Pierce Transit you can visit their website at www.RideBRT.com, email them at BRT@PierceTransit.org, or give them a call at 253.983.3407.



Health. Justice. Hope.

Tacoma Cooperative Network

By Bee Ivy

On a gray, November weekend in 2019, a new nonprofit internet service provider began in Tacoma, Washington. There was a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by a handful of neighbors and volunteer organizers, and members of Oregon-based internet service provider Clatskanie Co-op. The following day, installations of antennas and receivers on nearby houses began.

With the first installs complete, Tacoma Cooperative Network (TCN) was officially online. Over the following week, six new member households were connected with high-speed internet, all enthusiastic about being a member of a nonprofit internet cooperative.

While six members is a modest start, Tacoma Cooperative Network is part of a larger movement: the nonprofit is one of many communities across the United States and around the world that views the internet as an essential utility, managed as a community, rather than a private service purchased through big telecom.

Using antenna and receivers to beam data from house to house allows TCN members to avoid the expense and logistical problems of laying cable. Instead, equipment is

purshaced that works out of the box to transmit data in a line-of-sight stream from an antenna to a receiver, originating at a "gateway" that is connected to fiber at the street level.

Every member household joining the network helps to grow the "mesh," and cutting edge software (Althea) allows the signal to take the most efficient path to the gateway and reduces latency for a smooth, fast experience online. Privacy is paramount, and relays (users that transmit the signal to the gateway) cannot see data from other users.

The model being used was originally tested in rural areas, but similar models have been successfully deployed in urban areas. There are challenges to setting up in an urban area; while there aren't thick groves of trees, ornamental trees are still present.

One of the biggest obstacles is aiming and installing with aesthetics in mind, as most members not only want their internet fast, but they want their house to look nice. This means that most members do not want a pole sticking up from their roofs, and opt for dishes that are installed closer to the roofline in order to preserve the traditional home silhouette.

This requires some creative aiming to bounce the signal from relay to relay more than might otherwise be

required. There are many possibilities for increasing access and making it easier to get line-of-sight signals to new member homes, such as partnering with tall local businesses willing to mount some minimal equipment on their roofs, potentially in exchange for reduced internet costs. Until then, these challenges remain and call for creative solutions as the network grows.

Additionally, work involves maintaining the network and educating members on using digital currency to pay for their service, a requirement built into Althea's software. It's a shift in how business is conducted, but most members have embraced it quickly.

Future updates ensure that paying for the service will only get easier over time. Network representatives continue to hit the streets to talk to more folks about their internet service and get new members on board and connected with fast, affordable internet. If you want to see us in your neighborhood, and are willing to talk to your neighbors, let us know.

For more information about Tacoma Cooperative Network and how you can get connected, email hilltop@althea.net/org or visit their website at www.althea.net/tcn.

College-Age Indy Slam!

Join us for a slam for 18-25 year old poets not enrolled in HS (or HS equivalency programs). Cash prizes and a spot to showcase at LTAB-Tacoma slam finals on March 21.

**March 6 @ 6:30pm
King's Books
218 St. Helens Ave
FREE!**

LOUDER THAN A BOMB-TACOMA

**COLLEGE-AGE
INDY SLAM!**

Open to poets ages 18-25.

**MARCH 6, 2020 at 6:30pm
King's Books
218 St. Helens Ave.**

To register:
<https://www.write253.com/ltab-college-age-poet-registration>

Write 253
READ. WRITE. SPEAK.

Men of Courage Barbershop Challenge

City of Tacoma partners with Ford Fund for Men of Courage Challenge



By Catherine Hall
Photographs By Raimundo Jurado

The Men of Courage Barbershop Challenge finalist, Goodfellas 253 (owner, Eric Upchurch) is an example of positive messaging for the Hilltop community and African American youth. We spoke about the competition, vision and positive impact on the community; as well as being recognized in a leadership forum.

The Men of Courage Barbershop

Challenge provided an opportunity for the entrepreneurs to join business leaders with dialogue about economic success, and community leadership. Thank you Eric Upchurch, and the Goodfellas 253 team, for your community involvement.

Men of Change Event at the Washington History Museum

Immerse yourself in the narrative of our nation through the stories of revolutionary, iconic African

American men. "Men of Change: Power. Triumph. Truth." presents the history of more than two dozen known and unknown leaders, past and present, illuminating their change-making contributions through bold, contemporary visual art, fresh literary excerpts, and vibrant stories.

This event is on view until March 15th, 2020. Learn about men such as Muhammad Ali, James Baldwin, Ta-Nehisi Coates, W.E.B. Du Bois, Kendrick Lamar and others, whose

journeys altered the history and culture of our country through politics, sports, science, entertainment, business, religion and more. Original artwork by noted artists accentuate each individual's legacy. Participating artists include Nina Chanel Abney, Derrick Adams, Robert Pruitt, Hank Willis Thomas, Tariku Shiferaw, Devan Shimoyama and others.

This exhibition weaves a collective tapestry of what it is to be an African American man and the shared experience of African American men across generations.

Created by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), Men of Change is made possible through the support of Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services with local support provided by Alaska Airlines.

Men of Change was launched in 2015 as a national grassroots program designed to build communities by advancing the black men narrative through different programs and storytelling. Ford added the Barbershop Challenge in 2019 to allow for greater outreach to communities by partnering with barbershops which have been a keystone of the African American Community.

Hilltop Community Quilt Project

Hilltop Action Coalition has a Hilltop Community Quilt Project to help connect residents, businesses, and everyone that loves the Hilltop Neighborhood. We have quilt squares available for your art and words of love available at our monthly community meetings. Or stop by the HAC office and decorate your square(s) today!

If you are interested in sewing the squares into a quilt, please contact HAC at 253.442.8848 or email hacoffice15@gmail.com.

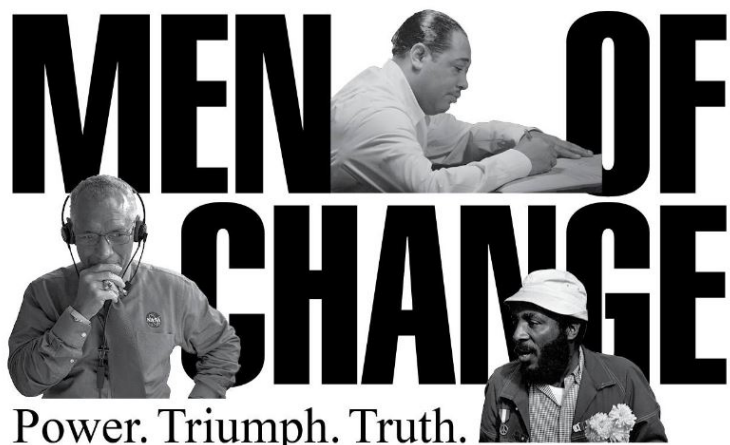


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DECEMBER 21, 2019
through
MARCH 15, 2020

WashingtonHistory.org/MOC

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY MUSEUM
1911 PACIFIC AVENUE, DOWNTOWN TACOMA
253-272-3500 or (toll-free) 1-888-BE-THERE

#KnowTheseNames #MenOfChange

Men of Change is generously supported by local sponsor Alaska Airlines

Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

The Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness is a loose network of individuals, non-profit agencies, government agencies, and community businesses working together to serve people experiencing homelessness.

Their end goal is to help folks establish safe housing as quickly as possible and help them to retain that housing, so their homeless episode is short and never repeated.

They also work to address many of the factors that drive homelessness. For a list of day and night shelter resources, upcoming meetings, events and recent presentation information, please visit their website at www.pchomeless.org or email Gerrit Nyland at gerritn@ccsww.org.

Day Shelter Centers

CCS Family Day Center – 5050 South Tacoma Way – 253.471.5340 – <http://www.ccsww.org/fhn/>
--Serves families with minor children or pregnant women

HYPE Center – 2342 Tacoma Ave South – 253.677.0102 – [https://www.comprehensiveliferesources.org/young-adult-shelter](https://www.comprehensiveliferesources.org/young-adult-sheltercomprehensiveliferesources.org/young-adult-shelter)

--Serves youth and young adults aged 12 to 24

Nativity House Shelter – 702 South 14th ST – 253.502.2780 – <https://ccsww.org/get-help/housing/permanent-housing/nativity-house-apartments/nativity-house-day-shelter/>

--Serves adults 18 and older

Overnight Shelters

Adams Street Shelter – 253.592.6401 – <https://www.trm.org/emergency-services/>

--Serves minors and single women – no walk ins, call the shelter to get on the waitlist

Bethlehem Baptist Family Shelter – 4818 East Portland Ave – 253.392.4148 – <https://www.mdc-hope.org/>

--Serves families, couples and single women, call between 3-8PM for pre-screening, approved guests must arrive between 7-8:30PM

CLR Young Adult Shelter – 415 South 13th ST – 253.677.0102 – <https://www.comprehensiveliferesources.org/young-adult-shelter/>

--Serves young adults 18 to 24

Nativity House Shelter – 702 South 14th ST – 253.502.2780 – <https://ccsww.org/get-help/housing/permanent-housing/nativity-house-apartments/nativity-house-day-shelter/>

--Serves adults 18 and older, arrive at 4:30PM to get on the waitlist

Tacoma Rescue Mission – 425 South Tacoma Way – 253.333.4493 – <http://www.trm.org/>

--Serves adult men

Tacoma Salvation Army – 1501 6th Ave – 253.272.8452 – <https://tacoma.salvationarmy.org/>
--Serves families referred by CCS Family Day Center

COORDINATED ENTRY
On-Demand!

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

Visit a Coordinated Entry Access Point | Call 2-1-1 for Live Support or to Schedule | Speak to a Mobile Outreach Team

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

Learn more at PCHomeless.org/CEaccess

The Road Home | Tacoma / Lakewood / Pierce County Continuum of Care
In Partnership with Pierce County Human Services

Pierce County Human Services

**COMMUNITY
HEALTH
*Care***

MEDICAL • DENTAL • PHARMACY

Are You Expecting?

Community Health Care has the full range of maternity services.

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



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

Look for a Community Health Care section in our next issue with healthy information that serves the Hilltop Community!