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. "Aetna is honored 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 $20,000 prize. 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," President Dr. Lin Zhou is especially reflective on the institution’s impressive past and exciting future. "Bates Technical College has provided education and technical programs with an enhanced focus on helping people improve their health outside of a clinical setting.

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 3101 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 the delivery truck. 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 hacooffice13@gmail.com.

Bates Technical College Celebrates 80th Anniversary

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

Tacoma Technical College, go to BatesTech.edu/About-Bates.

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.
President’s Message

By Brendan Nelson

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

President
Brendan Nelson

Vice-President/Treasurer
Greg Walker

Secretary
Jennifer Schaal

Board of Directors
Jo Davies
Alyssa Torrez
Michaela Lemons
Fletcher Jenkins

Office Manager
Kristine Coman

Community Engagement Liaison
Jasmin De’Armoud

Hilltop Action Coalition is recruiting Board Members!
Email hac.office15@gmail.com

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.

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 Montgomery with Power 2 The Poetry. Attendees worked on the Hilltop Community Quilt.

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 2021 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 I am 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 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
But don’t get it twisted black people should not be afraid to drive
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
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
City of Tacoma Tree Coupon Program

The 2019-2020 Tree Coupon Program Season is October 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020. Coupon requests are available online or by mail through March 15, 2020. Permitting, program eligibility, and program rules are available at the City of Tacoma’s website, www.TacomaRecycles.org.

In 2018, the entire recycling industry was in crisis after China changed their policies on accepting recyclables, which led to a 90% drop in the recyclable market and.ids. As a result, the City of Tacoma had the lowest recycling rates for the year.

The City of Tacoma’s Solid Waste Management (SWM) Division knew that something needed to be done to make up for this potential loss but was unsure how customers would respond to 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. The survey was also available online, and in five non-English languages (Spanish, Korean, Khmer, Russian, and Vietnamese). Between January and March 2019, SWM received over 6,100 survey responses from residential customers (single-family homes and duplexes) across the city. Over 75% 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 and wanted more education.

Simultaneously 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 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 bins around the city, a 64 mile round trip had to the Seattle recycling facility; and
- Due to manual collection, it was a high safety concern for workers.

The survey results indicated that a new rate structure would 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 set out a communications piece to all of our residential customers notifying them of the date that SWM will stop collecting glass curbside. 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.

The City of Tacoma’s Solid Waste Management (SWM) Department will work 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 customers are encouraged to use the Tacoma Recycle Center (3510 S. Mullen St.) for more difficult 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 you 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.

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 understand which loans are available for your business and the requirements associated with each 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 house Tacoma’s people on city land.

Join the discussion about how to:
- Improve housing types
- Create affordable housing options
- Enhance the character of our communities and support local growth.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Get involved in the Discussion About Housing

As part of the City’s Affordable Housing Strategy, we are launching the 24 Home in Tacoma project to evaluate diverse housing types and inclusive 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 online surveys 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 Hall Council Chambers, 347 Market St.
- Provide written comments by February 28, 2020 to Planning Commission, 747 Market St., Room 345, Tacoma, WA 98402
- Read comments and questions to planning@cityoftacoma.org
- Sign up to receive project updates by planning@cityoftacoma.org

For more information, please visit www.cityoftacoma.org/planninghousing

We welcome your participation. To request this information in an alternative format or for language translation, please contact the City of Tacoma at 253.591.5809. For TTY or speech to speech users, please dial 711 to connect Washington Relay Services.

Tacoma Hilltop Light Rail Update

The Tacoma Hilltop 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

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 on a three block section. They will remove and haul away asphalt and dirt on one block, move the 500-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 far as Division Avenue. The process for rail installation is shown below (examples are from Stadium Way).

Remove Asphalt & Soil

Grade & Move Rail into Place

Build Forms & Pour Concrete

Want to know more? Contact Liz Satterthwaite, Sound Transit Outreach Specialist, at 253.208.0586 or by email at liz.satterthwaite@soundtransit.org.
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 shelby312.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 websites that develop 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/multipathways-graduation-house-bill-1599

In addition, The Ready WA coalition has partnered with OSPI to create additional HSIP resources for school counselors and other school staff, including short animated videos for students, staff and families, which can be found on ReadyWA website (http://www.readywa.org). They have a High School and Beyond Plan process which is a graduation planning tool for students, non-enrolling students in a college that suits their interests or a technical school, keeping postsecondary completion rates for High 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 High School 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/ to see how they can help you get started.

The Palmer Pathways Initiative will serve 15 students with scholarships and professions to obtain an associate degree or post-secondary certification. 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.

Scholars can have in their belt is the “do.” We know this community needs to be able to see 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.multiare.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 post-secondary education expenses. Post-secondary scholarships 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, nonprofits, 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.html

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.collegescholarships.org/scholarshipsforwomen.net/

The Patricia Fisher Endowed Scholarship Fund

This Scholarship Fund was established by the Seattle Association of Black Journalists (SABJ) to honorPager 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, working or 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 typi- cal offering in that it includes trade schools instead of a standard four-year university pathway. These 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 the website partners.org, call 253-572-9008, or email info@palmer-scholars.org.

Financial assistance is available for Bricks 4 Kids Programs and people are encouraged to apply. More information can be found at www.metroparkstacoma.org/contact-us/customer-service/
Proposition to place a Microlibrary in The People’s Community Center

By Mary Cogger

You might have heard of the Tacoma Library’s 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 named 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. The committee suspended regular meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of Tacoma and Tacoma Public Library now request proposals for a feasibility study to help determine if a microlibrary can be implemented on Hilltop. You can make a donation or speak up for Hilltop.

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. Proposals were to include restorations of library services to both neighborhoods and how this may be accomplished. Content, scope of work, and analysis 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.

By Mary Cogger

Pros as Proposed

Limited library service:

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

Hilltop Library Planning Committee and the People’s Center Steering Committee are united 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.

You can also find Hilltop Library Planning Committee on Facebook and gain more information on the webpage www.tacomaalibraryillipilibrty.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 Site?

By Mary Cogger

Pros as Proposed

Limited library service:

* Offers story time for toddlers and preschoolers.
* Library services to other areas in Tacoma.
* Limited library services to others. Other programs were offered as well.
* Library services will come sooner to the Hilltop than a permanent brick and board site.
* Limited is better than none assuming that it is better than none.
* Library services will come sooner to the Hilltop.
* More people have access to the city’s stated values.
* Lack of adequate programming and staffing capabilities. 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 size.
  * 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!
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.

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 programming to reach even more folks.

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 our most popular tools in our inventory being chop saws, weed wackers, rotary hammers, pressure washers, and lawn mowers! What do these 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 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 are open to serve the community by adding T u es d a y s a y 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.

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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 4th Anniversary Fundraiser
March 22nd, 2020
Dystopian State Brewing
754 38th Street
Tacoma, WA 98418
(954) 866-5253
Open hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 5-9pm Saturdays 10am-1:30pm
*Tools donations also accepted on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 10am-1pm

The 2020 Census at a Glance

The U.S. Census Bureau is the federal government’s largest statistical agency and provides tools and data to researchers, businesses, and the media. The Bureau’s work includes everything from delivering the nation’s largest operation—census-taking!—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—of 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 how to divide district boundaries.
• Districting counts are sent to the states by March 31, 2020.
• Constituents 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 through Census Bureau data.
• In 2020, we’ll implement new technology to make it easier than ever to respond online, by phone, as well as by mail. We will use data that the public has already provided to reduce travel. Instead, the Census Bureau can use an accurate address list and automating our field operations—still keeping your information confidential and safe.

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 much 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.

Be Cool and Be Counted!

Your Information is protected by law.

Your information will be used only to produce statistics. They will never share your information with immigration enforcement agencies such as the FBI or police, or allow it to be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits.

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 FHJ or police, or allow it to be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits.

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

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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. She and her mother got a room at South 21st and G street, her mother got a room at South 21st and G street, Kay’s older sister, and Kay, but it wasn’t easy.

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

Kay was attending McCaever 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 got 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 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’ former quarters of the building. Bob’s Bar-B-Q Pit operated at that location for thirty years.

I ask Kay, “What do you think of the fact that you grew up in, and those children who were considered with those children. That was the generation I grew up in, but those children who were considered for those homes, they were caught up in the gangs because a lot of times what they did was to get lost. Then gentrification came in, and people were asked to sell their homes for something or nothing. The value wasn’t in their homes 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 custom image of the seventies film character Super Fly, a stylish cocaine dealer who decides to convert his cocaine to cash to escape his life. Kay says “That 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. They would get into a fight, so it all began.”

“Those used to be a time when you couldn’t walk down 11th street downtown. There, everywhere, 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 Tajp. Things changed. Things are still changing, with rents skyrocketing and construction due to the expansion of the light rail. Complicating traffic, both on the streets and for small businesses.

“Back when I was coming up, people had good homes that they could call their own. Children. That was the generation I grew up in, but those children who were caught up in the gangs because a lot of times what they did was to get lost. Then gentrification came in, and people were asked to sell their homes for something or nothing. The value wasn’t in their homes because the homes were not improved upon.

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Kay says it was the late nineties when the city of Tacoma decided to clean Tajp. Things changed. Things are still changing, with rents skyrocketing and construction due to the expansion of the light rail. Complicating traffic, both on the streets and for small businesses. Kay asks her how she feels about this.

“I’m a person who likes change. I’m not afraid of change. I embrace it. 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 able to live. Something’s got to change that way too.”

“The train should bring in a different element of people. People don’t bring in more money. Money coming into Hilltop affects all sorts of people going to happen overnight. Kay says recent improvements in the area have translated to more customers for Bob’s.

As a generation growing up 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 grandchildren. Together they are carrying on the legacy of Bob’s original Bar-B-Q Pit. “That was our dream,” says Kay.

“People need to need in this era, in this day and age, to follow their dream. If you have a dream, you don’t have to worry about it, don’t be afraid. Have a dream, make a plan, then go forth and work it out.”

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 forty years. Bob’s Bar-B-Q is to roll out a pulled pork sandwich to go. I could taste the bread, the love, and the effect.
“Come as You Are, Leave as You Want to Be”

By Harlan Shoop

What do a Sound Sound Mini Maker Fair, the Puget Sound Pet Food Co-op, the Golden Hilltop Food Bank, and an Emergency Earthquake Disaster Center have in common? They were all 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? What is your teaching?

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 undaunted board member. “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 just as easily might meet a journalist like Martin Luther King or Mahatma Gandhi as you are from citations from new religious movements like “The Lunatics of Genesis.” “I love the people there—it’s a loving, spiritual community.” “I love our Compassionate Care Hilltop Street Fair. I care of each other when we are sick, hospitalized or challenged by life itself.”

Question: What is the parent organization of your Center?

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

Question: What is the focus of your Center?

The Center in Tacoma focuses on six spiritual practices: Prayer, Meditation, Study, Services, Place of Giving, and Being a Beneficial Presence in Community. CSL has a mission to be a community that adheres to Paul’s idea of being “transformed by the renewal of your mind.” The center is a Judeo-Christian tradition, its founder, Ernest Holmes, discovered spiritual principles that weave a thread through all religious traditions, world religion, 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 doing to study at Center for Spiritual Living?

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


Rev. Harlan Shoop added: “The parent organization in Golden, Colorado, Center for Spiritual Living, is Rev. Dr. Frances Lorenz. “When I came here in 1997, there was no Slope Neighborhood, she just had just drawn its boundaries and excluded our Center because since there was a church within it and no one had answered their survey. The Slope Neighborhood was just across Division Street and I adopted it as my neighborhood and my home. Mario and I have enjoyed living on the Hilltop since 2002. “I think we should remake Division to Vision Street as a reminder of the unity in diversity that Hilltop models for the rest of the city,” said Rev. Frances.

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

Rev. Harlan Shoop, 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 ongoing support. He is my rock.”

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 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 Expressing as Life through Love, has only one purpose: to express more and more of itself in ever new and more wonderful ways as we. 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 Sundays at 11am. 206 N. J ST.
Expanding Social Security Field Office Hours

Beginning on January 8, 2020, Sicaa 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.

Further moves 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 customer service representatives to help meet the needs of the national 800 number.

“Increasing full public service hours at our nationwide network of service centers will result in a dramatic increase in our ability to serve the public,” Commissioner Saul said. “Not only will the longer service hours mean more people can get help at a time that works for them, but the increased staffing will also allow us to take care of more urgent issues, such as those involving disability claims.”

The business also wants to take public transit to work. And “showed up in a big way” and “checked in with us all along the way” said Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” says Jessica, who often chats with customers in line, “because harsh feedback is good feedback” say...
Tacoma Police Department has 2 New CLOs

By Jason Plute

Tacoma Police Department’s (TPD) Community Liaison Officers, Imtiaz 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 Merritt, who join CLO Cory Peyton as the third CLO serving Sector 1 and the Hilltop operations bureau/community_police_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 officers for appropriate staffing
* Better accountability for CLOs to respond

A 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 to 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

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 CLO’s have a better approach to solvability. Most importantly, this change eliminates duplication of work such as separate emails or phone calls to individual officers’ 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 staffing 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 PluteJ@ci.tacoma.wa.us.

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

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

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

March 7 – Saturday – William Factory: Small College Indys 6:30-9:00pm (William Factory, 2550 S G St)

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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. Guard 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 eyes on your car.
* Only park your car in busy, well-lit areas.
* 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.

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

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 family members 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 these 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.

To learn more about Dementia Services and our programs, please contact us at 253-272-8453 or dementia@services.lcsw.org

Bus Rapid Transit Comes to Tacoma

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 instant cashless fare collection at stations. It’s 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 plans 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.

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 week, 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 antennas and receivers to beam data from house to house allows TCN members to avoid the upfront cost and the pain of installing cables. Instead, equipment is purchased that works out of the box to transmit data in a line-of-sight to the roofline in order to preserve the traditional home silhouette.

Major 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 do not want a pole sticking up from their roofs, and 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 rooftop to the traditional home silhouette.

BRT Station Diagram is not to scale.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route.

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This requires some creative aiming to bounce the signal from relay to rooftop to the traditional home silhouette.

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 do not want a pole sticking up from their roofs, and 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 rooftop to the traditional home silhouette.

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

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@ccsw.org.

Day Shelter Centers

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

--Serves youth and young adults aged 12 to 24

--Serves adults 18 and older

Overnight Shelters

--Serves minors and single women
--No walk ins, call the shelter to get on the wait list

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

--Serves young adults 18 to 24

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

--Serves adult men

--Serves families referred by CCS Family Day Center

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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!