



Newsline...

Published on Mondays by Tacoma Public Utilities Community & Media Services

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Submit items for [Newsline](#) by 10 a.m. on Fridays.

E-mail items to newsline@cityoftacoma.org

or call Dave Rosholm at ext. 8754.

January 19, 2009

News You Can Use

Public Utility Board results

All items passed at last Wednesday's Board meeting.

State flood victims need our help

Flooding in our state has devastated some communities. Being the generous people you are, we know you're going to want to get involved. For more information on volunteer activities and community needs, please visit [Washington State Emergency Management](#). Donating items such as clothing and household goods is generally discouraged due to the resources needed to store, sort and distribute the goods. Cash contributions are much easier to accept and distribute in a timely manner.

If you are planning to submit your activities for incentive credit, please keep the following in mind:

- Donations of cash are not eligible for incentive credit.
- If you end up donating goods, the donation will count as one hour of credit as long as the goods were donated to a 501(c)3 nonprofit agency, like the Red Cross or Salvation Army, within TPU's service territory.
- You must perform your volunteer activity in the TPU service territory to receive credit unless your permanent place of employment is a project site like Cowlitz. If you're permanently assigned to a project site, you're encouraged to perform volunteer work in a city as close to the project as possible.

To view a list of cities in TPU's service territory, project sites and more information about the Incentive Program, please visit <http://cityweb/Unet/GetInvolved/IncentiveGoals/Pages/default.aspx>

See HBO Inaugural programming free on Click! Network

All Click! Cable TV customers will be able to watch "We Are One," the inaugural celebration on HBO on January 18, from 7 to 9 p.m.

What's Cookin' Week of January 19

Every Day

- Cup of Soup & Sandwich — \$2.85
- Chili or Chowder & Sandwich — \$2.99
- Salad — \$2.94
- Hot Special — \$3.31

Monday - January 19th

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
TPU offices will be closed

Tuesday - January 20th

- Cream of Jalapeno Soup, Roast Beef and Swiss
- Chef Salad
- Turkey a la King over Rice, Vegetable

Wednesday - January 21st

- Mexican Minestrone, BBQ Rib Sandwich
- Cobb Salad
- Chicken Parmesan, Garlic Butter Noodles, Salad

Thursday - January 22nd

- Turkey Tomato Barley, Chicken Florentine
- Shrimp Caesar
- Roast Pork, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable

Friday - January 23rd

- Clam Chowder (\$2.99), Fishwich
- Four Cheese Salad
- Chili Dog, Fries OR Salad

If you have questions or would like to place an order, please call the Cafeteria at 502-8179.

Please note the following changes among City travel agency partners

The City of Tacoma has four authorized travel agencies to help you with your air fare arrangements. Some agency names and addresses have changed recently, but all the phone numbers have stayed the same. The four authorized agencies are:

- Thomson Travel and Cruise (formerly All Wanderlands Travel)
Bank of America Building (new address)
820 A St., Suite 500
Tacoma, WA 98402
627-8221
- Travel Leaders (formerly Carlson Wagonlit Travel)
1142 Broadway, #100 (new address)
Tacoma, WA 98402
617-7210
- Doug Fox Travel
4020 South Steele St. # 101 (new address)
Tacoma, WA 98409
472-9681
- Kurt Mayer's Wanderlust Travel (no changes)
312 S. 112th St.
Tacoma, WA 98444
535-5200

Community Support Policy clarified for 2009

It came to our attention last year that the Incentive Program was very difficult to understand. The rules of the policy had not been enforced consistently, the brochures weren't exactly easy to interpret and many misconceptions were floating about. We've cleaned up the communication to make it easier for everyone to understand going forward.

Volunteer work must be performed for a nonprofit agency and performed within TPU's service territory. To make that clear, we've listed the cities that qualify. There was one change to the program regarding product donations. To ensure equitable opportunity for all employees and to uphold the main objectives of the Community Involvement Goal, product donations are now worth one hour of credit each. Employees can earn a maximum of four of the eight hours necessary to meet the goal through product donations.

At least four of your incentive hours must be earned by volunteering your time. To help you achieve your goal, Community Connection is sponsoring more volunteer opportunities this year. We will post additional volunteer opportunities in Newsline (see new "Make a Difference" section in this issue). In the coming weeks we'll post as much information as we can to UNet to help you ensure your time is invested wisely. For now, you can review the updated [Community Support Policy on UNet](#).

Online Recruitment live as of January 15

After completing a successful pilot phase, the City of Tacoma's online recruitment and hiring system went live on January 15. Now, all new requisitions and recruitments will use this tool. The Human Resources Department would like to thank the Water, Information Technology and Public Works Departments for participating in the pilot phase and helping make this implementation a success. Additional kudos to Project Manager Laurie Mayfield for a job well done.

Get charged up about the latest procurement card news

The Purchasing Department has initiated an upgrade project to install the newest XiBuy release, 3.2.1. The project team had its kick-off meeting Tuesday, January 13th. Intrepid IT team members are testing the configuration presently.

More news:

- The current state PCard contract with JP Morgan Chase is expiring. We are moving to US Bank, the new state contract card issuer.
- New card applications received after January 31st will be held for processing through US Bank.
- New schedules are being created to coordinate the PCard and XiBuy training with the phasing out of JPMC cards and distribution of the new US Bank cards. Additional information will be forthcoming.
- January 23rd will be the last XiBuy and PCard Travel & Non-Travel Food and Restaurant training session until conversion is completed. Please register with Kathy Perez by email, and specify XiBuy and/or PCard & Travel Training.
- Temporary limit increases & MCC (Merchant Category Code) card restriction lifts: During the implementation, it will be necessary to allow 24 to 48 hours for requests to be processed, unless it is an emergency. It will be helpful if requests are consolidated.
- Send your email requests to the [procurement card administrator](#). Specify what is being purchased, the purpose, the dollar amount and vendor. NOTE: Increases to limits require specific email authorization from the card holder's manager.

Questions? Contact [JoAleen Ainslie](#) at (253) 502-8526.

A parking reminder for attendees of the Service Awards and Dinner

Please park in the Convention Center parking lot. Your parking fee for the evening has been taken care of. You will not need a parking pass to enter the facility. Parking passes will be available at the Service Awards registration table. Use your parking pass to exit the facility.

Recognition Dinner: Thursday, January 22, 2009; Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center Ballroom, 1500 Broadway, Tacoma.

Please enjoy another parking reminder

As of next week, there will be parking markers in place to serve as a boundary for approved parking south of Windom Street, behind the Water Yard near the main TPU campus. This will enable the Water Department to freely access its transfer site underneath the Union Avenue viaduct. Employees will be allowed to park underneath the viaduct within the boundaries set by the new markers as long as the privilege isn't abused. Vehicles parked outside of the boundaries will be subject to parking violations (per the TPU parking policy) and possible towing if they interfere with Water's ability to access the transfer site.

Let's all be careful out there

During the recent icy weather there were multiple accidents on the Union Avenue viaduct adjacent to the main TPU campus. One vehicle actually hit the side rail, with debris falling down into our yard below. The Administrative Safety Committee would like to remind everyone to be extra cautious in that area. The materials you save might be your own.

Solar hot water workshop promises to boil over with information

Many attendees at Tacoma Powers recent workshops have expressed interest in solar hot water. A workshop on that very subject is coming soon. The Northwest Solar Group will have its monthly meeting at Oscar's restaurant (8726 South Hosmer, Tacoma) on Wednesday, January 21. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. and speaker Steve Reeves will begin his solar hot water presentation at 7 p.m.

Rock and roll and crustaceans - sounds like a party

Get your tickets and strap in for the 20th annual (wow, is it 20 years already?) Utilities People Crab Feed on Saturday, January 31, at the Tacoma Firefighters Hall. There will be live music provided once again by the "Rockadiles," as well as the usual crab, salad, rolls, beer, wine and pop. Cost is \$35 for Utilities People

members and \$40 for non-members. Helpful reminders - this is an event for adults (21 and over). Please remember to bring your crab accoutrement - i.e. crab crackers, picks, butter and butter warming pots. Tickets are available from Terry Coggins, 502-8310, Liz Larson, 502-8769, and Jan Pieper, 502-8452.

Giving Back

Everyone needs HUGS once in a while

Baby, its cold outside! Imagine you have little ones going to school without warm gloves or mittens. Maybe they don't have a hat to keep their little heads warm. Or maybe their socks and underwear are getting real thin. Wouldn't it be nice to give them a new pair of gloves, a hat, new socks and underwear? The HUGS (hats, underwear, gloves and socks) drive will run through January 23 and serve a growing need in our community. There are boxes in the cafeteria, ABS by the elevator on every floor and at Rail. Contact [Jan Pieper](#), 502-8452, [Monique Wells](#), 502-8971, or [Lyn White](#), 502-8818, with questions.

Take heart and give leave

Human Resources approved the following employees for donated leave: Aaron Isom, Tacoma Rail; John Johnstone, Generation; Larry Clark, Fleet; David Peters, Warehouse; Kelley Carter, Customer Service; Angela Folden, Customer Service.

If you wish to donate leave, please contact your timekeeper or Human Resources, 591-5400, for a sick leave/PTO donation form. You can also find the Sick Leave Donation form [online](#).

Thank you for helping replenish low blood supplies

Viv "Countess" Leach would like to thank the 60 silent heroes who helped replenish the low blood supplies at Cascade Regional Blood Services on December 30. Thanks also to the Building Maintenance staff for room set up. The next blood drive will be February 25. Hope to see you there.

Make a Difference

Welcome to a new section of Newslines. Non-Community Connection or TPU-sponsored volunteer opportunities within our service area will be posted here to give you more opportunities to accrue volunteer hours and ... make a difference.

Visit a great resource

Information about local volunteer opportunities can be found by visiting the [USA Service Web site](#).

Repackers needed by Emergency Food Network

The Emergency Food Network need volunteers to help with a "repack," during which bulk frozen foods are packed into one- and two-gallon bags for distribution within Pierce County.

Who: You! Volunteers aged 16 and over; individuals, families, church groups, service groups, business groups are welcome

Where: Emergency Food Network Distribution Center, 3318 92nd St., South Lakewood

When: Shift one: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.; Shift two: 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. on January 24, February 21, March 21, April 18 and May 16.

How: Sign up in advance by calling [Stephanie Tucker](#), 584-1040.

For Your Benefit

Broaden your horizons by visiting the Orientation

New employee orientation is Monday, January 29, from 8:30 a.m.— 3 p.m. in the Tacoma Municipal Building (747 Market St) Room #708. Orientation is required for permanent, appointive, project, and temporary pending exam employees. The session provides an overview of the City organization structure, employee programs and services, City policies and the safety program.

Employees that already have benefits will be dismissed around noon to go back to work. Employees that still

need benefits will need to bring dependent and beneficiary information including dates of birth, social security numbers and current addresses. If you have medical, dental or vision coverage elsewhere, bring the name, address and phone number of the group, the policy number and names of people who are eligible under the plan.

Please send names of those who will be attending to [Sandra Frasier](#), 591-5419, or [Joe Nienalt](#), 591-5406.

Grandparents rule in the January Care Connection

The January Care Connection Parent Newsletter is ready and on the City's Web site. Go to www.cityoftacoma.org/childcare then choose Parents, Care Connection, and January. This month's newsletter focuses on grandparents as caregivers and as important conveyers of a family's culture and values.

The Care Connection is available to help parents who are employees of the City of Tacoma with finding child care, before and after school care, and with a variety of parenting resources and child development information. Please contact [Victoria Jones](#), 591-5870, for more information.

Raise a toast to self-improvement

A new year has begun and it's time to fulfill those self-improvement resolutions. A great way to improve is by joining TPU Toastmasters. TPU Toastmasters will help you improve your ability to speak in formal and informal settings. You can also develop your leadership skills and gain confidence.

Toastmasters invites you to visit one of the weekly meetings on Thursdays at noon in the ABN-M1 conference room and Fridays at 7 a.m. in the third floor conference room. Choose the meeting that fits your schedule and start fulfilling that self-improvement resolution.

Rideshare your way to savings

Are your New Year's resolutions still intact? Did you resolve to save money, pollute the air less, keep your car/truck in good repair and create less congestion on our roads? If so, then ridesharing is your key to keeping on track in 2009. When you rideshare you spend less money on your commute while you reduce the amount of carbon monoxide in the air and traffic on our roads. And if you vanpool, you keep costly miles off your personal vehicle while the City subsidizes your vanpool fare up to \$115 per month. In most cases, that means you ride free of charge. Find out if a vanpool operates near you. Check the commuter option board in the cafeteria or call [Randy Stearnes](#), employee transportation coordinator, 502-8224.

Happy "Vaniversary" to vanpool #7035, operated by Shelly Shaffer and Ralph Eaton from Tacoma Water. Their vanpool has been on the road since January 2002.

Join At Work Weight Watchers and take that first step

Does your New Year's resolution have you aiming to lose those extra pounds? Are you ready to make a lifestyle change instead of trying diet after diet? Did you know that TPU has an At Work Weight Watchers group that meets weekly? Last year our group of 15 individuals lost a combined 75.4 pounds in less than one month. How's that for motivation?

We are currently soliciting for new members; an additional six people are needed to get a new group started. Individuals who are interested in attending an introductory meeting (date to be determined) are welcome to come see what it's all about. Meetings are held at TPU; enrollment is open to employees from TPU and General Government; contact [Gina Munson](#), 502-8449, for more information.

Deferred compensation representatives will be here in January

Representatives from both ING and ICMA will visit TPU in January to assist employees with their deferred compensation accounts, answer questions and just be generally helpful.

DeAnn Johnson from ICMA will be in conference room 2-A in Administration Building South from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20. To schedule an appointment, please call (866) 838-2102 or e-mail her at djjohnson@icmarc.org.

Rose Taylor from ING will be in the cafeteria conference room from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, January 29. To schedule an appointment, please call (800) 478-7770 or e-mail her at rosetaylor7@comcast.net.

Kudos

Do you have kudos for an individual or group within TPU? Send it in to [Newsline](#) and we'll publish your message for all to see.

What's Happening & When -

- **Jan 19** - Martin Luther King Jr. Day, TPU offices closed
- **Jan 19** - Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Jan 20** - ICMA Representative DeAnn Johnson, ABS-2A, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., (866) 838-2102
- **Jan 24** - Tacoma Power workshop, "Year-round Comfort with a Heat Pump," TPU Auditorium, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- **Jan 29** - ING Representative Rose Taylor, cafeteria conference room, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., (800) 478-7770
- **Feb 7** - Tacoma Power workshop, "55+ Remodeling," TPU Auditorium, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- **Feb 12** - Community Connections Delectable Desserts, G-1 Conference Room, 9:30 a.m. until the treats run out
- **Feb 16** - Presidents Day, TPU offices closed
- **Feb 19** - Tacoma Power workshop, "Replacement Windows - More than Cosmetics," TPU Auditorium, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- **Mar 14** - Tacoma Power Workshop, "Living Green," TPU Auditorium, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- **Mar 19** - Tacoma Power Workshop, "Weatherizing the Early 1900s Home," TPU Auditorium, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Bargain Shopping

- **Car for sale:** 1994 Buick LaSabre Custom, 3.8 Liter engine, automatic transmission with overdrive, new tires, power windows and door locks, power seat adjustment, AC, cruise control and an excellent service record. 149,500 miles. Asking \$2,200. Contact (253) 686-9640.
- **Miscellaneous items for sale:** 42" Mitsubishi television - \$100.00/offer, a queen-size futon - \$100.00/offer. Both are in excellent shape. If interested, call Mike at (253) 677-1704.
- **Mountain guide needed:** I'm looking for an employee who might be or is connected with a guide for a hike up Mt. Rainier this summer. Contact Sonja at (253) 502-8223
- **House for rent:** LARGE 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath house for \$1395, located 3729 Fawcett at 38th. Laundry room in basement, double garage, fenced yard. Must see. Call Allan (206) 919-2755 and ask about move in special. \$1395 + \$1000 Deposit. Sorry, no dogs.
- **Baby items for sale:** New Nursery in a Bag, neutral color, ok for a girl or boy - 10 pieces, includes bumper, comforter, crib sheet, crib ruffle, nursery lamp, musical mobile, 2 piece suitable-for-framing wall art; baby sleeping pillow and keepsake certificate. Paid \$95. Asking for \$65. Fisher Price Smart Stages 3 in 1 Rocker Swing, barely used, - It's a swing that converts to an Infant Seat and Toddler Rocker. Paid \$76. Asking for \$40. Graco stroller and car seat - Car Seat fits into stroller. Asking \$100. Discovery and Play Activity Center for approx. 5 month to one year old child, asking \$25. Call or e-mail Ericka Whitfield at (253) 428-0391, ericka2h@yahoo.com.
- **Car for sale:** 2006 Honda Accord Sedan 4 cylinder/Automatic. 44K miles. Silver/Black. Car has A/C, CC, power windows and locks, keyless entry and alarm. Cloth interior. Original owner, non smoker, no pets. 28.4 mpg combined with 34 mpg hwy. Maintained at factory intervals, clean and clear title. Remainder of 5 yr/60k power train warranty. A trouble free car. \$11,500 Chris (253) 228-6498.

- **Inexpensive car wanted:** Inexpensive but safe and reliable car for my 68 year old mother to drive. Does not need to be pretty. Lisa, (253)591-5277; or Joe at (253) 572-2144.
- **Room for rent:** Tacoma North end, off of 40th & Orchard. \$650 mo. includes utilities. Call or e-mail with any questions (253) 229.7857 or chatch@cityoftacoma.org.
- **Textbook for sale:** For College Students! "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations," Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing, (Paperback). Like-new for \$8. Call Wendy (253) 426-9017.
- **Mother-in-law room for rent:** Federal Way, mountain and sound view, picturesque setting, private entry, full bath, large closet. Quiet neighborhood, just a few minutes from shopping and 10 minutes to I-5. Non-smokers only, no pets. \$375 per month. (253) 839-4680; ask for Helga.

Submit your ad to *Newsline*

(In addition to TPU classified ads, *Newsline* will also offer classified ads from *Take 5* which will reciprocate by running *Newsline* classifieds. Your ads will now be seen by *all* City employees. Ads run in two issues of *Newsline and Take 5*. The deadline to submit ads is 10 a.m. Friday. E-mail Newsline, or call editor Dave Rosholm, 502-8754, if you don't have e-mail access. Include your phone number (and/or email) and your name to ensure publication. Ads for business activities, online auction ads and calls for charity sponsorship are not allowed.)

Our photo

Dream a little dream or dream big. But have a dream.