



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



The Voice

May
2004
*Articles translated
into six languages*

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

Celebrating in White Center



PHOTO BY CHARLES REDELL, VOICE

Hundreds of people celebrated during the second annual Cambodian New Year's Celebration in White Center in early April. Visitors to the block-long festival browsed through booths set up by local merchants, viewed displays about the culture and history of Cambodia and had the opportunity to create some traditional Cambodian crafts. Above, a group of youth from a local Cambodian dance troupe perform a traditional dance. The celebration was sponsored by the White Center Community Development Association.

Education levy plan released by Mayor

Some support proposal but also complain that key programs are cut

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

Mayor Greg Nickels announced his proposal last month for the new Families and Education Levy. Because he is increasing the amount of the levy from \$69 million to \$103 million over seven years, Nickels promised voters that his plan will provide assurances that their tax dollars are being spent on successful programs and that it will help at-risk youth get back on the right track and stay there.

"Too many children are failing in our schools," Nickels said. "Too many children are unprepared to learn. The purpose of the levy is to rescue these children. Every child and every family, that is our goal."

According to Nickels, two out of three Seattle children graduate from high school, but only half of the children of color in the city make it to graduation. This, he said, means that many of Seattle's poorest youth are leaving school without the skills to get a "21st century job."

Members of the two committees charged with drafting the Mayor's proposal also voiced support for the final product.

James Kelly, president of the Urban League of Seattle and a member of the Citizens Advisory

Please see "ESL students' health ..." on page 3

Greenbridge housing designs unveiled

By CLAUDE IOSSO
King County Housing Authority

Addressing a major resident desire, architects intend to design most housing at Greenbridge to be ground-related. The GGLO team decided to use the hills at the site and get rid of back doors so a majority of residents will have front doors at grade level.

In many cases, apartments stacked one upon the other will face in opposite directions, with the doorway for the lower

unit at the bottom of a slope and the doorway for the upper unit at the top.

Greenbridge is the mixed-income community that will replace Park Lake Homes I. About 75 Park Lake residents got a chance to see housing designs at a community meeting at the Boys & Girls Club gym in the Wiley Center on April 14. KCHA showed plans for housing to go up at or near the center of Greenbridge on Eighth Avenue Southwest, Ninth Avenue Southwest and 10th Avenue Southwest.

Residents asked for details about the new

housing, particularly how well it would be soundproofed and when it would be completed. The Housing Authority will insulate apartments to limit noise traveling between them. The housing will be constructed in phases, the earliest to be completed in 2007.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, KCHA staff showed the audience drawings of the planned housing, maps of Greenbridge roads and parks and renderings of what the community's main street, Eighth Avenue Southwest, will look like.

Several residents said they liked the designs.

"After studying how sewers, roads and utilities will be provided for Greenbridge for so long, it's very exciting to begin planning what everyone really cares about – the housing and community facilities," HOPE VI general manager Deborah Gooden said. "I feel certain that the designs we're proposing will meet many tenant and community goals, including variety of style, ground-related access and a range of

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Quotable

"It is challenging for me to help all of our students get medical care and attention for their various health needs."

Madison Middle School nurse,
Samara Hoag

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Health Notes

A column devoted to your well-being

Getting the most from your medical appointment

By **KIM POWERS, MA, LMHC, CDP**
ELSABET LEGESSE, MSW

For some people a medical appointment is a routine matter, while for many others it can invoke stress and anxiety. Planning ahead can help you get the most from your appointment and help you take charge of your health.

Who is in charge of your health?

It is really a team effort with both you and your provider sharing responsibility. Your provider diagnoses, recommends treatments, and offers care, but, ultimately, you are the one who must carry out the recommendations, take your medications and follow through. Here are some ideas that may help when you go to an office visit.

Three parts of a medical appointment

A medical appointment is usually divided into three parts. The first part is your opportunity to express your symptoms and concerns. The second part of your appointment is for the provider to give you a physical exam. During the third part of an appointment, it is vitally important for you to understand what your provider discusses with you. This is when you ask questions of your provider.

Be prepared

Sometimes, when a person gets anxious, it is easy to forget what to tell a provider. So make a list ahead of time with whatever information you believe your provider should know and any questions you may have. Writing will increase your awareness of what is happening and help your provider understand you more clearly.

Professional interpreters

If you need interpretation, ask at your clinic for help. It is preferable not to use a friend or family member as your interpreter because a trained, professional interpreter knows medical terminology and

understands and respects the laws of patient confidentiality. Interpreters can be requested when you make your appointment.

Ask your provider to help

While you are in the doctor's office, have your provider write down what it is you need to do. This way you can go home and not worry about what was said. It will also give you an opportunity to take in the information again.

Follow up

After you have been to your appointment, asked your questions, consulted with your provider and begun to follow recommendations, don't hesitate to make a follow-up appointment to get any unanswered questions addressed.

If you feel uncomfortable with your provider, do not be afraid to ask to change to a different one. If you continue to see a provider that you are not confident with, your health will ultimately suffer.

Taking charge of your health will be a rewarding experience. Your health care provider will be able to better assess and treat any of your concerns. You will be able to express, understand and question what it takes for you to live a healthier lifestyle. When you and your provider work as active partners in taking care of your health, you are well on your way to a healthier style of living.

Kim Powers is a mental health counselor and Elsbet Legesse is a social worker at RainierPark Medical Clinic. RainierPark Medical Clinic is part of Puget Sound Neighborhood Health Centers (PSNHC). PSNHC provides medical and dental services at 15 different locations in the Seattle area. You can visit PSNHC on the Web at www.psnhc.org.

Homeownership fair in first languages set for May

By **LISA HUANG**
Special to The Voice

Do you want to learn about how to buy a home? Are you having difficulty getting homeownership and fair-housing information because English is your second language? Are you interested in Section 8 homeownership or other down-payment assistance programs? Are you a victim of housing discrimination but don't know where to go? This is your opportunity to learn about all of that.

Come and join the 2004 New Americans Mini-Fair Housing and Homebuyer Fair on May 8 at the NewHolly Gathering Hall at 7054 32 Ave. S. Homeownership education workshops and materials, including local down-payment assistance resources, are available in 10 different languages such as English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese,

Cambodian, Amharic and Tigrignia. The bilingual workshops will cover topics such as fair housing, preparing to buy a home and avoiding predatory lending. In addition, bilingual loan officers, real estate agents and nonprofit housing providers will showcase their services and answer any questions you may have. Free food and activities for children will be provided.

2004 New Americans Mini-Fair Housing and Homebuyer fair is sponsored by a collaboration of three nonprofit organizations: International District Housing Alliance, El Centro de La Raza, and Community Home Ownership Center. This fun fair is also supported by Seattle Housing Authority and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

If you have any questions about this upcoming fair, please contact Lisa Huang at 206-623-5132.

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.

KCHA plans come clear

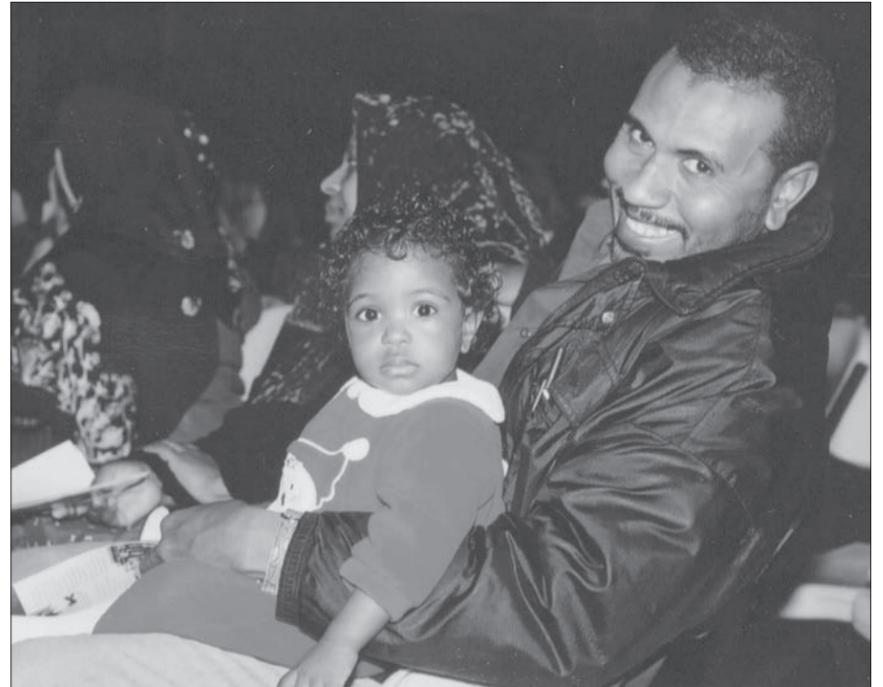


Photo courtesy King County Housing Authority
 Park Lake resident Mohamed Hassan smiles during the April HOPE VI meeting.

New streets, new parks are on the way

Continued from page 1

housing types suitable for many stages of life."

Greenbridge, a 900- to 1,100-unit mixed-income community replacing the sprawl of aging duplexes at Park Lake I, will feature an integrated mix of housing types, including townhouses, flats, detached homes and cottages. One four-story building will serve seniors and people with disabilities.

With the exception of the mixed-population building, housing will generally be two to three stories high. There will be a mix of unit sizes, from one-bedroom to five-bedroom units. The Housing Authority considered the current configuration of housing at Site I and the unit sizes that residents requested earlier in the design

process.

Architects have planned new streets and parks for Greenbridge. Eighth Avenue Southwest will feature a public square with retail space, as well as the Wiley Center and the new White Center Heights community school. The Wiley Center will be renovated, with the first phase of that project to begin this summer.

The HOPE VI project is gaining momentum, with the first stage of resident relocation well under way and demolition set to begin in January 2005. The first phase of activity will be concentrated on the west side of the site with new utilities, streets, sidewalks and drainage ponds being built first. After that, construction of more than 200 homes will begin.



One to grow on

Garden tips for community gardeners

By **ANZA MUENCHOW**
Special to The Voice

This must be the warmest and driest April I remember for Seattle. I was planning on writing about techniques to start your garden earlier, but the weather has been so warm that my spring garden is already ahead by three or four weeks. If this continues I'll have tomatoes in July! It probably won't though. By the time you get this newspaper, we may be back to the cool, wet springs of Seattle.

Starting in May you can move tomato and pepper starts outside and sow your cucumbers, squash, beans and zucchini. Try planting these vegetables now and then again in three or four weeks. This will extend your harvesting to a full summer of good eating. If you keep sowing lettuce every two weeks, you'll have a continuous crop and will be able to enjoy summer and fall salads and easily eat well for months.

Everyone knows that we should be eating five to eight servings of fruits and vegetables every day. This may seem difficult, but if we have access to fresh produce, it is easy. I think the solution to many problems is improving access by making it easy and fun.

For example, it may not be fun to drive to a crowded store and carry home heavy bags. But many people have found that having an urban food garden means easy access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

For example, imagine yourself outside this summer watching your children or

visiting with a neighbor. It's late afternoon and you're probably not ready to make dinner or supper, but you feel like having a snack. Thanks to your garden, it is easy and affordable to pick some peas, raspberries or cherry tomatoes instead of having a serving of fatty, greasy chips or crackers.

Now imagine you are coming home for dinner and you take a quick cruise through your garden before you start to cook. You can unwind while you pick some parsley and green onions to flavor your squash before you slice up a cucumber as a side dish to your protein course of meat, fish or tofu. Afterward, you can pick a few fresh berries, add them to some yogurt and you've got a delicious, fresh smoothie for dessert. All of this without an extra trip to the store and for a lot less money than you would spend at even a farmer's market!

This spring I am especially enjoying a couple of the vegetables that you don't have to plant every year. These are the perennials: rhubarb and asparagus. I started some from seed two years ago and will harvest them every spring for the next 10 to 20 years. You wait two years to harvest, but it is worth it. Plant these seeds now and you'll be feasting on delicious roasted asparagus and rhubarb crisp for many years to come. Next month we'll explore when to harvest and of course watering and compost, which may be important topics this year if we don't get more rain.

Happy gardening!

ESL students' health at risk in new levy

Continued from page 1

Committee, called the levy "a new direction for the children of Seattle" that would put "a plug in the pipeline to prisons."

Pramila Jayapal was a member of the Legislative Oversight Committee and chairs the Hate Free Zone Campaign of Washington. She said that the levy will "keep kids healthy" and "jump in and help kids who are already in trouble and pull them back out."

The mayor's proposal breaks levy funds into five areas. During each year of the seven-year levy, \$4 million is marked for early learning programs; \$3.3 million for student health; \$3.1 million for out-of-school activities; \$2.6 million for family support and involvement initiatives; and \$1.3 million to fund a coordinated case management program for high-risk middle and high school youth.

The School Board president, Mary Bass, said that she supports the levy, but that all is not right with it.

"The middle school piece has a lack of funding," she said. "We need services for this age group."

According to one school nurse at Madison Middle School, one of the changes in the levy is a cut to the funding for a health educator who works specifically with English as a Second Language students

in Seattle middle schools.

Samara Hoag said that the ESL students in her school cannot get the basic health information they need in regular classes because of a language barrier. She can not support all of their needs as well as those of non-ESL students.

"It is challenging for me to help all of our students get medical care and attention for their various health needs," she said.

To help youth like this get vital health and nutrition information, Seattle Schools hired Christine Mattfeld to visit Madison and three other middle schools once a week. She teaches ESL students about important health concepts. Her salary is completely funded by the current Families and Education Levy.

"Christine has been a wonderful resource for our ESL students," Hoag said. "She has given them experience and a vocabulary to talk about health issues that concern them. She has taught our kids how to obtain medical, dental and emotional health services."

But the mayor's proposal decreases the amount of money available to student health programs by more than \$300,000. This includes a total cut of Mattfeld's salary. At the same time, coordinated case management programs for middle- and high-school aged youth are increased by more



PHOTO BY CHARLES REDELL, VOICE

Mayor Greg Nickels and some of the youth who attend the Tiny Tots Development Center where he announced his plan for the Families and Education Levy.

than \$400,000, out-of-school activities are increased by almost \$1 million and early learning funding goes up by almost \$3 million. \$200,000 will fund the mayor's much-touted accountability tracking piece.

Bass says that while accountability is "a crucial focus, you can't base everything on the WASL [Washington State Assessment of Student Learning]." She encouraged the mayor to think outside the box when designing the assessments for the programs funded by the levy.

Nickels says that he plans to heed those warnings. Pointing to the fact that 93 percent

of Seattle's black youth failed the Math WASL last year, he said programs assisting high-risk youth might be allowed to measure how many of their clients actually stay in school and whether or not incarceration rates in that age group go down over time as opposed to tracking WASL scores.

The seven-year Families and Education Levy was originally passed by voters in 1990 and renewed in 1997. It was the result of an education summit at which community and business leaders gathered to discuss how to do more for Seattle's youngest residents.

Residents will provide help with transportation services

By JEREMY FICHTER
King County Metro

Have you ever had difficulty using the bus system? Are you interested in carpooling or van sharing but unsure how to find people to partner with? Do you have an interest in obtaining a reduced fare permit? Now there are people in your own community who can help with these and many other transportation-related issues.

In March 2003, the King County Work Training Program was awarded a grant from the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) to create a Residential Transportation Coordinator program in the NewHolly and Park Lake Homes communities. Partnering agencies include King County Metro, City of Seattle Department of Transportation, King County Housing Authority, Seattle Housing Authority, Washington State Employment Security Department, the Department of Social and Health Services and Flexcar. Similar to "block watch" programs aimed at crime reduction, the intent of this program is to establish a grassroots, community-based network to help residents gain access to transportation.

Residential Transportation Coordinators are residents of Park Lake Homes and NewHolly who have been selected by Metro to distribute information and provide assistance with transportation-related issues. RTCs have been trained by Metro staff and have been provided with a variety of different resources, including bus schedules and maps, training videos, applications and other informational materials.

The RTCs are ready and willing to help. They speak a number of different languages in addition to English, so be sure to select the one who speaks the language you are most comfortable with. Contact information, languages and hours of availability are provided in the box to the right. If you have a question about transportation, these are the people who can help.

We are still looking for two people to be RTCs. Someone is needed at New Holly who speaks Somali and English, and someone is needed at Park Lake Homes who speaks Arabic and English. Please call Colene Baker at King County Metro Transit at 206-263-6082 if you are interested.

Community transit representatives

NewHolly

| Language | Phone Number | Times Available |
|---|--------------|--|
| Abenaki, Passamaquaddy, Blackfeet, French and English | 206-725-883 | 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Daily |
| Oromia | 206-725-7460 | 9 to 11 a.m., Weekdays 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Weekends |
| Vietnamese | 206-725-7232 | 12:30 to 3 p.m., Mon. to Fri. 4 to 5:30 p.m., Sat. 3 to 6 p.m., Sun. |
| Amharic, Arabic, Tigrigna | 206-760-0464 | 6 to 9 p.m., Mon. to Fri. |

Park Lake

| Language | Phone Number | Times Available |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Cambodian | 206-268-0411 | 5 to 9 p.m., Weekdays Noon to 6 p.m., Sat. 6 to 9 p.m., Sun. |
| Russian, Ukrainian | 206-351-6198 (days) 206-767-0981 (evenings) | 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Daily |
| Vietnamese | 206-762-9064 | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Daily |
| Somali | 206-764-4515 | 5 to 9 p.m., Weekdays 9 a.m. to noon, Weekends |

Getting a HANDLE on HIV

By VOICE STAFF

Among the many Cambodian New Year celebrations in the area last month, one hosted by Neighborhood House's Project HANDLE had a dual purpose. According to Warya Pothan, director of Project HANDLE, she wanted to bring in a wide group of people to educate them about the program and to share with them the treats that Cambodian New Year has to offer.

Chief among these treats were platters of food and traditional Cambodian music

and dancing. Additionally, some of the more than 20 people who attended the early-afternoon event took some impromptu dance lessons from Chan Moly Sam who is an internationally recognized master dancer from Cambodia. Sam also sits on the Project HANDLE (for HIV/AIDS Network Development and Life-skills Experience) board.

During a presentation, Pothan described what Project HANDLE will look like if an implementation grant that she is currently

working on is awarded to the program. Currently, she told the audience, she is working with a one-year \$100,000 planning grant from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) to design a program that will work with Cambodian youth and their families in Seattle to educate them about HIV and AIDS.

If she is successful, Project HANDLE will target youths between the ages of 12 and 18 and will include a component for their parents. The goal is to create a community that is supportive and open in order to give its members the opportunity

to discuss HIV and AIDS and learn how to prevent it.

"Neighborhood and friends are important to these kids," Pothan said.

According to Pothan, the need for this kind of project is there: 83 percent of Cambodian-American youth are sexually active by the time they reach 16 and 93 percent do not talk to their parents about sex. Additionally, in a 2001 study, 19 percent of HIV non-AIDS cases in Asian-Pacific Islanders are Cambodians.

The grant Pothan is working toward could total as much as \$1.5 million over four years.

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.

Smart and sporty
HP RESIDENT IS SCHOLAR
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SHA NEWS

May
2004

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

New ED ready for work

By **BOB ROYER**
Special to The Voice

Tom Tierney recalls a conversation with his father, Tom senior, then a healthcare executive in Colorado. The younger Tom was all the hippie – full of himself, hair to his shoulders - in active rebellion. Tom remembers his dad shaking an angry finger at him.

"It wasn't about my hair or my dress," says Tom. "He was mad because he thought I was blowing off my responsibility to public service. In my family, public service was everyone's mission."

So, when the Seattle Housing Authority board pointed at Tom, he heeded his father's lesson, carefully weighing the public service values of his Port of Seattle position and those associated with serving as the leader of the Seattle Housing Authority.

"I loved my job at the port, but the ability to affect directly thousands of lives at SHA is pretty powerful stuff. It's the only job I would have left the port for," he says.

Now, on the job for a month, Tierney is settling in for the hard part of his new public service – filling the very big shoes of Harry Thomas, preparing for the federal government's not-so-gradual withdrawal

from its traditional public housing role, and properly finishing the projects that have been started.

"We have \$150 million in federal funds leveraging almost one billion in private investment. Our vision is to remake the heart and soul of our housing stock," he says. "I take note that today about 100 acres of that vision are mud where houses used to be. I intend for houses to be there again in two years. We've got a lot of construction to get through."

In fact, the hardware of the SHA makeover is falling into place. NewHolly is in its last phase. High Point now has its first building complete and Tierney is looking forward to the start of housing construction at Rainier Vista very soon.

While new to SHA leadership, Tierney is an old hand at NewHolly. As the head of Seattle Mayor Norm Rice's Office of Management and Planning, Tierney was given the job of managing the City's relationship with this complex project. Even though the buildings at NewHolly are now nearly complete, Tierney says there is a lot yet to do.

"We're not just building houses there, as nice as they are. Until we know that we've truly created community, we won't be

done," he said.

Tierney recently got a hint of what it will take to fill Harry Thomas' shoes. He accompanied him to Washington, D.C. so he could begin meeting Thomas' connections in the capitol.

"They held a retirement reception for Harry while we were there. Two senators active in housing issues spoke at the event and you could just sense the respect, even affection, they had for Harry. One called him a titan of federal housing," he said. "No one has ever called me a titan."

"I later learned something telling about Harry from his daughter, who I told what important people in Washington were saying about her dad," Tierney said. "'Oh,' she said, 'he never tells us about that kind of stuff.'"

"Harry's famous about being low profile and quiet and was very effective with his style," says Tierney. "I'll be a little different. Some of the things we've got coming at us may require a different style. It's not only the fact that the federal government is reducing its commitment to housing, but the effects of Sound Transit development on the Housing Authority are a significant opportunity that we must seize. We've got a lot of players to talk to."

Tierney may need his strongest voice to use in the coming financial crunch.

"The federal government is working on a new approach that will result in significant



PHOTO COURTESY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
Tom Tierney is SHA's new Executive Director.

cuts to our operating subsidies here in Seattle and across the country," he says. "There will be very little money for future rebuilding projects such as we've undertaken. And, our operating subsidies will go down significantly. For an organization that maintains as many structures as we do, this is a tremendous problem."

"Affordable housing is no longer the Washington, D.C. game it once was," Tierney says. "Now, affordable housing gets built and maintained through the creation of partnerships at local and state

Please see "Tierney ... " on page 2

Community builders' road show explains what they do

By **KARI-LYNN FRANK**
High Point Community Builder

The Seattle Housing Authority has committed to improving the lives of residents and one of the ways this is happening is by placing a Community Builder in each community it serves. But have you ever seen a Community Builder in your neighborhood and wondered what it is that they do?

The Community Builders support and foster social networks and community partnerships that result in a variety of outcomes including increased self-sufficiency, improved quality of life and an

enhanced integration with the greater Seattle community. The Community Builders recognize that many people at the Housing Authority, including residents, service providers and others, actively build community.

"Community members are the dreamers, planners, and implementers of their vision for the neighborhood, and we are the support," said Marcia Johnson, community builder for the high-rises and the Seattle Senior Housing Program.

To promote community building and to honor the efforts already accomplished at the agency, SHA's team of community builders developed a presentation on the program. Presenters share the principles of community building and give examples of what it looks like in the communities.

"It was a terrific presentation. I learned of lot of useful information," said Virginia Felton, SHA communications director.

"This is a major initiative for Community Supportive Services," said John Forsyth, administrator for CSS. "Placing residents' strengths and gifts in the forefront of the work in our neighborhoods is critical to the success of our communities."

The community building strategies shared in the presentation are based on principles for effective community building as outlined by the National Community Building Network. Some of the principles include starting from local conditions, building on community strengths, fostering

collaborations and partnerships and honoring diversity.

There are many examples of these principles at work in our neighborhoods. The projects come in many sizes – some are very large and comprehensive and others are much smaller in scope. For instance, in NewHolly, the youth in the community came together and wrote a grant that funded the beautification of traffic circles.

This collaboration had many outcomes. First, the traffic circles received much needed landscaping. Secondly, the community members learned more about the City of Seattle grant process. Finally, the community came together to complete the project.

Another example highlighted in the presentation is Elder Stories at Denny Terrace. There, members of the community wrote a grant to the city that funded the documentation of the stories of seniors living in the community. This is an example of the principle of building on community strengths.

In a celebration honoring diversity, the community of High Point demonstrates several principles as the members of the community raise money and put together a wonderful fair sharing the variety of cultures in the neighborhood through food, music and the arts. This collaboration involves individuals from High Point as well as providers and neighbors.

A main reason for this presentation by

the community builders is so that more people understand a basic truism about community building.

According to Joy Bryngelson-Moro, community builder at NewHolly, "Community building is not an outcome, it is a process that builds on local strengths while celebrating each community's unique character."

The community builders plan to share this presentation with many more organizations. If you would like more information, please contact them at communitybuilder@seattlehousing.org, or contact the community builder in your neighborhood.

Building Community

Seattle Housing Authority's Communications Office produces a monthly e-mail newsletter called "Building Community" which is sent to people in Seattle who are interested in housing.

"Building Community" contains brief news about SHA activities and initiatives, with links to the full stories on the Housing Authority's Web site. All residents and interested parties are invited to subscribe to the free newsletter.

If you want to get "Building Community," send an e-mail to newsletter@seattlehousing.org.

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End of an era for public housing in Seattle

Thomas has his day - three times over - during retirement party honoring his service

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

On Friday April 23, more than 200 people gathered at the NewHolly Neighborhood Campus to wish Harry Thomas a happy retirement. The celebration, sponsored by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle, featured recollections by people who had worked with Thomas over the years, including employees of Seattle Housing Authority and others.

Sybil Bailey from Denny Terrace and Bonita Blake from High Point both took part in the program. Bailey made short remarks about working with Thomas as a resident, and Blake sang two musical selections.

Three proclamations declared April 23 to

be "Harry Thomas Day" in the City of Seattle, King County and in Washington. Former Governor Mike Lowry presented the state's proclamation, former County Executive Randy Revelle helped present the County's proclamation and Katie Hong, director of Seattle's Office of Housing, presented the city's proclamation. Thomas worked as Chief of Staff with Lowry and as Deputy Executive with Revelle.

In brief remarks, Thomas commented that it felt particularly appropriate to end his career at NewHolly, since his very first job had been at an ice cream parlor in the neighborhood. Thomas is retiring after 15 years as executive director of SHA.



PHOTO COURTESY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Some of the crowd that gathered to celebrate Harry Thomas' career in public housing. Along with three proclamations declaring April 23 "Harry Thomas Day," two residents honored Thomas as well.

Residents get chance to apprentice as Nordstrom tailors

New partnership produces innovative program

By LAURA LAKINGS-BECVAR
Seattle Housing Authority

More than two years ago, Nordstrom - a large, Seattle-based department store - contacted the City of Seattle seeking out partners who could assist them in developing an apprenticeship program for alteration and tailoring. The Job Connection was notified and the project was given to job developer Jeff Thungc. After an initial contact was made by Thungc, a relationship with Nordstrom staff was carefully cultivated and over two years, the unique program was created.

The need for Nordstrom to develop such an innovative program was the result of the increasing age of tailors and the difficulty they were having finding skilled replacements. Though an immigrant population has filled the constantly opening positions, Nordstrom staff found that they often did not have the skills or language capacity to meet the demands of the job.

To get the project rolling, Nordstrom's northwest division manager for the alterations and tailor shop, Nick Abrashi, spent time developing an interactive computer training program on CD-ROM as well as a supplementary English-as-a-Second-Language training component. When the program was finalized and ready to be tested, The Job Connection was again contacted and candidates for a pilot apprenticeship program were identified.

The ideal candidates for the program had to show a strong interest in the apprenticeship, express commitment through either a strong past work history or demonstrate commitment to completing the pre-apprenticeship activities. Although ESL training is a component of the apprenticeship, applicants had to have level three language skill, meaning that they are comfortably fluent in English.

Initially, five candidates were selected. One person accepted a job offer before the apprenticeship began and withdrew from the program. Another candidate did not have sufficient language skills to successfully complete the program. The

remaining three candidates were then put through a rigorous pre-hiring orientation that was completed through the Job Connection.

The apprenticeship candidates participated in a tailoring-apprentice orientation and an interview workshop. This was followed by a mock interview specific to the apprentice program. All of the candidates successfully completed this three-part training.

Once the orientation was completed, the candidates were interviewed by Nordstrom's regional and divisional managers before being referred to an interview with the shop managers of the particular store where they would work. As a result, two apprentices were assigned to the Bellevue Nordstrom and one to the downtown Seattle store. Two are being trained as tailors and one as a shop administrator.

The shop administrator will be learning extensive database and computer skills, logging skills, verification procedures and customer service skills. The tailors will use CD-ROMs to learn specific tailoring skills such as measuring, sewing and cutting. These computer training programs cover every aspect of tailoring. The apprentices are closely supervised and supported by a shop manager who will decide when they are ready to practice on actual garments in order to perfect their newly learned skills.

The Job Connection is working very closely with Nordstrom and the three apprentices to assure the success of the program. The apprenticeship program has already expanded to Nordstrom corporate offices throughout the United States. According to Thungc, other large department stores could adopt and incorporate this program as well. In the meantime, three Seattle Housing Authority residents have launched new careers.

The Nordstrom Apprenticeship program is a pilot project and is not currently accepting any more applicants. However, The Job Connection is always there to help residents find other apprenticeships or job information. For more details, call Jeff Thungc at 206-937-3292.

Tierney continues life of public service

Continued from page 1

levels. Actually, that plays to our strengths. We have a terrific private nonprofit community here to go with some of the best for-profit affordable housing developers in the country."

Tierney carries on the belief in public service his dad emphasized. The senior Tom Tierney's innovative health care ideas for the elderly were noticed by the Kennedys. He was called to Washington, D.C. and went to serve in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. He is one of the people credited with the founding of Medicare.

Ultimately, Tierney cut his hair and began his own journey, heading west into a public

service career that caused people to notice him and call him to work for the Seattle Housing Authority at an historic time.

"This is where my mission is," says Tierney, "and it is one that I relish. I can't wait to meet more of the people who live in SHA housing. I know from my past work, that the strongest satisfaction from a job comes from getting to know the people you serve."

Bob Royer is the director of communications for Seattle City Light. He has a background as a journalist and also served as Deputy Mayor under Charles Royer.

Young resident designs logo



IMAGE COURTESY NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

This logo designed by 8-year old High Point resident Dylan Vu will grace all print material of the Healthy Homes Project.

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

The High Point Healthy Homes and Community Project has a new logo. A team of community-based judges, including two residents, three neighborhood service providers and youth from SafeFutures Youth Center chose the design created by 8-year-old High Point resident Dylan Vu last month.

According to Denise Sharify, community health program manager for Neighborhood House, her agency and its partners in the Healthy Homes project - Seattle Housing Authority and Public Health-Seattle and King County - needed a unique logo that would identify their partnership and group as they talked about the program with funders and supporters. Staff members from the agencies were planning on hiring a professional graphic designer to create the logo when a member of the High Point community came up with the contest idea.

Sharify said that High Point Community Council President Bonita Blake proposed the contest as a part of an overall effort to get community members involved at all levels of the Healthy Homes project.

"She wanted to have the contest as a way to engage the community," Sharify said. "It

also helped to increase visibility of the program in the community. The contest definitely served its purpose."

The Healthy Homes and Communities Project is a multi-year program funded by grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the National Institute of Environmental Sciences. The funds will be used by SHA to construct 35 homes that are specially designed to cut down on the amount of people suffering from asthma and by Neighborhood House for community education and involvement and environmental assessments and interventions.

Dylan received a \$25 gift certificate to Toys-R-Us as a prize for creating the winning drawing. His design, with a few minor changes incorporated by a graphic designer, will grace all of the project's print materials. Dylan's design was chosen from more than 30 entries submitted by High Point residents of many different ages. According to Sharify, people between the ages of 6 and 50 participated in the contest.

For more information on the Healthy Homes Project or to see if your family can qualify to live in a specially designed Healthy Home at High Point, call the Healthy Homes Project at 206-923-3266.

POINT OF VIEW

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

Committee gets back to the SSHP budget

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

The annual work of budget planning is calling at the Seattle Housing Authority and as a result, the Seattle Senior Housing Program Review Committee is starting its work again after a winter away from the task.

The committee was created when the SSHP Rent Advisory Committee completed its work last year by recommending a course of action to keep the program solvent for the foreseeable future. At that time, the SHA Board of Commissioners created a permanent version of the committee that would be responsible for keeping an eye on the SSHP budget and making recommendations as appropriate.

"It's a collaborative structure where all of the stakeholders can be working on these issues as they come up," said Ellen Kissman, asset management coordinator at SHA. She coordinates the committee.

The committee has 11 members. Three are SSHP residents and the rest are SHA staff, City of Seattle staff, housing and

senior-housing experts and low-income housing advocates. Most were members of the original Rent Advisory Committee, though a few are new. They are all slated to serve three-year terms. According to Kissman however, the terms of some of the current members may be extended or shortened so that in the future, just a few new people join each year.

The committee met for the first time this year in February and will meet again in May, barring any problems with the 2005 budget.

"It doesn't look like there will be any major problems with SSHP," Kissman said.

In future years, Kissman hopes that the committee will meet on a quarterly basis in order to keep closer tabs on SSHP finances so that any issues can be addressed before they emerge.

Residents and interested parties are invited to observe committee meetings and to receive updates on their activities. Contact your SSHP property manager for more information or send an e-mail to ekissman@seattlehousing.org to be added to the committee's e-mail list.

Keeping your house, keeping your head

By JEFFREY GERHARDSTEIN
Special to The Voice

Have you ever felt that you just can't do needed housecleaning because of the blues? Do you ever feel trapped in your apartment, paralyzed by depression or anxiety, and unable to do daily chores? If this sounds like you or someone you know, there is help available.

The Seattle Housing Authority mental health case management program helps residents who experience mental distress and housing difficulties. One common difficulty is when residents get behind in chores or "buried" in clutter and do not know where to turn for help.

Whether it's mold, pests, bugs, stacks of papers and trash or any other kind of mess, sometimes you just need a little encouragement to get back on track. Here are some ideas on how to get the help that you need.

- First, put aside as best you can, any shame or embarrassment about the issue. Mental health problems are called "no-fault" health matters. Conditions such as depression, anxiety disorders and schizophrenia deserve compassionate

professional attention and care.

- Call a social worker for help. You can go to the Aging and Disability Services case manager in your high-rise and inquire about chore service programs or contact the Community Psychiatric Clinic mental health case manager, Jeffrey Gerhardtstein, at 206-545-8611 and request assistance from someone who can visit your residence and, with you, review your living situation and help solve the problem.

- Go to your building lobby or to the management office and ask for a copy of a list of mental health agencies called "Quicklist: Affordable Mental Help." This guide lists some area agencies to contact for voluntary or affordable chore services.

Our living conditions reflect the way we feel and think inside. From a mental health perspective, keeping your house up is another way to keep your chin up. There are times in life when we need a bit more assistance than others. If this is one of those times, please consider getting all the help you need and deserve.

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

JPAC votes in June

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Joint Policy Advisory Committee is holding elections for a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson in early June. The JPAC is the resident advisory committee that provides comments to the Seattle Housing Authority on major policies affecting residents before the policies are finalized.

The Chair and Vice Chair play critical roles in the JPAC's success. SHA Community Services Administrator John

Forsyth said, "The current JPAC Chair Gordon Geijsbeek has done an excellent job helping JPAC members to focus their discussions on the critical issues in the draft policies." Forsyth says that he looks forward to working with the new Chair and Vice Chair to build on this success.

JPAC members elect the Chair and Vice Chair to one-year terms. They may be elected to a second one-year term.

In addition to the elections at the June meeting, JPAC members will also provide feedback on the draft of SHA's annual work plan for fiscal year 2005.

Coffee & Conversation come to Center Park



PHOTO BY TARA LARSEN

Residents at Center Park enjoy some time together at a recent meeting of the Coffee & Conversation group.

By ANNIKA SAGE
Seattle Housing Authority

Anyone visiting Center Park on a Thursday morning during the last couple of weeks would have noticed the lobby full of residents engaged in conversation and enjoying coffee with each other. The coffee times are the result of four AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers, Adria Briehl with Catholic Community Services, Maggie Dennis with ElderHealth Northwest, Tara Larsen with Neighborhood House and Annika Sage with Seattle Housing Authority. They have joined forces to bring Center Park residents together to help create community in the building.

Coffee & Conversation started as a service project. Although each AmeriCorps VISTA is dedicated to a specific project at an assigned location, an additional self-directed service project is required as well. The four young women decided to join together to work with residents at Center Park to create Coffee & Conversation, something residents had wanted. Although the project began just last month, both the VISTAs and the residents have found new friends in one another.

"There is so much to learn from one another. It has been great listening to the experiences and stories of residents at

Center Park," Dennis said.

In a time when many people see a disconnect between our seniors and our youngsters and between those with disabilities and those without, the VISTAs felt that there was much to learn from each other. They also feel that change starts with conversation and, if nothing else, the volunteers knew that there were stories to be told by Center Park residents.

Although there is no telling where Coffee & Conversation may lead, the possibilities are endless. The VISTAs started with coffee hour because that's what residents expressed an interest in. They are hopeful that after their year of service is over, Coffee & Conversation times will continue and grow through the commitment of the residents at Center Park. At the same time, the VISTAs attend Center Park to assist and support residents in their ideas for their building.

"We'd be happy to work with residents on any ideas they might have. Coffee & Conversation has been a wonderful way to get to know residents and now we are interested in seeing what other goals they might have in creating a sense of community at Center Park," said Dennis.

If you have any questions or ideas for other projects, please contact Annika Sage at 206-615-3573.

Community notes

SSHP budget review

The next meeting of the Seattle Senior Housing Program Budget Review Committee will be held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on May 12 at the Seattle Housing Authority central office. All residents are invited to attend and observe the process. For more information, contact Ellen Kissman at 206-615-3560 or by e-mail at ekissman@seattlehousing.org.

Westwood Heights Technology Center

The Westwood Heights Technology Center is designed to meet the needs of seniors. It offers free computer training and use to all members of the community. Individuals who are over 50 will find this center very user friendly with large text on the screen and easy to use devices such as mice and keyboards. Instruction is available for basic computing skills, e-mail, using the Web, working with photos, as well as various business applications. The center is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday; from 9

a.m. until 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday and from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Thursday. The center is located at 9455 27th Ave. S.W. Drop in or call 206-932-6942 ext.16 to reserve your place in a class.

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

RSVP works to place volunteers 55 and older in positions that meet critical community needs. Call Linda Schnee at 206-694-6790.

Discount cards for disabled adults

FLASH cards are available for free from the city. Those with permanent disabilities can get discounts at restaurants and businesses, theaters and recreational facilities. It also enables users to get pet licenses at half price. Those with temporary disabilities may qualify for temporary discount cards. FLASH cards also are available from the Seattle Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens. For more information or to find out where to get your FLASH card, call 206-684-0500.

HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY

Young High Point resident recognized as Mayor's Scholar

By AMY SIQVELAND
Voice reporter

Semhar Ogube describes herself as funny, energetic and a skilled basketball player. An eighth-grader at Madison Middle School, she was also recently recognized by Mayor Greg Nickels for her high academic standing and her commitment to community service.

The Mayor's Scholar program honors approximately 20 middle school students every year from the Seattle School district. To compete, students must write four essays describing their involvement in extracurricular activities, their volunteer history, the manner in which they would spend the \$500 stipend and their life aspirations. Recommendations from teachers and other supervising adults were also considered in the selection process.

Semhar was one of the five students from Madison who received a letter jacket and financial reward on Feb. 23 at City Hall.

"I didn't think I was going to win because they told us they would let us know ... but then they didn't," Semhar said. "It was like I gave up hope but then, it came as a surprise."

Semhar credits her teachers at Madison and also her family in supporting her with her ambitions. She said that while she had been the one recognized, her relatives and instructors had encouraged her to participate and helped edit her writing so they deserved some of the praise as well.

"There are really good teachers at my school," she said. "My family also was really happy for me. My older sister traveled all the way from eastern Washington to attend the ceremony downtown."

Coming from a large family, Semhar added

that her love of children also inspires her dedication to community service.

"I started tutoring at High Point Community Center in fifth grade and I liked it and just kept doing it," she said. "I just like little kids. They giggle and everything and then just get right to work afterwards. Writing about this stuff was easy because I could really relate to it all."

Awards like these seem to boost the belief that students have in their abilities while also providing funds for upcoming academic opportunities. Semhar said that she was indeed saving her money to further her education and that being recognized for this award made her realize that there are other awards out there she can try to get.

"I want to get some more scholarships like this for basketball. I want to go to a college that has good academics and good sports," she said. "I've been playing



PHOTO BY AMY SIQVELAND, VOICE

Semhar Ogube gets ready to take a few practice shots. Basketball is one of her many activities.

basketball since I was five and I want to play when I go to college. I'm on the honor roll, I have a high GPA and am in Challenge, where I do extra work that is not required. Or, if I don't become a basketball player, I would then decide to be a lawyer."

The full extent of Semhar's team attitude can be seen clearly in her plans for her immediate future: "I'm gonna try to help my friends win next year!"

Safety fun for all ages



Ruth Kuhnau shows a young attendee of the safety fair what to do if someone grabs his arm and won't let go.

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

High Point residents young and old learned about personal safety last month at two events on the same day. The first was a safety carnival for youth held on the field behind High Point Elementary School and the second was a safety forum designed to give the parents and other adults of High Point an opportunity to learn about safety and specific precautions they can take.

Both events were largely designed and planned by the youth of SafeFutures who had an idea last year to educate the community about safety and nonviolence.

"This whole event was thought up by the young people in this community," said Marcus Stubblefield to a group of residents attending the evening's safety forum.

Ruth Kuhnau, an AmeriCorps member serving at the High Point Youth Tutoring Program, said that both events were very successful. In fact, she said that the carnival was the perfect remedy for a Spring Break with not much to do for the neighborhood's youngest residents.

At the carnival, High Point youth learned some self-defense. The tricks they learned were designed to make them safer when walking to and from school and other neighborhood activities. After talking about what they already do to stay safe, the group of youth practiced how to sense the feeling of being followed and what to do if a friend

or a stranger gets too close for their comfort.

According to Kuhnau, another goal for the event was to make sure that all the young bike riders of the community have the right kind of safety gear to use. As a result, more than 40 bike helmets were given out for free.

Between the day and evening events, the organizers of the fair had some activities planned that were meant as just plain fun. One of these activities was an obstacle course for the kids to run.

Later that same evening, the youth from SafeFutures had a safety forum organized for the adult residents of High Point. Many residents showed up to hear presentations about the dangers of smoking, drug use and general safety in the home. Residents attending the event were very engaged with the speakers.

Mike Dorsey, the new drug and alcohol counselor at SafeFutures talked about how he works with youth and families. A question he fielded from one concerned parent whose teenage son smokes marijuana started a long discussion about the merits of creating "an environment where kids are embarrassed to not do drugs." Key to this, he explained, was to ask questions of youth about drugs and let them "come around to their own answers" about how dangerous they are.

Dorsey is at SafeFutures four days a week and can be reached by calling 206-938-9606.

Creating lasting family connections

By KARI SHERRODD
Seattle Housing Authority

Communication between youth and parents can be difficult, especially when it comes to issues like drugs and alcohol. SafeFutures is working to break down the communication barriers and strengthen family connections in the Creating Lasting Family Connections program.

Creating Lasting Family Connections is a 15-week curriculum that involves a small group of youth and their parents who are willing to learn new skills and methods in communicating, explained Marcus Stubblefield, program manager and youth development specialist for SafeFutures.

For five weeks of the curriculum, the youth and their parents are in separate groups. During the remaining ten weeks they are a combined group. In the separate groups, parents learn about more effective parenting—knowledge, attitudes, skills and training that helps them influence youth in positive ways. They also get the opportunity to test and practice these new skills in a safe environment. The youth learn ways to develop positive responses, independence and responsibility. They

begin to build a foundation for increasing their skills in communicating their deepest wishes regarding alcohol and drug issues with their family and friends.

In the combined group, one of the most eye-opening parts of the curriculum is the role playing, said Stubblefield. The youth and their parents exchange roles to talk through real-life issues. The participants learn a lot from this experience, he said.

In this combined group, participants are equipped with methods to develop greater awareness of the various types of responses, levels of communication, and the impact these factors may have on the receiver of the communication. Participants are encouraged to enhance their personal communication by identifying the responses they use most.

SafeFutures received a two-year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Agency to provide Creating Lasting Family Connections. They are currently in their first year of the program and just beginning their second 15-week group. The third group will be starting in July. If you are interested in joining one of the groups or you would like more information, contact Marcus Stubblefield at 206-938-9606 ext. 107.

Community notes

Community Council meeting

The High Point Community Council meets at 6 p.m. the second Monday of every month at Holly Hall. This month, the meeting will be held on May 11. For more information call 206-937-5459.

Sunday service and community dinner

Pastor Deborah Dinkins offers Sunday school and worship services for High Point residents. Afterward, a free community dinner is offered. Sunday school is at noon and the service is at 1 p.m. They are both in the old YMCA building at 300 S.W. Graham St.

Vietnamese Tea time

Bring your friends, have fun and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and cookies. From 10 a.m. to noon every Monday at the Neighborhood House multi-service center, join us for Vietnamese Tea Time. For more information contact Mao Theam at 206-923-3266 or Saray Thach at 206-331-2741.

Cambodian Tea Time

Bring your friends, have fun and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. From 10 a.m. to noon every Friday at the Neighborhood House join us for Cambodian Tea Time. For more information, call 206-923-3266.

RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

Minority contractors get jobs with Walsh

Walsh construction works hard to get hard workers from the community

By KIM HINES
Special to The Voice

While most construction contractors focus only on schedule and budget, Walsh Construction Company - which is the general contractor for two large HOPE VI redevelopment projects at Rainier Vista Phase I and at NewHolly Phase III - is creating many jobs and opportunities for local contractors. In addition to this, the company has taken on two additional initiatives: minority and women owned business enterprise (MWBE) participation and local resident hiring.

"Our focus has been to increase the number of MWBE firms that we work with and expand opportunities for these firms," explained Tom Mathews, general manager at Walsh Construction Company.

The Rainier Vista project team has selected 22 MWBE firms to work at both sites through the summer of 2005. MWBE subcontracts at Rainier Vista Phase I will total nearly \$3.6 million and \$4.3 million at

NewHolly Phase III.

"We are very excited to be working with Walsh Construction Company and working in this community," said Raymond Jean-Pierre, a master plumber who owns Atlas Plumbing. "We have been in business for 30 years and Rainier Vista Block 26 is the largest contract awarded to Atlas Plumbing, thanks to Walsh Construction Company."

Walsh Construction Company has been successful at including smaller contractors by breaking down the jobs that need to be done into smaller chunks and having a targeted outreach plan. Companies like Atlas Plumbing were competitive in the bid process because of their pricing and ability to perform the work.

"Our formula for success is to start out with hard work, honesty, flexibility and dependability," Jean-Pierre said.

Larry Vinson of Vinson Brothers, a neighborhood street cleaning business said, "This is the first time we have been able to work in our own neighborhood." Vinson Brothers is performing the street cleaning



PHOTO COURTESY WALSH CONSTRUCTION

The crew from Atlas Plumbing is hard at work in Rainier Vista. In the front row, from left, are Day Wood, Jason Liskey and Willie Duhon. In the back, from left, are Raymond Jean-Pierre and Paul Lepore.

at NewHolly and will soon be working at Rainier Vista as well.

"We have worked very hard to include additional MWBE subcontractors and job opportunities for neighborhood residents," said a Walsh Company spokesperson. "Walsh has had a targeted outreach to our

subcontractors to promote resident hiring and we have participation from the following subcontractors: Atlas Plumbing, Lloyds Construction, Frontier Cabinet & Door, Tomco Electric, Merit Electric, Wood Mechanix, Keystone and Ketchikan Drywall."

Providers work to better understand their clients

By AMY SIQVELAND
Voice reporter

Cultural education was the focus of a conference held on April 14 at the Rainier Community Center. A committee with members from Refugee Women's Alliance, Seattle Housing Authority, Seattle Parks and Recreation, International District Housing Alliance and Horn of Africa Services came together to sponsor the first Southeast Asian and East African awareness workshop.

"The sponsors serve a wide range of ethnic groups and are interested in educating community providers on cultural norms and barriers," explained Nefertari I, Rainier Vista community builder for SHA. "We want people to go away with a heightened awareness of these cultural groups and more clarity on the resources that serve these populations."

During the first half of the workshop, a panel of individuals from Vietnamese, Cambodian, Somali, Ethiopian and Oromo backgrounds shared their personal histories and took questions from the audience.

In her opening speech the keynote speaker Someireh Amirfaiz explained how to take steps toward being culturally competent with different people.

"There are things that impact our relationships with each other. The interpretation of different cultures is so different and this [workshop] can make a huge difference in how we interact with one another. The key to understanding is educating ourselves and asking questions."

The second half of the workshop focused more intently on roundtable discussions about health and safety, domestic violence, youth, schools, and employment.

While the facilitators defined cultural competency as, "A set of congruent behaviors, attitudes and policies that come

together and enable a system, agency or professional to respond effectively to the unique needs of populations whose cultures are different from that of dominant or mainstream America," they emphasized that the goal of the day was not to bring providers to specific conclusions, but to instead initiate a dialogue of continuing communication.

"We want to find ways for people to be open and listen more, to provide more community programs, specifically for ethnic groups," said Tien Duong-Le from IDHA. "Our goal is to educate ourselves and learn new things while also holding onto our cultures."

Nga Nguyen, who facilitated the smaller group discussion on youth and education, talked about cultural misunderstandings through stories about sex, drugs and school.

"I came from a very collectivistic culture so everything was for the sake of your family," she said. "We came over here and I was taught to think for myself - be an individualist - so there's this clash and then there's the cultural gap as well."

"In Vietnamese culture, sex and drugs are not talked about," she continued. "If you talk about it, you are owning it, if you ignore it, kids won't do it."

She told the group about one of her friends who "got pregnant and had to drop out of school because they didn't have the education that allowed them to know the prevention methods. It's important to educate parents about the positive aspects of communication while also using strategies to prevent misunderstandings."

The workshop ended with the facilitators encouraging everyone to see themselves as a valuable community member who plays an active part in providing access to resources, like education, childcare, jobs, housing and emotional support.

Familiar face returns

By LAURA LAKINGS-BECVAR
Seattle Housing Authority

Van Vo, Rainier Vista's former Community Liaison, has returned to the community in a new capacity. Vo is the new Employment Self-Sufficiency Specialist. He is replacing the case management services formerly offered through a Refugee Women's Alliance contract. In his new capacity, Vo will help JobsPlus residents prepare to get employed and will manage the Individual Development Account and JobsPlus rent-incentive program.

His duties include assisting residents with developing and reaching training and employment goals; providing referrals for supportive services such as childcare, food, clothing, training and utility assistance; helping with IDA and JobsPlus homeownership or self-employment goals; and assisting residents with educational goals such as citizenship work.

Vo's first position with the community was eliminated due to federal funding cuts. He then transferred to Seattle Housing Authority's central office as an Administrative Assistant. When Vo read about this job opening at Rainier Vista, he applied immediately.

"I am very happy to be coming back," Vo said as he began his new job.

Vo knows the community, the partners and residents very well. He is quickly learning his new responsibilities and working with his colleagues to deliver case management services that will lead to economic self-sufficiency.

On his first day of work, Vo already had program participants coming in to see him. Their smiles in greeting show just how happy they are to be working together again.

Vo's office hours are from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. He is working in the JobsPlus office at 4422 Tamarack Dr. S. His phone number is 206-722-4010 ext. 2.

Community notes

Family night

The nursing students at Rainier Vista, in conjunction with community partners at Rainier Vista will host a Family night from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on May 21 at the gym in the Boys & Girls Club building.

Community meeting notice

The date of the community meetings for the Rainier Vista Leadership Team has changed to the second Wednesday of the month. This month, the meeting will be on May 13. It is starting at 6:30 pm.

New CPT

Michael Neguse is the new Community Police Team contact at Rainier Vista. He is available from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Friday. His number is 206-421-1284.

Free legal help

Seattle Community Law Center legal advocates Jennifer Culter and Aerin Orbits will be available to assist with a wide variety of legal questions from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. every Wednesday in the Rainier Vista Neighborhood House Center building, located at 3006 S. Oregon St. They look forward to meeting community members and helping with noncriminal issues such as social security, housing, benefits and child support.

Free advertisement for residents

Rainier Vista's Community Information Station is available to residents who want to place an advertisement for free. It is outside the community room. Contact Christine or Kathy at Rainier Vista Neighborhood House at 206-461-4568 for more information or to place an ad.

NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

Homes-for-sale program in new phase



PHOTO BY VIRGINIA FELTON, SHA

One of the homes at NewHolly being constructed by Family Pryde. These homes will be for sale to the general public and will look like existing structures already in the community.

By VIRGINIA FELTON
SHA Communications Director

As the last few of the townhouses built by the Seattle Housing Authority are sold at NewHolly, the next phase of the of the homes-for-sale program is getting underway. This phase involves the purchase of lots by local builders who will construct homes for sale to the public according to strict design guidelines established by SHA. The new homes will fit into the existing neighborhood while offering more variety in both design and price structure.

Family Pryde Homes, a local Bellevue business which builds custom homes, has purchased the eight lots on the north side of South Holly Place between 33rd Place South and 34th Place South. Family Pryde will construct four duplexes on these lots similar to the duplexes located further east on the same street. They will then market and sell these homes to the general public.

Previously, SHA assumed all of the risk of the for-sale homes at NewHolly, serving as developer and hiring general contractors to do the actual building. By selling the lots to private home developers, SHA expects to experience higher returns on the sale of

the land. Proceeds from the land sales will help to fund other aspects of the NewHolly development program, including the construction of low-income housing.

According to Stephen Antupit, who manages the homes-for-sale program for SHA, local builders have been very enthusiastic about purchasing lots at all of the Housing Authority's redevelopment sites. SHA is currently negotiating the sale of the remaining for-sale lots at NewHolly (both in Phase II and in Phase III), and expects to close on those sales in the next month or two. Construction on all of the new homes will begin this summer.

Lots are also being offered for sale at High Point and will be available at Rainier Vista soon. Strict design guidelines, adopted by SHA in consultation with close neighbors, will control how the houses will look when completed. Agreements between SHA and the builders will also control the mix of affordable homes and homes targeted at higher price points. The goal is to provide a mix of both designs and prices.

All 148 of the homes built by SHA in NewHolly Phase I have now been sold. Nearly all of the SHA-built homes in Phase II have also been sold. Only four of these homes remain on the market at this time.

Flexcar comes to NewHolly

By LAURA LAKINGS-BECVAR
Seattle Housing Authority

After months of planning, Flexcar is coming to the NewHolly community. The new car was launched on May 1 making the NewHolly location - in the parking lot of the NewHolly campus - one of 19 Flexcar locations. The NewHolly program is designed to especially benefit job seekers.

"NewHolly represents a great opportunity for Flexcar and we are excited about bringing car-sharing to the residents there," said Brett Allen, Flexcar general manager. "Our partnership with King County Metro is continuing to allow us to expand to more and more neighborhoods."

To become a member of Flexcar, one must generally pay a membership fee of \$25 and up to \$9 per hour to use the cars. This is cut

in half for those who are seeking employment or otherwise engaged in work-related activities however. To qualify for the reduced costs, drivers must carpool and provide proof that they are engaged in some type of employment activity. Forms will be provided to verify activity.

Flexcar is an innovative car-sharing company built on the premise that many people living in a city need a car only some of the time. Members can reserve cars and use them at any time as long as the car they wish to use is available. Members don't have to pay for gas or have any kind of insurance coverage. Flexcar has more than 100 vehicles in the fleet. Locations are throughout the greater Seattle area and all are available for use by any member.

To learn more about Flexcar, visit their Web site at: <http://www.flexcar.com>.

Tutors teach NewHolly teens

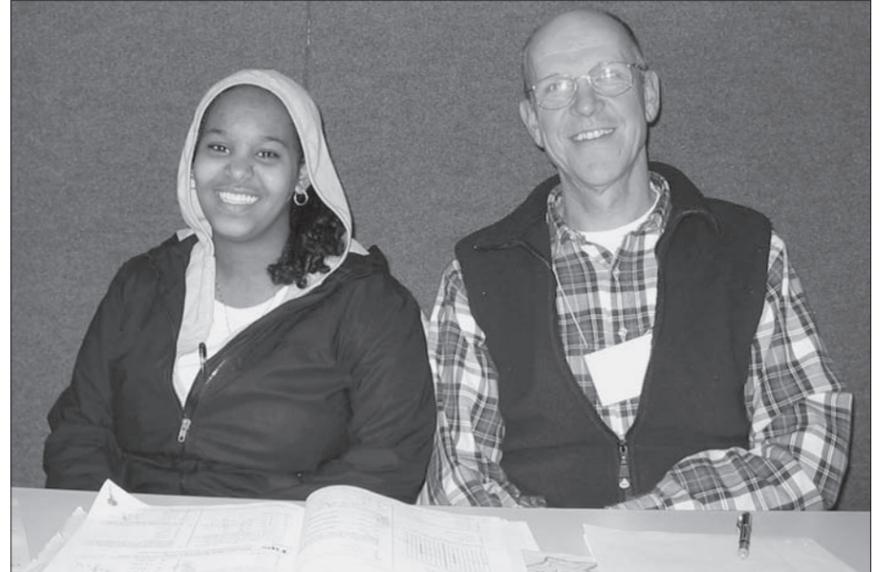


PHOTO BY ERIN BRINEY

Reiley Kidd and Addisalem Gebremedhin get ready to work on some problems during a recent High School tutoring night at NewHolly.

Youth Tutoring Program and Teen Center team up to get teens tutoring help

By ERIN BRINEY
Special to The Voice

A recent partnership between Catholic Community Services Youth Tutoring Program and the Atlantic Street Center has resulted in a new opportunity for NewHolly's high school students who find themselves overwhelmed by their studies.

The partnership started when representatives from the two agencies discussed student needs in the community. They discovered that the Youth Tutoring Program had volunteers who wanted to work with high school students and that the Atlantic Street Center had high school students who were looking for academic help. Within a month, the High School Homework Night was up and running.

At the beginning of each night, students are divided up by subject area and assigned to a tutor. Current tutors can cover a variety of subjects, from Spanish to Calculus to Ancient World Cultures. After an hour of tutoring, students participate in workshops. Subjects for these sessions range from time-management skills to preparing for college.

On a recent night, students were led in a workshop focusing on critical thinking and problem solving skills. Jeaneen Bougard, a staff member with the Youth Tutoring Program, led the workshop called "The Weakest Link."

For The Weakest Link workshop, students were divided into groups, given a few supplies, and then assigned the task of building a rope that could hold if pulled in opposing directions. The students huddled together, discussing strategy and trying out different designs. After 20 minutes, each group presented their final design and tested them out.

"We want to create a space where students can come and find help with their work, but also have fun and interact with other students and adults," said Bougard. "Students had a great time working on this activity, and at the same time practiced problem solving and team building skills."

The program will continue through the first week of June. Students who are interested in attending should contact Erin Briney with the Youth Tutoring Program at 206-725-7942.

Community notes

Family Study Time

The NewHolly Youth and Family Center offers family study time from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday evening. During these family study times, school-aged youth receive help from tutors with their school work while at the same time, their parents can get help with learning English as a Second Language, English conversation, GED preparation, citizenship studies and even home childcare training. No appointment is necessary. For more information, call 206-723-4073.

Free legal help

Seattle Community Law Center legal advocates Jennifer Culter and Aerin Orbits will be available to assist with a wide variety of legal questions from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. every Wednesday in the Rainier Vista Neighborhood House Center Building, located at 3006 S. Oregon St.

They look forward to meeting community members and helping with non-criminal issues such as social security, housing, benefits and child support.

Seeking submissions

The Voice is seeking submissions for its NewHolly community section. Articles, photos and community announcements can be sent to Charles Redell at 905 Spruce St., Seattle, WA 98104. Submissions can also be sent by e-mail to charlesr@nhwa.org or by phone by calling 206-461-8430 ext. 227.

Senior day at the Aquarium

Don't miss Senior Day at The Seattle Aquarium on May 16. Admission and lunch are free. Registration is required. For more information or to reserve your spot, call 206-684-4951. Space is limited so call right away. Transportation will not be provided.

YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

Redevelopment at Yesler still in the future

By TOM PHILLIPS
SHA Development Project Manager

As construction continues on the new Community Center at Yesler Terrace, the sight of construction equipment has led to more questions about the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace itself. Built in 1939, this community was actually the very first public housing development built by the Seattle Housing Authority.

Residents and planners alike have recognized that – sooner or later – these aging structures will need to be replaced. Looming in the minds of many is a question about when this will happen.

At this time, SHA has no concrete plans for the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace. However, the Housing Authority is beginning to talk about it more and to consider the general framework for redevelopment. Before serious planning efforts begin, a broad vision for the new neighborhood will be developed – with help from residents, immediate neighbors and from the wider community.

We expect that serious planning efforts will not begin until mid-2005 at the earliest. When it does begin, the planning process will take two to three years, possibly longer. In the meantime, we will continue to collect background information in preparation for the planning effort.

When we do formally begin the planning process, a number of important principles will guide that effort.

First, we will replace, on a one-for-one basis, every unit presently at Yesler Terrace. We will continue our excellent track record in this area. We have already purchased 21 replacements for the units demolished to make room for the new Community Center. We have replaced 857 units in our four HOPE VI redevelopment efforts so far. This is already 38 percent of our goal. We are confident that all of those units will be replaced by 2009 when we complete the last HOPE VI redevelopment.

Second, we expect to build a portion of the Yesler replacement units at the current site. However, until a vision and plan are created, it is impossible to know how many low-income units will be replaced on site.

One key variable in planning will be determining the number of total units that can be built on the site. We anticipate that the new Yesler Terrace will most likely be a mixed-income community, with about a third of the total units being low-income rentals. It may have some mixed-use elements as well, such as retail or office uses.

Once we begin the development process at Yesler Terrace, it will most likely be accomplished over an extended period in small stages – a block or two at a time over several years. This means that many Yesler Terrace residents may be able to stay on site during the process.

All residents who are required to move from Yesler Terrace will receive relocation benefits and assistance finding housing. At some point, several years from now, we will announce an official beginning date for the



Community Center construction at Yesler has sparked questions over redevelopment plans for the community.

redevelopment project. From that date on, all Yesler Terrace residents who are required to move will be eligible for these benefits.

As part of the redevelopment planning process, there will be an extensive outreach program to solicit ideas from residents and neighbors. We will establish a formal Yesler Advisory Committee, which will include residents and other community stakeholders, as one avenue for community

involvement. There will be additional, less formal efforts as well.

The SHA Board of Commissioners has made the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace a priority for the next ten years. With the ongoing withdrawal of federal support for low-income housing, the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace is a key component in SHA's strategy to continue serving Seattle's low-income residents.

Notes from the Manager

By JUDI CARTER
Community Manager

Spring is here and while the warm weather is definitely welcome, the past two winters were so mild that the mouse population at Yesler Terrace has positively exploded. It is now more important than ever that we all take precautions to make units less attractive to mice. This means that the garbage needs to be taken outside every night - not just when the waste basket gets full. It also means that food needs to be stored in hard containers, like canisters, or big plastic buckets with tight lids for things like rice and flour. Counter tops need to be wiped off several times a day and toasters need to be cleaned frequently so that the crumbs do not provide a big meal for the mice. Please continue to let the management office know if there are mice in your apartment so that we can get it treated and sealed to get rid of those mice and keep others from getting in.

There have been reports of children climbing the fence to play on the heavy equipment in the area where the new community center is being built. This is a serious safety hazard and can not continue. Please instruct your children to stay away from this area.

Maintenance staff continue to report that they are finding grease and hair in drains that they have work orders to unclog. Please remember not to pour oil and grease from cooking down drains. It may be liquid in your pan when you dump it, but when it reaches the cold pipes, it quickly cools down, hardens and plugs up your drains.

One great way to dispose of your cooking grease and oil without clogging drains came up at the April Community Council meeting. One resident told the group that he keeps a can with a lid on it to pour his used cooking grease into. Then, when it gets full, he simply throws it in his outside garbage can.

In another drain-maintenance note, I have noticed that many residents have purchased screens to put in the drains of their kitchen and bathroom sinks. These same residents rarely need to have their drains unclogged because hair and food particles can easily be taken out of the screens. This leaves the drains running smoothly. This is a wonderful way to keep maintenance costs down.

Finally, it sure is a good thing that the tool shop is open again because with all this warm weather, the grass is growing very fast. The tool shop is located on the south side of 117 Broadway Ave. It is open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Push mowers, weed eaters, rakes and goggles are available for residents to check out and use. With these tools, and some determination, you could get your lawn to look as good as Gia Pham's who has kept his yard beautiful for as long as I can recall. If you happen to be down in the 1000 block of South Washington Street, look to the north, and see if you can spot one of the nicest lawns in all of Yesler Terrace.

Thank you, Mr. Pham, you are truly an inspiration.

Next month we will celebrate Juneteenth! Look for flyers about this exciting free event on your door soon.

Bringing the history of Yesler to the 21st century

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

A group of teenagers from Yesler Terrace is embarking on some groundbreaking territory in the Yesler Terrace Computer Lab this spring. Thanks to a grant from the Gates Foundation, Asfaha Lemlem and a group of volunteers are leading their 15 students in a 12-week course to create a 3-D model of Yesler Terrace. But this 3-D model is going to be much more than popsicle sticks in a shoebox.

Lemlem, who is the computer lab's coordinator, said that this model will be made using a technology developed at the University of Washington called Augmented Reality.

"The kids are really excited," Lemlem said. "It's a hands-on thing."

One of the things that has these youth so excited is that this class is different than most of those offered at the lab. Instead of being the end-users for a program like Microsoft Word or Excel, the youth involved in the Augmented Reality class are creating something from scratch that will be used by others.

Currently, the class is researching the history of Yesler Terrace going back about

30 to 40 years Lemlem said. They are interviewing residents, hunting down old photographs and researching the stories they hear about their neighborhood. When that stage of the project is complete, the students will begin to create a 3-D model of Yesler Terrace as it once looked and how it might look 15 or 20 years from now.

Lemlem said that when the computer model is complete, the students will have created something totally unique based on their own designs. He has plans to display the students' work on the Web and has offered it as an example of the lab's work when a national conference of community computer lab coordinators comes to Seattle this summer.

For now, the class is only scheduled to run for one session, but that may change according to Lemlem. He said that along with \$12,000, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation offered a \$14,000 challenge grant to the lab. If he can get another grant for the same amount, the Gates foundation will match it and the class can run for two years. Lemlem also hopes to make the curriculum into one that other computer labs can adopt for their students as well.

Lemlem expects to hear about additional grants this spring.

Community notes

Parking map

Recently, the Seattle Department of Transportation has entered a partnership with the Yesler Terrace Community Council to create a map about parking around Yesler Terrace. Please tell us what kind of information about parking would be helpful for you to know. Contact

community builder Ellen Broeske at 206-343-7484.

Seeking Volunteers for Juneteenth

Yesler Terrace's annual Juneteenth Celebration is coming. Volunteers are needed to help. If you want to help, contact Ellen Broeske at 206-343-7484.

TRANSLATIONS

TRANSLATED ARTICLES FROM THE VOICE

Section 8 proposes minimum contribution

ቅድመ-ጥያቄ ለሚከፈሉት ተጨማሪ \$50 ዶላር እንዲከፈሉ ሃሳብ ያቀርባል በ ስክሽን 8 ፕሮግራም። ባህሩ ግዜ ፕሮግራሙ ዝቅተኛ አስተዋጽኦ አይጠይቅም ባዲሱ ፖሊሲ መሰረት ዝቅተኛ አስተዋጽኦ ለመክፈል የማይችሉ ሰዎች እንዲከፈሉ እያስገድድም።

Section 8 ንግድ ለሚከፈሉት ተጨማሪ \$50 ዶላር እንዲከፈሉ ሃሳብ ያቀርባል በ ስክሽን 8 ፕሮግራም። ባህሩ ግዜ ፕሮግራሙ ዝቅተኛ አስተዋጽኦ አይጠይቅም ባዲሱ ፖሊሲ መሰረት ዝቅተኛ አስተዋጽኦ ለመክፈል የማይችሉ ሰዎች እንዲከፈሉ እያስገድድም።

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ቅድመ-ጥያቄ ለሚከፈሉት ተጨማሪ \$50 ዶላር እንዲከፈሉ ሃሳብ ያቀርባል በ ስክሽን 8 ፕሮግራም። ባህሩ ግዜ ፕሮግራሙ ዝቅተኛ አስተዋጽኦ አይጠይቅም ባዲሱ ፖሊሲ መሰረት ዝቅተኛ አስተዋጽኦ ለመክፈል የማይችሉ ሰዎች እንዲከፈሉ እያስገድድም።

ስክሽን 8 ዝቅተኛ አስተዋጽኦ ሃሳብ ያቀርባል

ስክሽን 8 ፕሮግራም አውቶራቲ በፈደራላዊው መንግሥት የባለቤት ቅንብር በሚቅርቡለት የቤቶች ማመልከቻ ብዛት ምስረት ቤተሰቦች ለቤት ኪራይና ለማገልገያ በሚከፈሉት ተጨማሪ \$50 ዶላር እንዲከፈሉ ሃሳብ ያቀርባል በ ስክሽን 8 ፕሮግራም። ባህሩ ግዜ ፕሮግራሙ ዝቅተኛ አስተዋጽኦ አይጠይቅም ባዲሱ ፖሊሲ መሰረት ዝቅተኛ አስተዋጽኦ ለመክፈል የማይችሉ ሰዎች እንዲከፈሉ እያስገድድም።

“ ዓላማችን በተቻለን መጠን በብዛት በዝቅተኛ ገቢ የሚተዳደሩ ቤተሰቦችን መርዳት ነው” ካቲ ሮሶፍ ካቲ ሮሶፍ የስክሽን 8 ዲሬክተር ዝቅተኛ ክፍያ መክፈል ርትዓዊ ሆኖ ፕሮግራሙ ብዛት ያላቸውን ሰዎች ለማገልገል ይረዳል በማለት ትገልጻለች። ፈደራላዊ ሕጎችና ደንቦች ስክሽን 8 እስከ \$50 እንዲያስከፍል ያስችለዋል ሃሲን ባለፉት 9

መታት ያስከፍል ነበር እስከ 2002። ማርች 31 ስክሽን 8 ፕሮግራም ህዝባዊ ስብሰባ በመጥራት ሰቀረበው ሃሳብ ከህዝባዊ ምክር ይቀበላል ምክሮችን በመቀበል ፖሊሲው ለማሻሻል ይሞክራል የመጨረሻው ውሳኔው ደግሞ አፕሪል 19 ይጠበቃል። ስለ ቀረበው የፖሊሲው በበለጠ ለመረዳት አና ወ. በስልክ ቁጥር 206 239-1523 awoo@seattlehousing.org ደውለው ያነጋግሩ።

ስክሽን 8 ውሐድ ክፍሊት ይሳትጥ። Section 8

ግብረመልሴ ነቲ ብፈደራላዊ መንግሥት ዝጸደቀ ናይ ባለቤት ምንካይን ናይ ክራይ ገዛውቲ ሓገዛት ጠለባት ንምምላእ ናይ ስክሽን 8 ኣውቶራቲ ብዝተሓተ ናይ \$50 ዶላር ክፍሊት ንስድራ ቤት ክራይን ንማገልገሊ ዝክፈልን ክክፍል ወሲኑ ኣሎ ንስክሽን 8 መደብ። ኣብዚ እዋን እዚ ኣየክፍልን ዘሎ ብምሰራት እዚ ተመሓላፊ ዘሎ ሓዲስ ሕጊ ጸገም ንዘለዎም ሰባት ኣይምልከትን እዩ።

“ዓላማና ብዝተካፈለና ብዙሓት ትሑት እቶት ዘእትወ ሰባት ንምሕጋዝ እዩ” ትብል ካቲ ሮሶፍ ደይረክተር ስክሽን 8 ዘውሓደ ክፍሊት ምክፍል ርትዓዊ እዩ ብዙሓት ሰባት ንምግልጋል ድማ ይሕግዝ ትብል ካቲ ባለቤት ፈደራላዊ ሕግን ፍቓድን ስክሽን 8 ብዝውሓደ ክፍሊት ክሳብ \$50 የፍቓድ ኣብዝተሓለፈ እዋናት ሃውሲንግ እውቶራቲ ይከፍሎ ነይሩ ሕድሞ ምቁራዶ ኣብ 2002። ኣብ ዝተሓለፈ ወሒ ማኅኅት 31 ስክሽን 8 ሃውሲንግ ኣውቶራቲ

ህዝባዊ ኣክሲዮን ብምክያድ ካብ ህዝቢ ሓሳብን ርኢቶን ተቐቢሎ ምንባሩ ዝገኘር እዩ ብዛዕባ እዚ ተገይሩ ዘሎ ለውጢ ስክሽን 8 ሃውሲንግ ኣውቶራቲ እቲ ካብ ህዝቢ ዝቐረበሉ ሕቶ ኣብ ግምት ብምእታው ምምሕያሽ ይገብር ይከፈውን ናይ መጨረሻ ውሳኔ ኣብ አፕሪል 19 ከቕርብ እዩ። ተወሳኺ ሓብራታ ምስ ዘድልዩኩም ብዛዕባ ዝተሓተ ኣስተዋጽኦ ኣብ ስክሽን 8 ሃውሲንግ ኣውቶራቲ ብምድዋል ንኣን ወ. ኣኣብ ስልኪ ቁጥር 206-239-1523 **AWOO@SEATTLEHOUSE.ORG** ብምድዋል ትሓቱ።

SECTION 8 WUXUU SOO JEEDINAYAA IN LA BIXIYO TABARUC KAN UGU YAR

Misaaniyadda federaaliga ah oo la jaray iyo baahida kaalmada guryaha oo badatay awgeed ayaa Seattle Housing Authority waxey soo jeedineysaa in \$50 ugu yaraan ay bixiyaan qoys kastaba, si loogu kabo kharajka Section 8 ku bixiyo ijaarka iyo korontada, biyaha ama gaaska. Hadda barnaamijka malaha max loogooyey ee tabaruc ugu yar ah. Qorshahaan cusub wuxuu tixgelineyaa dhibaato dhaqaale oo adag ay hayso ee aan awoodin inay bixiyaan tabaruca ugu yar.

Kathy Roseth oo ah agaasimaha barnaamijka Section 8 waxey tiri “Himiladeenna waa inaan u adeegno ama aan wax uqabanno dad badan oo ah kuwa dakhligoodu yar yahay hadba inta aan awoodno”.

Sharciga federaaliga ah wuxuu u ogolaanaaya barnaamijka Section 8-ka tabaruca ugu yar ilaa \$50. Housing Authority waxey horey u qaadijireen tabaruca ugu yar, laakiin waxey joojiyeen 2002.

Housing Authority dood dadweyne bishii March 31, si looga hadlo isbeddelkaas. SHA waxay ka baaraan degeysaa hadaladaas, waxaana laga yaabaa iney wax ka beddelaan qorshahaas. Go'aank ugu dambeyey waxaa la rajeynayaa in la gaaro April 19.

Wixii faah-faahin ah ee ku saabsan tabaruca ugu yar waxaad kala xiriiri kareysiin Ana Woo oo u sheqeysa SHA Tel: 206-239-1523 ama awoo@seattlehousing.org

Dự trừ mức (tiền nhà) tối thiểu cho chương trình gia cư số 8 – Section 8

Để đáp ứng việc cắt giảm ngân quỹ từ chính phủ liên bang, và nhu cầu trợ giúp gia cư càng tăng lên, Nha Cấp Phát Gia Cư Seattle – Seattle Housing Authority dự tính đòi buộc các hộ đang cư ngụ trong các căn nhà thuộc chương trình Số 8 là phải đóng số tiền nhà và tiền tiện ích ở mức tối thiểu là \$50. Hiện nay, chương trình nhà Số 8 không có đòi buộc mức tiền nhà tối thiểu này. Với qui định mới này, thì những gia đình đang gặp quá khó khăn, thì có thể yêu cầu xin được miễn đóng số tiền nhà tối thiểu này.

“Mục tiêu của chúng tôi là càng cố gắng phục vụ càng nhiều gia đình có lợi tức thấp”, bà Kathy Roseth, giám đốc Chương trình Gia Cư Số 8-Section 8. “Qui định việc đóng (tiền nhà) ở mức tối thiểu là việc công bình và hợp lý nhằm giúp cho việc điều hành gia cư được vững chắc và có thể giúp phục vụ nhiều gia đình hơn”.

Luật Liên- Bang cho phép chương trình gia cư số 8 – Section 8 được thu mức tiền nhà tối thiểu lên đến \$50. Nha Cấp Phát gia cư trước đây có (thi hành việc) đóng tiền nhà với mức tối thiểu này, nhưng đã chấm dứt hồi năm 2002.

Nha Cấp Phát Gia Cư có triệu tập cuộc họp công chúng hôm 31 tháng 3 để lấy ý kiến về sự thay đổi này. Nha Cấp Phát Gia Cư đang chờ xét những ý kiến đề nghị, và kết quả là có thể sẽ sửa đổi qui định cho thích hợp. Quyết định cuối cùng kỳ vọng đưa ra vào ngày 19 tháng Tư.

Các chi tiết về dự định trong mức (tiền nhà) tối thiểu hiện đang có nơi Cơ Quan Cấp Phát Gia Cư Seattle Housing Authority, quý vị có thể liên lạc cô Ana Woo ở số điện thoại 206-239-1523, hoặc ở địa chỉ điện thư awoo@seattlehousing.org.

Предполагается минимальный взнос по 8-й программе

Section 8 proposes minimum contribution

В ответ на урезание федерального бюджета и увеличение нуждающихся в государственном жилье Жилищное управление Сизтла предлагает установить минимальный взнос в 50 долларов в счет оплаты жилья и коммунальных услуг по 8-й программе. В настоящее время программа не предусматривает минимального взноса. По новой установке, только в случае крайней нужды могут быть сделаны исключения для людей, которые не в состоянии платить минимальный взнос.

«Наша цель - помочь как можно

большому количеству малообеспеченных людей, - говорит руководитель 8-й программы Кати Росеф,- введение минимального взноса - это справедливый и разумный способ сохранить программу и помочь, по возможности, многим людям.»

Федеральные установки позволяют 8-й программе иметь минимальный взнос до 50 долларов. Жилищное управление в прошлом имело его, но отменило в 2002 году. Публичное слушание по поводу изменений, организованное Жилищным управлением, состоялось 31 марта. Все высказанные комментарии

приняты во внимание ЖУС и могут повлиять на окончательную установку, которая будет принята, предположительно, до 19 апреля. Более полную информацию о предполагаемом минимальном взносе можно получить, связавшись с Ана Ву (Ana Woo) из ЖУС по тел. 206-239-1523 или awoo@seattlehousing.org.

