



A community-based newspaper serving the Puget Sound area since 1981



The Voice

June
2004
*Articles translated
into six languages*

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

Farmer's market season is here

HUD alters Section 8 funding formula

Housing activists concerned for program's future; local housing authorities could be unaffected

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

In late April, the Department of Housing and Urban Development issued new rules detailing how much they would reimburse housing authorities for Section 8 vouchers. Almost immediately, housing authorities and low-income housing activists, including members of Congress and the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities, decried the new rules calling them "devastating," "a real threat" and "unacceptable."

The change that HUD is making is in how the agency figures out the funding levels for the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program. According to an announcement from HUD dated April 22, the amount housing authorities will be reimbursed for their voucher programs each quarter will now be capped at their expenditure levels in the summer of 2003 with slight upward adjustments for inflation.

This new policy is retroactive to Jan. 1 and could force individual housing authorities to repay HUD funds already awarded to them for vouchers currently in use.

Historically, HUD has reimbursed housing authorities for the actual cost of each voucher used. This new rule
Please see "HUD: funds won't..." on page 3



PHOTO BY CHARLES REDELL, VOICE

On May 19, the summer farmers market season kicked off with the opening of the Columbia City Farmers Market in the Rainier Valley. Every summer, farmers from all over Washington provide access to fresh, nutritious foods by bringing their crops to the city and surrounding areas in these vibrant, community-oriented markets. Above, Peruvian dancers help celebrate opening day. For more on farmers markets all over King County, please see page 2.

Governor pitches in to help with AmeriCorps project

Environmental clean up brings volunteers from all over the region together

By ALYSSA DEVOE
King County Housing Authority

Saltwater State Park in Des Moines was the scene of a unique Earth Day service project on April 23. Six Washington Service Corps AmeriCorps teams from around the state, led by the King County Housing Authority team, helped park rangers ready the seaside park for the summer. Gov. Gary

Locke even showed up and pitched in.

Ignoring a deluge of rain, the governor rolled up his sleeves and joined AmeriCorps members by fixing granite facing to concrete fence blocks. Experienced with home improvement projects, Gov. Locke proved handy with a trowel and mortar.

The combined efforts of all the participants saved park rangers several months of work so their time can now be

dedicated to other projects.

It was a day of learning and labor for the AmeriCorps teams. In the morning, park rangers taught them about marine life and park stewardship. In the afternoon, the teams worked on three different park improvement projects. While one team was involved in the granite façade work, another team worked on landscaping and a third tore off a mossy roof from a park building.

The teams enjoyed an excellent lunch that included food donated by Shari's Restaurant and Costco, and discounted pizza from Vince's Italian Restaurant and

Pizzeria in Federal Way.

The participation of all the AmeriCorps teams was appreciated. Without them, the event would not have been nearly as successful as it was.

The project gave the AmeriCorps teams a chance to get to know each other and to learn more about our state parks and what we should do to protect them. Christopher Maslanka, an AmeriCorps member with the Cispus Learning Center team based in Randle, Wash., appreciated the change of scenery.

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"We're concerned about the affects on other local housing authorities in particular and very alarmed at the overall affect on housing in general."

*SHA communications director,
Virginia Felton*

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Multilingual gardening classes to be offered

Beginning gardeners in Yesler Terrace and South Park can learn about organic gardening

By HALEY SMITH
Special to The Voice

Immigrant communities often have strong agricultural traditions but do not have the specific knowledge needed for successful gardening in the Northwest climate. Now there is a resource available for people living in these communities, in their native languages.

Seattle Public Utilities, King County Conservation District, Seattle Tilth Association and the Department of Neighborhoods P-Patch program are offering free organic gardening classes to members of Seattle's Spanish and East African communities. The Spanish series will be held at Marra Farm in the South Park area. An East African series will be held at the new Yesler Terrace P-Patch garden and will be translated into Amharic, Trigrignia and Somali.

The series of three classes covers basic

concepts for the beginning gardener such as garden planning, soil cultivation and amendments, mulches and fertilizers and seasonal gardening techniques. In addition, the classes promote waste reduction and water conservation through chemical-free gardening and the use of organic materials and composting for healthy soil and a healthy environment. The participants will also have the opportunity to take home free seeds so they can start their own gardens.

The Spanish series is from noon to 2 p.m. on June 2 and July 3. It will be held at Marra Farm on Fifth Avenue South and South Director Street.

The East African series is from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on June 12, July 10 and Aug. 7 at Yesler Terrace on Broadway Avenue East and East Yesler Way

For more information about the Spanish classes please call Markos Toscano at 206-547-0828 or Michael Neguse at 206-332-0621 regarding the East African series.

Markets provide fresh vegetables for city dwellers

By VOICE STAFF

Summer is here and that means fresh vegetables of all kinds are finally available. One of the best places to get fresh vegetables is at local summertime farmers markets, many of which have just reopened after a long winter off.

"We are so ready to begin this new season," said Chris Curtis, director of the Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance. "For those of us who love to shop farmers markets, the winter can feel interminable."

The Alliance coordinates many of Seattle's most popular farmers markets including the Columbia City Farmers Market, the West Seattle Farmers Market and the long-running University District Farmers Market.

In addition, there are many other markets in King County. A county program called Puget Sound Fresh organizes these markets to encourage consumers, wholesalers, retailers and restaurants to seek out and

purchase locally-grown products.

Although they are small and open just once a week, farmers markets in King County are a big boon to shoppers and farmers alike. By providing direct-sale opportunities for local farmers, they can earn living wages. Additionally, city dwellers have a safe, family-friendly gathering place to go to for the freshest, local fruits and vegetables available and to watch cooking demonstrations and obtain information from local nonprofit organizations.

Low-income families also benefit from farmers markets because they are all authorized to accept electronic food stamps (Quest), WIC (Women, Infant, Children) vouchers and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons.

For a complete listing of all the farmers markets in King County, call 206-296-7824 or visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/farms/index.htm>. For Seattle markets, call 206-547-2278 or visit www.seattlefarmersmarkets.org.

Some market details

Below are four of the most popular markets. Check the Web sites above for others.

Columbia City Farmers Market Wednesdays 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. May 19 to Oct. 13 in the Columbia Plaza, 4801 Rainier Ave. S.

Federal Way Farmers Market Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 19 to Oct. 30 at SeaTac Mall in the Sears parking Lot on South 320th Street and Pacific Highway South

West Seattle Farmers Market Sundays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 16 to Nov. 21 on the corner of Southwest Alaska Street and California Avenue Southwest

White Center Farmers Market Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 25 to Oct. 29 Southwest 98th Street between 15th Avenue Southwest and 16th Avenue Southwest

The Voice

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The Voice, the newspaper of Neighborhood House, is published monthly with the support of the Seattle and King County Housing Authorities. Neighborhood House helps diverse communities of people with limited resources attain their goals for self-sufficiency, financial independence and community building. The Voice contributes to that mission by providing low-income people, immigrants, refugees and other concerned parties with timely, relevant news. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the staff, Neighborhood House, SHA or KCHA. We welcome articles and tips from the community, and reserve the right to edit all submissions.



Health Notes

A column devoted to your well-being

Is your home making you sick?

By DENISE SHARIFY
High Point Healthy Homes and
Community Project Manager

Did you know that simple acts such as sweeping your floor or dusting your furniture every day could keep you and your family be healthier? A home can be host to pollutants such as dust mites, animal-related allergens, molds, tobacco smoke and toxic consumer products. In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency lists poor indoor air quality as the fourth largest environmental threat to Americans.

Since people spend an average of 65 percent of their day at home, keeping your home and indoor air clean and free of harmful pollutants can help you stay healthier. The first step on this path is to learn what some common household pollutants are.

- Dust contains chemicals, biological compounds such as pollens and mold spores, and heavy metals like lead and mercury.
- Dust mites are microscopic bugs that feed on dust that cannot be seen with the naked eye. These mites, their droppings and carcasses can be very irritating to our lungs.
- Molds are found nearly everywhere. They spread and multiply by releasing tiny living cells called spores into the air. If enough spores are in the air inside your home, they can contribute to asthma, allergies and other health problems.

- Environmental tobacco smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals, more than 50 of which are cancer causing agents.

- Products that contain solvents, aerosols, chlorine bleach and ammonia such as household cleaning products can be dangerous.

- Pets can cause asthma and allergies from exposure to their saliva and dander.

Although these pollutants are invisible, they can cause headaches, skin rashes,

allergies, eye, nose and throat irritations and fatigue. Exposure to these pollutants can create serious health hazards such as asthma, infections, cancers and respiratory illnesses. Use the following tips to reduce pollutants and allergens to protect your health:

- Clean outside your home around the entryways to reduce dust and soil.
- Use entrance mats and wipe your shoes before entering the house.
- Dust your house at least twice a week with a moist cloth.
- Sweep your floors or vacuum your carpets at least twice a week.
- Prevent mold and mildew by keeping the humidity level low. Open windows or turn on your kitchen fan when cooking. Open the bathroom windows or leave the fan on for at least 20 minutes after a shower or bath.
- Use mattress and pillow covers to protect exposure to dust mites. Wash covers, bedding and blankets weekly in hot water to kill dust mites.
- Clean with non-toxic products.
- Minimize the need to use pesticides by getting rid of food and water sources that attract bugs and pests.
- Smoke outdoors if you must smoke.

"For residents living near or in HOPE VI sites, keeping dust out of your homes will be especially important," according to Dr. Tim Takaro, Principal Investigator of the Breathe Easy Home Demonstration Project at High Point. "You can reduce dust by dusting with a damp rag and wet mopping, along with keeping windows closed during windy days."

For more information about keeping your home healthy, please contact American Lung Association of Washington at 206-441-5100 or the High Point Healthy Homes and Community Project at 206-923-3266.



One to grow on

Garden tips for community gardeners

By ANZA MUENCHOW
Special to The Voice

The extra warm early spring has turned back into the typical cool springs we know so well here in Seattle. Most plants responded quickly to the early warming, but it made the gardeners scramble for early watering strategies. The dry April and the cost of water makes it important for all Seattle gardeners be wise about their watering.

Don't stress your plants by missing their watering. That will encourage diseases and pests like aphids, powdery mildew and thrips. I recommend laying down drip hoses now and regularly soaking the root zones of your crops. Drip hoses keep the water at the roots and off the leaves and also conserve water by reducing evaporation. Many plants such as tomatoes, beans, squash and basil hate water on their leaves.

How much should you water? It depends on how hot it is. Dig down into your soil and check. It should be damp just below the surface. Don't let it dry out more than an inch or two below the surface.

Another way to keep soil moist is by using mulch which is a type of compost. Every summer add 3 or 4 inches of mulch around the base of your plants. There are different kinds of mulches, but I will usually go for the cheapest and most available. Some people make their own by using dry grass

clippings or decomposed leaves. Usually I mix these two together, water them and let them compost for a couple of months before I mulch with them.

Planting and harvesting tips

Remember to keep sowing lettuce every two weeks for a continuous crop so you can enjoy summer salads. Choose a more shaded spot to plant lettuce in the hottest months of July and August. Try the black-seeded Simpson lettuce or Celtice, which both tolerate hotter weather.

Your peas should be producing lots of luscious pods by now. If you planted the snap peas, you are probably even snacking on them fresh off the vine. Our dog begs for these fresh peas. Luckily she doesn't pick them herself.

Snap and snow peas go great in a stir fry. Start with some canola oil and a few splashes of toasted sesame oil. Add chopped garlic and onion for a few minutes. Then add some sliced mushrooms and your peas. Maybe chop in some cilantro that you reseeded in your garden from last season before you serve it.

Keep eating five to eight servings of fruits and vegetables every day. This will be easy in the summer months with all the great produce showing up in our gardens and markets.

For gardening questions, call at 206-461-8430 ext. 227 or e-mail anzam@msn.com.

Volunteers clean up at state park; film PSA with Locke



Gov. Gary Locke and an AmeriCorps member apply mortar to a wall at Saltwater State Park.

PHOTO COURTESY KING COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

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"It's great to get to a different area with a lot more people and a good chance to work with other AmeriCorps members," Maslanka said.

He also enjoyed the opportunity to work on the environment, a contrast from the educational projects he is usually doing.

"I feel very good about this project because the work we are doing will not only benefit the South Seattle area, but the whole world," said Kevin Wordelman, a member of the KCHA AmeriCorps team who helps the City of Burien.

Taking care of our environment and volunteering are things Gov. Locke feels strongly about. In a speech about Earth Day,

he said, "Taking good care of our planet is everyone's job, 365 days a year. Each of us must be involved in keeping our environment healthy. We all must do our part in leaving the legacy of our state's natural beauty to future generations."

At the end of the day at the park, the AmeriCorps teams gathered around Gov. Locke to record a public service announcement promoting volunteer work.

"Volunteer!" the teams shouted in unison.

"And keep Washington beautiful!" the governor declared with a smile at the camera.

The day was a fun way for everyone to help the environment, meet new people and take pride in an important job well done.

What's to do for youth in summer?

Different programs are offered, but plenty more is available out there

BY VOICE STAFF

As summer approaches, many people begin to plan activities for their children. Luckily, there are many programs open to the public this summer. Some are free while others cost a small fee. In many cases, programs have financial assistance available for those who qualify.

Listed below are details on just a few of the programs available around the area this year. Other options are also available. For example, pay a visit to your neighborhood community center, or try calling your neighborhood computer lab, local places of worship or youth-oriented institutions such as the Pacific Science Center and Seattle Center.

You could also try contacting other families in your neighborhood and setting up group activities that lots of children can enjoy. Finally, check with the service providers in your neighborhood for local information as well.

The Summer Food Service Program, also known as Summer Sack Lunch, is a USDA-funded program established in 1968 to respond to growing research that correlated a child's nutritional intake with that of their academic success and concerns about the lack of nutrition resources available for children during the summer months. Last year, the program averaged 6,500 lunches and 2,500 breakfasts daily. To take part, children must be between 1 and 18 years old. Advance sign up is not needed for all the sites listed.

All Parks in Seattle provide lunches and snacks for the entire summer starting on June 28 and running until Aug. 18.

The High Point Community Center will be serving breakfast and lunch from June 28 through Aug. 25.

The SafeFutures Youth Center at 6337 35th Ave. S.W. will serve breakfast and lunch from June 28 through Aug. 12.

The Boys and Girls Club at Rainier Vista offers breakfast and lunch from June 28 through Aug. 20.

The Rainier Community Center will provide a daily lunch and snack from June 28 through Aug. 25.

The Yesler Terrace community center serves a lunch and snack from June 28 through Aug. 25.

Near NewHolly, the Van Asselt community center serves lunch and snack from June 28 through Aug. 25.

For a complete list of sites participating in the Summer Sack Lunch program, call Leta Chhor at 206-386-1140.

The YMCA of Greater Seattle has more than 50 locations in King County. They offer day camps, specialty camps such as rock climbing and cooking, summer enrichment child care, youth sports, swimming and more.

Visit www.seattlemca.org or call 206-382-5003 for more information.

The Summer Playground Program is a free program available each summer at 23 sites around the city for 10 weeks each summer. This program is designed for children ages 6 to 14 years old. Trained playground leaders provide scheduled activities, including organized games, arts and crafts projects and fun educational activities each week day. Information is available at 206-684-4360.

HUD: funds won't be cut

Officials insist that worst case scenario won't happen

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may "force many agencies to impose deeper cuts in the months ahead" according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington D.C.-based research institute.

According to Pamela Negri, spokesperson for HUD in Seattle, "HUD maintains that CBPP numbers are exaggerated because it looks at worst case scenarios. HUD maintains that there are only modest increases in rents around the country and the 14 percent increase the program received in 2004 [in the federal budget] will more than cover the cost of programs around the country."

Shortly after the new rules were released by HUD, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi cosponsored a bill to force HUD to fund vouchers fully.

"This administration is breaking a 30-year promise to help low-income families ... to afford decent, safe housing," she said. "The consequences of this new ruling will be devastating. People already receiving Section 8 vouchers could either face dramatic rent increases or even lose their home."

Yet HUD claims that the new Section 8 funding formula is mandated by Congress. According to the official notice sent to housing authorities across the country, "Congress enacted changes in the Housing Choice Voucher Program ... to fund each PHA's Housing Choice Voucher Program at a level that more closely reflected actual funding needs."

Many in Washington, D.C. say HUD is interpreting the law incorrectly and legislators from both parties are calling on HUD to rescind the Section 8 funding rule.

Sen. Susan Collins, a Republican from Maine, wrote a letter to HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson saying, "We believe that HUD's guidance applies the law inappropriately, and that HUD has the ability, within the statutory framework, to provide adequate funding for all housing vouchers in use."

The law in question is actually the fiscal

year 2004 budget which increases the Housing Choice Voucher Program by more than \$1 billion. This has left many accusing the Bush administration of trying to push through major policy changes without the approval of Congress.

According to Negri, neither the Seattle Housing Authority nor KCHA should be affected by the changes in the Section 8 program due to their status as Moving to Work housing authorities. Housing authorities in the MTW program have Section 8 vouchers funded through a block grant, which is not affected by the new HUD rules, Negri said.

KCHA, despite its MTW status, has only about 10 percent of its vouchers funded through the block grant noted Rhonda Rosenberg, KCHA's communications director. Ninety percent of KCHA vouchers are therefore vulnerable to cuts, she said.

According to Virginia Felton, SHA communications director, that agency is still analyzing the new policy in order to measure its affects on the Housing Authority.

"We're concerned about the effects on other local housing authorities in particular and very alarmed at the overall affect on housing in general," she said.

On May 20, HUD responded to funding concerns like these. In testimony before the House Financial Services Committee, Jackson unveiled a new plan that he said would mitigate the affects of the voucher-reimbursement changes by disbursing a \$150 million budget surplus to 525 housing authorities nationwide.

He said that HUD is making these funds available to replenish the reserves of housing authorities that qualify for restoration funding. These reserve funds can be used to offset unanticipated costs.

"These steps should alleviate the funding challenges some public housing authorities were anticipating when HUD recently adopted congressionally mandated formula changes to Section 8 funding," Jackson said.

King County Housing Authority Executive Director Stephen Norman isn't so sure however.

"While we appreciate HUD Secretary Jackson's apparent change of heart, we still have considerable concerns as to whether or not this will result in the needed full funding for FY 2004," he said.

Community notes

SSHP community council

All residents of the Seattle Senior Housing Program in the Seattle Housing Authority are invited to attend the monthly meetings of the SSHP Advocates II at 1 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month. For more information and this month's meeting place, please contact Bette Reed at 206-523-8685 or Eddie Koch at 206-217-9451.

Computer study

Researchers on the Helpful Help Project at the University of Washington are conducting a study to examine how users use help systems. We are looking for help users within the greater Seattle and King County area to participate.

The study consists of the completion of an online questionnaire and one two-hour observation session. We encourage anyone who uses help programs on computers or mobile devices to complete the online questionnaire. We are also seeking help users who have visual and other impairments.

Participants will be reimbursed with a

\$10 gift certificate to Amazon.com for completing the questionnaire and participants invited for observation sessions will receive \$24.

To fill out the questionnaire, call 206-616-6110, visit <http://helpfulhelp.ischool.washington.edu/hhstudy.php> or e-mail Melody Ivory at hhstudy@u.washington.edu.

Utility discount

If you are a Seattle City Light or Seattle Public Utilities customer and meet low-income guidelines, you may qualify for utility discounts provided by the Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens even if you are not a senior. Ongoing rate assistance may up to half of your electricity, water, sewer or garbage bills. To be eligible, residents must be living at either 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level or if over age 65, at 70 percent of state median income. For more information about this and other programs from the Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens, call 206-684-0500 or visit www.seattle.gov/humanservices/mosc.

The mission of the Seattle Housing Authority is to enhance the Seattle community by creating and sustaining decent, safe and affordable living environments that foster stability and self-sufficiency for people with low incomes.

Games bring all out
CULTURAL EVENT AT RV
See page 5



SHA NEWS

June
2004

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

HP groundbreaking



At left, an artist's rendition of the new High Point community.

IMAGE COURTESY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Join friends and neighbors on June 30 to celebrate the start of construction on the redevelopment of the High Point community. Festivities will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the parking lot and field behind the new High Point Library at 35th Avenue Southwest and Southwest Raymond Street.

All residents are invited to attend the groundbreaking celebration, which will include refreshments from local restaurants representing a range of diverse foods that reflect some of the ethnic diversity of the neighborhood. Both Mayor Greg Nickels and Seattle Housing Authority Executive Director Tom Tierney will be attending and may be joined by members of Seattle's Congressional delegation.

The groundbreaking will emphasize the environmental sustainability of this redevelopment. Since the very beginning of the planning stages, one goal of the development has been to have a positive effect on the environment.

Many aspects of the development have contributed to this. In fact, planners hope that the redevelopment will be recognized as a model for environmentally sound development and will have a positive impact on the environment.

One key feature of the redevelopment includes an innovative natural drainage

system using natural materials and porous pavement that will enhance salmon habitat and allow the environment to retain the drainage qualities of a mountain meadow.

Earlier in the development process, a pilot deconstruction project recycled materials from 20 of the original High Point structures by carefully taking them apart and reselling the materials, from plumbing fixtures to plywood to two-by-fours.

A "Healthy Homes" grant of \$1.8 million will build 35 environmentally healthy homes and decrease risk factors which cause asthma among low-income children.

Development plans call for the protection and retention of over 124 large trees worth more than \$1.5 million and the addition of approximately 1,500 trees to the site. More than 21-acres of open space consisting of trails and parks will help residents connect to the earth within this urban setting.

The High Point redevelopment will result in the construction of 1,600 new homes on this 130 acre site. There will be 350 public housing units for very-low-income people living at or below 30 percent of area median income and 250 tax-credit units for working families living at up to 60 percent of area median income. The redevelopment will also include a 116-unit assisted living facility for very low-income seniors and 80 for-sale homes affordable to first-time home-buyers.

SHA Board adopts plan to sell some scattered sites

Housing will be bought and sold over the next few years

BY VIRGINIA FELTON
SHA Communications Director

A resolution passed by the Seattle Housing Authority Board on May 17 authorized adjusting the mix of housing in the scattered sites portfolio over the next several years. This was done in order to run the program more cost effectively and provide housing better suited to resident needs.

The Housing Authority plans to sell up to 200 scattered site units. SHA will be sending an application to HUD in the immediate future requesting permission to sell up to 71 of these units initially. The units that are sold will be replaced with units that are more cost effective to manage and, where possible, better located to serve resident needs. The low-density, "scattered" nature of the program will be preserved. The scattered site housing bought to replace the housing units sold will be located in the same neighborhoods and will be suitable for families. Overall, there will be fewer single-family houses in the portfolio, but appropriate family housing opportunities will be retained.

The scattered sites program was established in 1978 to locate lower-density public housing throughout the city. Today SHA operates 787 units in single family, duplex, triplex and small multifamily buildings through this program.

What will happen to current residents?

SHA will make sure that the housing needs of residents currently living in the housing that is sold will continue to be met. The Housing Authority will assist them with moving to other scattered sites or to other SHA housing. Every effort will be made to house families in their current neighborhoods if that is what they want. If possible, moves will be scheduled at a time that is least disruptive to them.

Why is SHA making these changes?

By buying and selling properties in the scattered sites portfolio over the next several years, the Housing Authority hopes to increase the management efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the program. This is part of a strategy to reduce dependence on declining public housing operating and capital subsidies. These sales will also generate revenue to help the Housing Authority meet its replacement housing commitments from the redevelopment of NewHolly, Rainier Vista and High Point,

without tapping into local or state subsidy funds.

Because there are more than 200 single-family homes scattered throughout the city and another 150 in duplex and triplex structures, this portfolio is currently the most expensive one that SHA manages. By changing the mix of properties in this portfolio, the Housing Authority expects to continue offering attractive rental alternatives to families while reducing operating costs. The creation of new mixed-income communities at NewHolly, Rainier Vista and High Point – combined with the substantial increase in Housing Choice Vouchers over the past five years – affords attractive housing opportunities for this group of residents.

How will the proceeds from sales be used?

The Housing Authority's first priority is to replace units sold with units in better locations for residents and more efficient configurations for management. The second priority will be to help fulfill unfunded HOPE VI replacement housing commitments.

Replacement housing considerations

SHA will strive to replace scattered sites housing in small batches - as units are sold - so that the total number of units available remains relatively stable. Units will be replaced in non-poverty neighborhoods throughout Seattle, including the north end. The Housing Authority will seek out new locations near transit, with easy access to shopping, parks, schools and other neighborhood services that meet the needs of low-income residents. Replacement units will be affordable to households with incomes at or below 30 percent of area median income and will have two or more bedrooms and be suitable for families with children. They will blend seamlessly into their surrounding neighborhoods.

How did SHA decide which units to sell?

All the scattered site properties were evaluated to see how well they met the needs of residents compared to how much they cost to manage and maintain. SHA took into consideration the fact that single family houses are very expensive to maintain, while small apartment buildings are more cost effective. Evaluation factors also included: age and general condition of the property; neighborhood quality including proximity to transit and neighborhood services; area concentrations of households in poverty from Census data and the estimated market value of the property. Through this evaluation, 146 units located in 107 properties were identified as "high priority to sell." Additional units may be added to this category in the future to reach the goal of 200 units.

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Upcoming summer events

BY JAMES OWENBY
Seattle Housing Authority

Summer is just around the bend and now is a good time to mark your calendar so you remember to attend some terrific events.

The first event of the summer season is
Please see "Events in the ..." on page 2

Community gardens on display in photo gallery

By KARI SHERRODD
SHA communications staff

Fresh produce is ripening and flowers are blooming throughout Seattle Housing Authority's community gardens. Residents are invited to come and visit a photo gallery highlighting these gardens and their gardeners displayed outside the NewHolly Gathering Hall at 7054 32nd Ave. S.

The black and white photos were taken by Seattle photographer Rudy Brueggemann and capture the purpose of the community gardens and the lives of their gardeners. The gallery will be on display throughout the summer.

As the photos show, the gardens, promoted by the Department of Neighborhood's Cultivating Communities Program (a partnership between the Department of Neighborhood's P-Patch Program and the not-for-profit P-Patch Trust), don't just cultivate produce, herbs and flowers.

"The gardens bring residents together," said Martha Goodlett, Cultivating Communities program manager. "They work side-by-side, providing their families and communities with fresh, organic vegetables."

For many gardeners, harvesting food from their own garden is more than just a pastime, it is a way of life and how they were raised. The gardens give them the opportunity to continue their traditions and pass them on to future generations.

"The gardens also help residents stretch their budgets," Goodlett said. "Much of the food grown in the gardens would be much more expensive if bought at grocery stores."



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Members of a Vietnamese student group help build the NewHolly Garden in April 2002.

The plots are free to residents in the Cultivating Communities Program. The gardens are maintained by donations and through the volunteer time of the gardeners and community members. The gardeners are responsible for maintaining their plots and volunteering to maintain the overall garden space.

Residents who are interested in joining a community garden or who would like more information should contact Martha Goodlett, Cultivating Communities program manager, at 206-684-0540 or Bunly Yun, community garden coordinator, at 206-540-3750. The program has some openings or a short waiting list for gardens in Seattle Housing Authority's communities.

Events in the communities

Continued from front page

Juneteenth at Yesler Terrace. Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration marking the end of slavery in the United States.

Mark your calendar for the Yesler Terrace Juneteenth Celebration from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on June 18. It will take place at the Ida Brown playfield behind the Yesler Terrace Community Center. The celebration will feature a variety of food, music, games for children, a book exchange, chess, line dancing lessons and information booths from community service organizations.

Be sure to mark your calendar for other community events that may be closer to your community this summer too.

Rainier Vista Crime Night Out

From 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on August 3 at the playfield behind Boys and Girls Club. The Rainier Vista Crime Night Out will feature a

variety of food including barbeque and a mix of other ethnic foods, entertainment, games and community service organization information booths.

High Point Diversity Festival

From noon to 3 p.m. on Aug. 14 at the High Point Playfield. The High Point Diversity Festival will also feature a variety of food including barbeque and a mix of other ethnic foods, entertainment, games and community service organization information booths.

NewHolly Family Fun Fest

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Aug. 14 at the Van Asselt Community Center. The NewHolly Family Fun Fest will also feature a variety of food including barbeque and a mix of other ethnic foods, entertainment, games and community service organization information booths.

Resource Directory for scattered site residents

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

A resource directory of community services for residents of Seattle Housing Authority's scattered sites housing will be available soon. The directory will have information about services of special interest to residents, based on the results of a survey completed last spring.

"We found our residents need the locations of food banks, care for their kids, and help finding jobs and emergency rent assistance so they don't lose their home with SHA," said Ellen Broeske, SHA

community builder. "We want to make sure they know what's out there, close to home and in their language."

Different directories designed for specific areas of the city will be released. There will be one for northwest, northeast, west, east, southwest and southeast Seattle. Services in other languages will also be listed in the directories. The directories will be provided to residents at their annual review or can be picked up at SHA Operational Services Center at 1300 N. 130th St. The directories will be available by July 1.

SHA presents budget and annual plan

By KARI SHERRODD
SHA communications staff

Residents and community members are invited to attend the 2005 Budget and "Moving to New Ways" Annual Plan public hearing. The Seattle Housing Authority's asset management coordinator, Ellen Kissman, and finance and administration director, Dick Woo, will present the plans at 5:30 p.m. on June 15 at the PorchLight housing center at 907 N.W. Ballard Way.

The new plans build on the past work of SHA and suggest a variety of actions that will continue the agency's efforts toward better serving low-income residents. There are several suggested actions in the annual plan and budget that will affect current and future SHA residents and community members. Some of these are:

- Create 219 new public housing and workforce units at NewHolly and 184 at Rainier Vista by the end of SHA's fiscal year 2005.
- Create 344 new public housing and workforce units at High Point by the end of SHA's fiscal year 2006.
- With nonprofit partners, build new housing for seniors and people with disabilities at Rainier Vista and High Point.
- Sell 71 scattered sites units and buy 71 units in more accessible locations to replace them. Ask HUD for permission to sell and replace up to 130 more scattered sites units in fiscal years 2005 and 2006.
- Begin a four-year project to renovate up

to 17 public housing high-rises. This would include renovations to designate Ballard House as an elderly preference building.

• If Tri-Court, SHA's first smoke-free community, proves to be popular for residents and applicants, consider making another high-rise smoke-free.

• Study options for replacing Holly Court with a new nearby development.

• Evaluate the renovation of Jefferson Terrace to make it a better place to live.

• Plan for the redevelopment of the former Lake City Village site and next door Salvation Army.

• Make the public housing rent policy for working and TANF households easier to understand and administer.

• Design and implement changes in the Housing Choice Voucher rent policy to encourage people who can work to do so.

• Create and begin a new streamlined inspection system in the Housing Choice Voucher program.

• Establish site-based wait lists for Rainier Vista and High Point.

• Plan for likely continued reductions in federal funding for public housing and the Housing Choice Voucher program.

If you have any questions about the June 15 hearing or the annual plan, contact Ellen Kissman at 206-615-3560 or ekissman@seattlehousing.org. If you need special accommodations, translation or transportation assistance, contact Marcia Johnson at 206-615-3554 by June 7.

Free diversity training available to residents

By JOHN FORSYTH
Community Services Administrator

Beginning in mid-June, Seattle Housing Authority residents and staff will be able to receive training in how to more effectively handle multicultural diversity. This training was specifically requested by public housing resident council leaders in 2003.

VISIONS Inc. (Vigorous Interventions in On-going Settings), a nonprofit organization, will provide the training in three one-and-a-half-day training sessions, with 30 participants in each session. They will be able to provide training for approximately 90 Housing Authority staff members and residents. The sessions will be held on June 15 and 16, June 16 and 17, and June 28 and 29.

The training is meant to serve as a starting point to assist residents and the Housing Authority in gaining a common understanding and language to address issues involving multiculturalism and race. The goal is to provide a training environment

where participants can feel free to discuss concerns they have about relating to people of different cultures and races and gain insight into methods to address these concerns.

VISIONS Inc. has a rich history of helping a variety of organizations with these types of issues. The organization was chosen as a result of a planning group made up of residents and SHA staff working with a representative of the Seattle Office of Civil Rights to identify training that would be most beneficial to a broad-based audience of residents and staff.

Each duly elected public housing council is being asked to choose two residents to attend the training. Councils should contact Annika Sage at 206-615-3573 or asage@seattlehousing.org to sign up. Public housing residents in communities without a council may also sign up, if space is available. The deadline to register is June 10. For more information about VISIONS Inc., visit their Web site at www.visions-inc.com.

New communications staff at SHA will write for Voice

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Kari Sherrodd joined the Seattle Housing Authority in February as the Technical Communications Specialist. She manages SHA's online communications, working as a lead developer for the agency's Web site.

She also writes for The Voice. She received

her bachelor's degree in Journalism and Public Relations from Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash.



Kari Sherrodd

POINT OF VIEW

NEWS ABOUT THE SEATTLE SENIOR HOUSING PROGRAM AND SEATTLE'S HIGH-RISE COMMUNITIES

Why you should 'hold off' on Medicare drug card



PHOTO BY CHARLES REDELL, VOICE

Jim West, a volunteer at Senior Rights Assistance, researches information on the new Medicare Drug Discount Cards.

With some solid research first, low-income seniors will benefit most from cards

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

Medicare drug benefits. Private health insurance. Medicaid. As if medical decisions weren't stressful enough, the number of choices older and disabled adults have to make in regards to their healthcare just grew even larger.

Starting May 1, Medicare began to offer discount drug cards designed to help individuals who don't have additional prescription drug coverage pay the costs of their medication. The move is a part of an overhaul of the Medicare program passed

by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush last year. The discount drug cards, which are offered by private companies and approved by Medicare, are meant to ease the burden on Medicare recipients until the bulk of the Medicare changes go into affect in 2006.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, the new Medicare-approved Discount Drug Cards are expected to offer beneficiaries discounts between 10 and 25 percent on their prescriptions.

"The power to save on prescription drugs is now in the hands of seniors and people with disabilities," HHS Secretary Tommy G.

Thompson said in a statement.

However, according to some, that power isn't as attainable as it is meant to be.

Jean Mathisen is program manager for Senior Services' Senior Rights Assistance project. She says that although the new cards may be good news for seniors who have to pay hundreds of dollars a year in drug costs, the tools Seattle-area residents need to compare the almost 40 different cards that are available to them aren't yet complete.

In fact, two weeks after a Web page designed by Medicare to help beneficiaries compare different cards was launched, Mathisen said, "If you go to the Medicare Web site today, all the information still isn't there."

The need for the Web site to be up to speed is essential she said. For instance, Mathisen said that the companies providing the cards can charge up to \$30 and don't have to cover every drug available. Additionally, some pharmacies won't accept some cards while other pharmacies may accept an individual's chosen card but charge more than another pharmacy for the drugs. This makes choosing a discount card more involved than simply finding the least expensive one accepted by a local pharmacy.

Finding out which card is the one to choose can be a challenge. One of the volunteers for the Senior Rights Assistance project, Jim Hunt, spends time each week answering calls for assistance from area seniors. He said that the new program is already causing confusion for people.

"It really is not easy," he said of Medicare's Web site. "It's so new and so

early in its application. It has an element of confusion for all of us."

Mathisen said, "For most people, we are saying 'hold off'" on buying a card. "Wait to see what cards are the best."

Mathisen did say that one group of people who will immediately benefit from the cards are low-income individuals.

According to HHS, low-income Medicare beneficiaries with incomes of less than \$12,569 a year (or \$16,862 if married) receive an automatic \$600 a year subsidy for their prescriptions when they get a card.

"Those in greatest need will receive the most help from the drug discount card program," Secretary Thompson said.

According to Mathisen, while the \$600 subsidy is an obvious help, other programs already exist that might be as helpful if not more so. She said that it is important for low-income seniors to use a service sponsored by the National Council on Aging called BenefitsCheckUp. By connecting to the program's Web site at www.benefitscheckup.org, seniors can research a number of programs that offer all sorts of financial help including help with prescription drug costs.

More help will be available to residents of Seattle Housing Authority buildings in the coming month. At the request of Marcia Johnson, SHA community builder, Mathisen is creating a presentation about the new discount drug cards.

To get assistance finding out what benefits that you might be eligible for, contact Senior Rights Assistance toll-free at 1-888-ELDERS. To access Medicare's discount drug card comparison Web site, visit www.medicare.gov.

Our mental health is a community effort

By JEFFREY GERHARDSTEIN
Special to The Voice

Residents of each of the high-rise communities have their own style, their own way of exercising mental health. In one community, residents participate on a safety committee. In another community, a regular pancake breakfast gets residents socializing. But everywhere, residents care about the mental health of their own community and are utilizing the mental health case management program to do something about it.

As the Mental Health Case Manager, I tour high-rise communities, address residents on the topic of mental health and work with a caseload of residents referred to my service. The kinds of issues that I help with vary widely.

Some residents have disputes with neighbors and need a listening ear. Some require help with housework due to failing emotional health. Some suffer an addiction to alcohol or drugs and get into trouble with housing. Prepared for each kind of challenge, I carry chore supplies in my car trunk and pounds of resource lists in a tattered brown Value Village briefcase.

But just how is mental health a community act?

Since the inception of the mental health case management program, roughly 175

SHA residents have been directly served by the mental health case manager. Currently, 45 SHA high-rise residents are attending Seattle-area community mental health centers and receiving counseling and case management services thanks to the program.

A whopping 25 percent of all mental health referrals come directly from the resident community. Nearly all of these are residents who have decided to take healthy action into their own hands. Occasionally, a neighbor, friend or family member phones in with a concern.

Concerned residents of various high-rises place phone calls, sometimes anonymously, when there is grave concern about the mental health of a resident who is facing eviction. Many residents deplore homelessness and understand that mentally ill adults may become especially vulnerable.

Think about it. Your phone calls placed to the confidential voice mailbox of the mental health case manager have helped launch a healthier lifestyle in our SHA high-rises. There couldn't be a more community-minded approach to mental health than that.

Thank you for helping create a more supportive, happier community.

Jeffrey Gerhardstein is the CPC mental health case manager in SHA high-rise communities. For questions about mental health, please call him at 206-545-8611.

Bell Tower gets grant

Community member sees need, fills it

By AMY SIQVELAND
Voice reporter

In May, the City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods awarded Bell Tower's executive committee chairman, Price Cochran, a \$250 Small Sparks grant. The Small Sparks program offers monetary support and coaching in project development to individuals interested in building stronger communities. Projects must relate to neighborhood design and organization, with an emphasis on creating community ties.

"This marks the first time Bell Tower has ever received a grant from the Department," Cochran said. "We had some flowers growing here last year that were very pretty and the neighbors all liked them and the people who lived here liked them so we just decided to make it an official yearly project for BT."

Cochran, who has served on the executive committee since October, came up with the idea of seeking further funding for continuing this project while networking with other community leaders at a Resident Action Council meeting last fall.

"There was a woman there who handled the southern end of the city for the Department of Neighborhoods and she was talking about grant money," Cochran said.

"I met with the department and they gave a verbal approval."

Bell Tower plans to host a block party as soon as the details are worked out. Allynn Ruth, project manager for the Neighborhood Matching Funds, emphasized that the meetings prior to the event are all important to the actual day.

"They are still working out the particulars of how, when and what to include and the initiator of the grant is working with the other residents to make sure everybody is on board. So that's the community building piece of it that happens, where we are inclusive of all opinions. Everyone still gets to have their voice heard and, once all views are aired, we will be setting an actual date."

While the details are still being solidified, the executive committee does have a strong sense of their ultimate goal.

"We want to reach out to the people in this neighborhood and show that we want to be a part of it," Cochran said. "We want to show that we are proud of where we live and that we are good neighbors. We're going to have a cookout, we're going to have a jukebox playing some oldies music. Everyone is free to come and plant a little flower if they want to."

For more information on the Small Sparks program, call Allynn Ruth at 206-684-0464.

HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY

Dedicated community rep. has unique views

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

Calvalita Browning is the Secretary of the High Point Community Council, although she no longer lives in the community because of HOPE VI redevelopment. This is only one of the interesting facts that help make up this dynamic, unique, community-minded artist who is committed to a neighborhood she calls "a home away from home."

Browning moved to Seattle from Texas 19 years ago and has been a part of High Point for the past 11 years. After attending community meetings and dinners during her first years in the community, she joined the Community Council two years ago when she was approached by other members and asked to run for Secretary.

"I was concerned about the residents and their concerns," she says. "Things as small as having clotheslines up to crime issues. I started out going to community

meetings and community dinners." High Point "had a community feel."

Browning's work on the Community Council isn't the only way she's involved in the community that she has called home for many years. She has volunteered as a reading teacher in local schools and as an usher at ArtsWest, a West Seattle theater company.

She also looks out for the future of High Point by sitting on the HOPE VI redevelopment committee, the Healthy Homes Steering Committee and on the Joint Policy Action Council where she represents the interests of High Point residents and its council with the Seattle Housing Authority.

Browning is in a unique situation as a member of the Council who no longer lives in High Point. As a result, she has her own specific views of the HOPE VI redevelopment project as well. She says that SHA staff has "done wonderful work."

"They've been very supportive of High Point," she said.

She also likes the designs for the new community. Specifically, Browning pointed to the new, wide streets that will be put in and said that the homes are very nice, though she is concerned that "they are too close together."

Whatever concerns she has around the new community, Browning is adamant that the people who move there work together to intermingle. As an example, she pointed to the many immigrants and refugees who call High Point home. She says she wants to see all people come together to build a strong community, regardless of background.

"Why not get involved in the



PHOTO BY CHARLES REDELL, VOICE

Calvalita Browning tries to keep herself "laid back."

community," she asked. "If we understand each other, if we get involved in each other's holidays, with that type of closeness, the community could be a gem in itself."

HP library to reopen

After more than a year, a new branch with more space, more computers and new services



IMAGE COURTESY SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

A designer's drawing of the new library at High Point.

By VOICE STAFF

After more than a year, the new High Point branch library is opening its doors to the public this month. From noon to 4 p.m. on June 19, the entire community is invited to come and celebrate the opening of the city's newest branch library.

The 7,000 square-foot state-of-the-art building replaces the old branch library which was only 1,200 square feet and closed on April 5, 2003 (Since then, the closest branches for library users in the neighborhood have been the Southwest branch - which is about half of a mile south on 35th Avenue Southwest - and the Delridge branch - which is more than a mile from High Point). A bookmobile has visited Head Start and High Point Elementary classrooms to fill in the service gaps for the youngest High Point area residents, but the new library is going to fill a huge need.

Along with the additional space, the library will increase the number of computers for visitors to use from five to 15, an expanded collection of books, CDs and movies, children's, young adult and homework program areas, with special emphasis on middle and high school student needs and 48 more hours of library service per week.

"The youth in the community will find a valuable asset in this new library," said Kari-

lynn Frank, Seattle Housing Authority community builder. "The design of the facility really put the kids first. There are many spaces for teens and children to experience the library in their own way. The Seattle Public Library has really put the learning experience of youth first."

The grand opening celebration will feature visits from Mayor Greg Nickels, musical entertainment by Les Femmes d'Enfer, a series of "sky legend stories" from many cultures told in different languages including English, Spanish, Somali and Vietnamese and a visit from the library's mascot Lulu - "a book fairy" according to Caroline Ullman, spokesperson for Seattle Public Library.

The new High Point Branch is located next door to Puget Sound Neighborhood Health Center's High Point Medical Clinic at 3411 S.W. Raymond St. The building was designed by Miller Hayashi Architects and includes artwork by Steven Gardner. The project cost more than \$3 million and was paid for by a \$196 million "Libraries for All" bond measure passed by Seattle voters in 1998. That bond will eventually pay to update all of the branch libraries and for a new Central Library that opened in downtown in May. For more information about the opening celebration, call 206-733-9986 or visit www.spl.org.

World Asthma Day

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice staff

Last month, three Neighborhood Asthma Committee sites in the Rainier Valley, White Center and Burien recruited businesses in their neighborhoods to participate in this year's World Asthma Day. More than 30 businesses participated by putting up signs that said: "Our business supports the local Neighborhood Asthma Committee by having a smoke free day on May 4, 2004 in honor of World Asthma Day." According to Maythia Airhart, coordinator of the Neighborhood Asthma Committees for Allies Against Asthma, many of the businesses were very happy to take part in World Asthma Day.

The owner of Pho Mai on 15th Avenue Southwest in White Center was one of the most excited she said. His restaurant usually has a smoking section according to Airhart. It did not on that day.

"The owner was really excited to be able to be a participant in the event," Airhart said. "He put up two posters to let everyone know he was taking the day off from smoking. 'This is good for everyone' he said."

Neighborhood Asthma committees are funded by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and were created in order to educate members of Seattle and

King County's low-income populations about asthma.

Airhart said that participants on the committees are often affected by asthma when they join. Though their mission is to educate the greater community, members of the committees have learned quite a lot themselves thanks to the guest speakers such as doctors and nurses who attend their regular meetings.

Airhart pointed to the leader of the White Center committee as an excellent example.

"Her daughter has severe asthma but hasn't been in a hospital for two years," Airhart said. "Because of this education and support in the community, members of the committees often have access to the doctors and nurses who speak at meetings. They very often are willing to stay after and meet individually with people."

Neighborhood Asthma Committees are open to anyone who is interested in learning more about asthma and educating members of their community about the disease. Allies Against Asthma, which coordinates the committees, works closely with Mao Theam from the High Point Healthy Homes project and invites all residents of High Point to get involved in the White Center Committee. To find out more information, call Maythia Airhart at 206-205-0916 or visit www.metrokc.gov/health/asthma/forum.htm.

Community notes

Correction

Last month in an article on this page, The Voice may have misstated the funding source for the Creating Lasting Family Connections program. The program is funded by Seattle-King County Public Health's Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Program. We apologize for any confusion.

Community Council meeting

The High Point Community Council meets at 6 p.m. the second Monday of every month at Holly Hall. For more

information call 206-937-5459.

Diversity Festival

The annual High Point Diversity Festival will be held this year on Saturday, Aug. 14 and there will be a contest for this year's festival poster and T-shirt design. The theme for the festival (which must be used in the design) will be "Celebrating You Celebrating Me." All High Point and West Seattle residents are welcome to enter. Entries must be postmarked by June 15. For more information, call 206-938-4667.

RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

Senior gathering attendees get wet

Special senior gathering brings new and old friends together and introduces them all to a valuable neighborhood resource

By NEFERTARI I
Seattle Housing Authority

The Senior Gathering held on April 28 at the Rainier Beach Community Center involved 39 seniors from Rainier Vista, NewHolly, Peter Claver House, Park Place and surrounding neighborhoods. In addition, nine Seattle University nursing students assisted with the event.

The nursing students presented information on safe physical activities for seniors. The seniors were also given helpful tips on the value of swimming as a great physical exercise. At the end of the Senior Gathering, several seniors participated in a special opportunity to join other neighborhood seniors in a water aerobics class. The free class was offered as an

introduction to the many activities available at the Rainier Beach Community Center.

The monthly and special quarterly Senior Gatherings are sponsored as a southeast senior partnership with Neighborhood House, Seattle University Nursing Program, Puget Sound Neighborhood Health Centers, International District Housing Alliance, Park Place, Seattle Parks and Recreation and Seattle Housing Authority.

For information on activities for seniors at the Rainier Beach Community Center please contact Angela Smith, Senior Adult Programs Southeast District at 206-684-7484 or Anita Adams, Rainier Beach Recreation Center Coordinator at 206-386-1925.

For more information on exciting upcoming Senior Gathering events please contact Annie Edwards at 206-461-4568 ext. 2.

JobsPlus and Job Corps lead to a new start

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

Almost one year ago, Khanh Truong went to visit Larry Hill, JobsPlus coordinator, because he wanted to get a job in one of the construction trades. Hill saw the potential in this young man who was so driven to succeed and immediately helped start him on the path to getting a living-wage job.

According to Hill, the first thing that they did was work on some applications for quality local contractors. At the same time, the two men had a long-term active conversation going on about specialty trades related to the reconstruction of residential units in Seattle.

After some time, Truong, who is 25 years old, decided what he wanted to do with his career and enrolled in Job Corps, an organization that provides intensive hands-on training in a variety of building trades. Truong headed off to Sedro-Woolley, Wash. to receive training so that he could eventually become a journeyman electrician. He took well to the training and was even named "Electrician Student of the Month."

In April, Truong came home to Rainier Vista on break from his training activities and went to find Hill for some more help finding a job. His final requirement to graduate from the Job Corps program would be to "find a construction job."

Hill and Truong went to work putting together a new application for Walsh Construction. Shortly after that application was in, Truong received a call to be interviewed at Walsh. He did an excellent job in his interview and scheduled the drug test and physical that the company requires of all its employees right away. He called his counselor at the Job Corps to share the good news.

His counselor was worried that this new



PHOTO COURTESY LARRY HILL, JOBSPLUS

Khanh Truong is working as a laborer and is on his way to being a journeyman electrician.

job might not allow Truong to get back to Sedro-Woolley in order to fill out the final paperwork and collect his personal belongings. So Hill stepped in to help fix the problem and was able to negotiate a solution that would allow Truong to take care of these formalities on a Saturday when the facilities are generally closed.

Currently Truong is doing a great job at Walsh where he works half a block away from home. He is close to fulfilling his requirements for Job Corps and is earning a living wage at the same time.

"I want to stay with the electrical trade and get my union journeyman card," Truong said. "To succeed ... you must get along with others. And don't get into trouble. Follow the rules."

For information about Job Corps or to get help from Larry Hill at JobsPlus, call 206-722-4010 ext. 6.

Community event brings out many cultures



PHOTO BY AMY SIQVELAND, VOICE

At a Game Night hosted by Seattle University nursing students in May, residents had a chance to come out and get to know each other through a variety of cultural events and games. At left, one of the young participants has some fun.

By AMY SIQVELAND
Voice reporter

A recent development in the Seattle University School of Nursing curriculum was the establishment of a community-based sequence of courses. During their sixth and seventh quarters, nursing students are required to meet with providers and residents in communities surrounding the school to create specific projects that will meet identified community needs.

"The curriculum at the Seattle University School of Nursing incorporates numerous community experiences which are intended to instill in students the importance of primary healthcare," explained Matthew Cazier, one of the this year's nursing students. "The university itself is based on the Jesuit tradition of service and social justice, and the College of Nursing has had a special relationship with Rainier Vista, NewHolly, High Point, Yesler Terrace and Park Lake for over three years now."

The students' involvement in the communities has resulted in the continuation of many projects. At NewHolly, one group of students created a community Health Desk. Now, each Winter and Spring quarter, a new group of students staffs that desk in order to meet the community and get to know their health concerns.

The students who work at Yesler Terrace have been involved in the planning of

regular community events such as last winter's Disaster Preparedness Fair or the annual Holiday Senior Luncheon.

Although the students' projects do have a loose structure to fit the academic requirements, the ideas and the manner in which the events are organized come directly from the community members themselves.

This year, on May 21, Seattle University nursing students hosted a game night in partnership with the Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club, Seattle Housing Authority, Girl Scouts and Neighborhood House as a part of their project. There were games, food and various cultural performances. There were also prizes awarded to children for their efforts.

"We conducted interviews with key people who work with the community," said Robyn Seaburg, another nursing student. "It was determined that there was a need for an event that would bring families from different cultures together in the Rainier Vista neighborhood at this time."

Beverly Johnson, the faculty member at Seattle University who oversaw the students' project said, "Our short term goals for the evening were conversations and play among families that attended and our long term goals are increased interaction among RV residents. It is my hope that this event was able to stimulate those initial interactions and conversations."

Community notes

Summer blast

Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club presents Summer Blast 2004. The program will be from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday between June 21 and August 20. The cost will be \$60 per week or \$450 for nine weeks. There are special rates for Rainier Vista residents. Your child's days will be filled with fun and exciting activities including swimming, field trips, computer activities, arts and crafts and much more. For more information contact Denise Lewis at 206-725-4197.

Free advertisement for residents

Rainier Vista's Community Information Station is available to residents who want to place an ad for free. The bulletin board is located outside on the wall of the community room. To place an ad, call 206-461-4568 or stop by the office located at 3600 S. Oregon St.

Council meeting

The community meetings for the

Rainier Vista Leadership Team are on the second Wednesday of the month. The meetings are at 6:30 p.m. In June, the meeting will be held on June 9.

Correction

Last month, Michael Neguse was identified as the "new Community Police Team contact" at Rainier Vista. He is actually the new Seattle Neighborhood Group Crime Prevention Organizer. We apologize for any confusion.

Computer study

Researchers at the University of Washington are conducting a study to examine how users use help systems. The study consists of the completion of an online questionnaire and one two-hour observation session. Participants will receive a \$10 gift certificate to Amazon.com and those invited to observation sessions will receive \$24.

To fill out the questionnaire, call 206-616-6110, or e-mail Melody Ivory at hhstudy@u.washington.edu.

NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

Many neighbors have variety of stories to tell

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

Everyone knows that there are many different cultures living in NewHolly. Vietnamese, Somali and Russian families share the neighborhood with people from Eritrea, the Philippines and Mexico. Public housing residents live next door to homeowners, senior citizens share the sidewalks with children and the list goes on. It is how NewHolly is supposed to work thanks to an effort by the Seattle Housing Authority to end what many see as the segregation of low-income people in specific public housing communities.

But a feeling of community between neighbors isn't created just by having people from different backgrounds live next door to each other. Helping make that first connection between people is the goal behind the Many Neighbors, Many Stories project at NewHolly.

The project was created when the City of Seattle awarded the NewHolly Multicultural Communication Club a grant for \$14,180 in September 2003. Now, the project is well under way and its volunteer members are fanning out across the community to interview their neighbors as part of an effort to introduce all the unique cultures in NewHolly to everyone living in the neighborhood.

One of these volunteers is Beverly Riley. She was a resident of the old Holly Park and still lives in NewHolly today. She has lived in the community for 24 years and is no stranger to diverse cultures. Her husband was in the Army and as a result, her family has lived all over the world.

"For people from different cultures, it's hard to get to know each other," she says. "I can see the advantage of people getting to know each other better. They understand better how to be helpful to each other."

Every so often Riley gets in touch with another volunteer resident of NewHolly and sets up a time to meet with them to conduct an interview. She asks them if they want to meet in the subject's home – which Riley prefers because then she can see how the person lives – or somewhere else such as the NewHolly Family Center.

When she meets with her subject, Riley helps the person feel comfortable with the situation by chatting informally for a few minutes. After that, she launches into the interview questions that were written by the project's organizers.

The next step in the project will be to take all the information learned and collect it into a booklet to distribute to the whole community. The goal, according to Riley, is to make it more comfortable for people from different cultures that live next door to each other to make the first move and initiate a



PHOTO COURTESY ATLANTIC STREET CENTER

The Many Neighbors, Many Stories group held a kickoff celebration during April's Parent's Night Out event. Beverly Riley, right, celebrated the project's launch.

friendship.

"Many Neighbors, Many Stories is encouraging people to get to know their neighbors better," Riley says. "We hope that this will bring the community closer together."

There are many types of volunteer opportunities available with the Many Neighbors, Many Stories project. For more information or to be a part of the project, contact Joy Moro at 206-723-1725 or jmoro@seattlehousing.org.

Community activists work for traffic safety

Unsafe drivers are a concern but the city can't help, so residents take on the project themselves

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

Traffic safety is a concern that everyone shares. In a new neighborhood such as NewHolly however, it is a subject that people pay more attention to as kinks get worked out of the new area's road designs.

According to Joy Moro, Seattle Housing Authority community builder, many of the intersections in NewHolly are uncontrolled. This means that they don't have a stop sign or a yield sign. Additionally, some residents have noted that drivers in the neighborhood tend to speed down the quiet streets endangering children and pets.

In response, members of the NewHolly Safety Club have instigated a traffic safety project that they hope will change the way people drive around NewHolly.

The first step in this project, according to Naomi Hairychin who is a Block Watch captain and a member of the safety club, was to invite John Maerck from the City of Seattle to visit NewHolly and make recommendations about the community's traffic concerns. When he visited early this year, he noted many locations where improvements could be made but told Hairychin that the city can't put in additional speed bumps or street signs until there is a history of accidents at a specific location.

"SDOT basically doesn't have the

money to be preventative," Moro said referring to the Seattle Department of Traffic.

This got Hairychin and her friend Linyae Solomon thinking that they would have to do something on their own. In May, the two women, with the help of Moro, organized a traffic safety forum in the NewHolly Gathering Hall.

"People feel really disempowered. They feel like: 'What can I do?'" Hairychin said before the event. "We're going to tell them what they can do."

One of the things the women told attendees that they could do was make their own street signs. At the event, Hairychin and Solomon showed examples of signs that they had drawn with their families and encouraged everyone in attendance to make some as well. Then, according to Moro, she could use some of the SHA community building budget to get them printed up. Residents could then post those signs in their yards and parking strips in an effort to get drivers to slow down and look out for children.

The goal, according to Moro, is to get the signs up before the summer and school lets out.

"I think those yard signs would be really effective," Moro said.

To learn more about the traffic safety project or the NewHolly Safety Club, contact Joy Moro at 206-723-1725.

Teen health site launches

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

Thanks to the work of a group of Seattle University nursing students and the input of NewHolly teenagers, there is a new online resource available to help teens find answers to many of their health-related questions.

Resa Schell, Jerrae Johanson, Cheryl Jacob, Jill Brinks, Kim Fierst and Monica Jackins have gotten to know NewHolly over the last two years by working closely with residents of the neighborhood at the Community Health Desk, interviewing service providers and community leaders. Their overall goal was to find out what health concerns NewHolly residents wanted to see addressed and then to address them.

According to the lively group of nursing students, the biggest concern they heard from residents was that the health desk is only staffed once a week and for just six months out of the year. Residents, they said, were asking for more resources to be available more often.

According to Schell, because teenagers most often approached them with questions,

a Web site seemed to be a natural way to offer additional health information on a regular basis.

The new Web site incorporates the questions the students heard from various teenagers at the health desk and those raised during a teen health forum organized by another group of nursing students at NewHolly earlier this year.

The categories that the Web site covers are extremely varied and cover traditional health information such as eating disorders and exercise as well as less traditional health concerns like spiritual health. Fierst called it a "holistic" approach to the topic of health.

All of the resources that will be listed are accredited agencies such as the Department of Health. Additionally, thanks to a partnership with the Atlantic Street Center at NewHolly, there are plans for neighborhood teens to display their artwork and be involved with the site long term.

"We're trying to find ways for them to own it," Fierst said.

The new teen health resources Web site can be accessed by visiting www.teenhealthtwister.org.

Community notes

Family Study Time

The NewHolly Youth and Family Center offers family study time from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday evenings. During these family study times, school-aged youth receive help from tutors with their school work while at the same time, parents can get help with learning English as a Second Language, English conversation, GED preparation, citizenship studies and more. No appointment is necessary. For more

information, call 206-723-4073.

NewHolly Library events

The NewHolly library will have many events for youth this summer including "Brothers from Different Mothers: Juggling Show" at 10:30 a.m. on July 2. Join the brothers for an unforgettable show filled with adventurous humor, witty patter and lots of stuff flying through the air. This program is suitable for ages 5 and up.

YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

New P-Patch starts to grow

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

A new P-patch garden is being built in Yesler Terrace in a large plot below the Ida Brown Memorial playfield.

According to Haley Smith, an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer with the P-Patch program, there will be about 30 plots available when the construction is done. On top of those, literally, is a terraced area where some native plants will be planted. This area was not originally planned to be a part of the garden but, when the contractor regraded the site, he removed extra vegetation and hillside soil which will result in the extra beautification for the neighborhood.

Smith said that a lot of work still has to go into the fledgling garden before anything can be planted there. She also said that there are work parties planned for the next few weeks so Yesler Terrace residents interested in helping out can lend a hand. According to Smith, those who do volunteer to construct the garden are first on the list to get a patch to garden themselves.

The area where the new P-Patch is located needs all the help it can get. The stairs that run next to it are known around Yesler Terrace as a place where drug dealers and other individuals engaged in illicit activities gather. But with the introduction of the new P-Patch and some unique ideas, the criminal activity around the area has begun to decrease (please see the related

article on this page).

Though the area is not much more than a barren patch of land now, Smith sees much potential in the P-Patch site. She called it a “good sunny spot” and said that new soil full of nutrients would be spread on it to a depth of two feet.

“Anything that grows well in the Pacific Northwest will grow well here,” she said.

Smith also pointed out that planting in the garden is a great way to serve more nutritious meals and save money. All planting in P-Patches has to be organic, which means that no chemical fertilizers or pesticides can be used. To help make sure this happens, the city offers multilingual organic gardening classes around the city (please see related article in the Local and National section on page 2) and the P-Patch program often gives out free organic seeds.

The new P-Patch is the result of a grant awarded by the City of Seattle to the Yesler Terrace community last year. That grant is meant to pay for construction of the initial plot. Prospective gardeners need not worry that the garden will fall into disarray once the initial investment is spent. At that point, the garden falls under the auspices of the city’s P-Patch program and will get the same support that every P-Patch in Seattle gets. Additionally, a nonprofit organization called the P-Patch Trust makes small grants available to upgrade gardens.

For more information or to get involved in the new P-Patch, contact Haley Smith at 206-684-3028.

Juneteenth is coming

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

The annual Yesler Terrace Juneteenth celebration is just around the corner.

This year’s party will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, June 18. According to Ellen Broeske, Seattle Housing Authority community builder for the neighborhood, the festival will be very exciting for everybody involved.

“Even though this is my first Juneteenth at Yesler, many of the members of the planning committee have been doing this for years, so they know what people like to do at this event,” she said.

One of the new ideas that Broeske was most excited about is a book exchange. Organizers will bring books from home that they no longer want. They are hoping that residents will do the same so that everyone who wants to can take home a new book to read.

“We’re making sure to get the word out to non-English speaking residents too,” Broeske said. “We really want to make sure that they can exchange books in their languages as well.”

Entertainment at the event will include a local Eritrean youth dance group, the Phi Beta Sigma Step Group and the Raging Grannies.

Finally, of course, is the food. Juneteenth at Yesler Terrace is known as a community barbeque and always features tasty treats. This year is no exception. Broeske said that there will be traditional American favorites like hamburgers and hotdogs as well as a sampling of more far-flung favorites from East Africa and Southeast Asia.

Juneteenth is an entirely free, volunteer-driven event and help is still needed. If you are interested in assisting with set-up, clean up, food service, running activities or something else, contact Ellen Broeske at 206-343-7484.

Notes from the manager

By JUDI CARTER
Community Manager

School will be out soon and I’m hoping that all residents will be able to enjoy a safe and trouble-free summer. Here are some guidelines to help make that possible:

- Barbeque grills must be kept at least five feet away from buildings. Those with an upstairs one bedroom apartment will not be able to barbeque on the balcony. If you are using charcoal briquettes, make sure that they are cold before you put them into your

garbage can.

- If you have a wading pool, please do not leave children alone while they are in it. While filling it, watch to assure that it does not run over, wasting water. Please empty the pool every day; and never leave it full overnight. It only takes a few minutes for a child to drown in a pool.

- Fireworks are illegal and dangerous to use. In years past, fires have started from the use of fireworks. Please do not buy your children fireworks.

I hope to see everyone at Juneteenth.

Changing the land to get rid of crime



PHOTO BY CHARLES REDELL, VOICE

During a Crime Prevention meeting at the Willow tree below the new P-Patch in Yesler Terrace, Sonja Richter explained her ideas for solving crime problems through intentional environmental design.

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

As the new Yesler Terrace P-Patch finally gets off the ground and more and more residents are expected to use the stairs next to the freeway between Yesler Terrace and South Jackson Street, more attention is being paid to the dangerous situation that often exists on those stairs.

According to many community members, the stairs are often unusable because of the criminal activities such as drug dealing that take place on them.

One major problem spot is the grassy area on the east side of the city-owned stairs just below the P-Patch – which is owned by Seattle Housing Authority. This is a popular hangout spot thanks to the convenient hiding place created by a few bushes and a low-hanging Willow tree. Many people who live and work around Yesler Terrace say that they won’t use the stairs anymore because of the things they have seen going on there.

A solution is being crafted and hope, thanks in part to the new P-Patch (see related article on this page), is starting to bloom.

In May, the East Precinct Crime Prevention Coordinator, Sonja Richter presented her ideas for solving the problems using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) techniques at two public meetings.

According to a brochure published by the Seattle Police Department, CPTED is “a concept that integrates a natural approach to crime prevention and neighborhood planning. It works to prevent crime problems by introducing concerns about crime into the design and planning stages of building projects.”

Richter told a group of concerned residents at a crime prevention meeting held under the Willow tree next to the stairs last month that some people who have been discussing the problem area have suggested cutting down the Willow itself as a solution. Richter said that she thinks this is the wrong way to go.

She quoted her son at the meeting. “Look at it this way: ‘Does the Willow tree do drugs?’”

Showing the group around the spot, Richter described her ideas for it. Instead of cutting down “a beautiful tree,” she said it would make more sense to remove two short, dense bushes that block the view up the hill from South Jackson Street to create natural hiding spots. She also said that trimming the branches of the Willow would help the situation without killing the tree.

Finally, she pointed to a well-worn path that leads off the stairs and into the trees. If some of the excavated dirt from the P-Patch construction were moved to that spot to stretch the hillside south, there would be no flat land for people to hide on any longer.

One attendee at the meeting, Yesler Terrace resident Jerry Marche, agreed that cutting down the tree is the wrong idea.

“People who come down here to work [on the P-Patch] might want to get in the shade. I think to trim the tree up would work,” he said.

Herold Eby, Yesler Terrace community council president, was also at the meeting. He made it clear that he wants to save the 100-year old tree and supports Richter’s ideas to stop crime on the spot.

“This tree is major historical item,” he said. “We don’t want that tree chucked. It needs to be preserved.”

Community notes

Free Internet access

The computer lab offers free Internet access and classes to residents interested in learning basic computer skills. The center is located at 825 Yesler Way. It is adjacent to Yesler Community Center on the lower level. For more information call 206-386-1245.

Basic computer skills

A basic computer skills class is available for adults at the Yesler Computer Lab. Classes are two days a week and last up to 10 weeks. Students will learn Introduction to Windows, Microsoft Word, Excel and the Internet. The center is located at 825 Yesler Way. For more information call 206-386-1245.

Study help needed

Researchers at the University of Washington are conducting a study to examine how users use help systems. We are looking for help users within the greater Seattle and King County area to participate. We encourage anyone who uses help programs on computers or mobile devices to complete the online questionnaire. Participants will be reimbursed with a \$10 gift certificate to Amazon.com for completing the questionnaire. Participants who are invited for observation sessions will receive \$24.

To fill out the questionnaire, call 206-616-6110, or e-mail Melody Ivory at hhstudy@u.washington.edu.

