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The Voice

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2004
*Articles translated
into six languages*

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

Summer musical is a blast



PHOTO COURTESY LANGSTON HUGHES CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

Above, youth rehearse a dance number for *The Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center* summer production "Grease: The Way We Do It!" The annual summer musical event showcases youth from all over Seattle in traditional musicals with a unique twist. Matinees are at 1 p.m. on Aug. 19 and 20 and cost \$1. Call 206-684-4757. Evening performances are at 7 p.m. on Aug. 20 and 21 and cost \$5. As always, the show is performed at the Paramount Theater. The box office is located at 911 Pine St.

City Council opposes funding cuts to Section 8

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

In response to a plan proposed by the Bush administration to cut funding to the Section 8 housing program, the Seattle City Council unanimously passed a resolution that opposes those reductions. Prior to voting on the resolution, City Council member Tom Rasmussen convened a special round-table discussion on the issue. Approximately 150 people showed up for the midday meeting in the Council's chambers.

Councilman Nick Licata - who sits on the Housing, Human Services and Health Committee chaired by Rasmussen - spoke on the City Council's history of supporting Section 8 and the need to keep discussing it.

"Being here today is good to educate us ... and lets the Congress know that this city and our citizens will not stand for the kinds of inhumane cuts that are being proposed," he said.

The Tenants Union is organizing a rally at noon on Aug. 3 at the Federal building in downtown Seattle to demand that cuts to Section 8 be rescinded. For more information call 206-723-0500.

Tom Tierney and Stephen Norman, the executive directors of the Seattle and the King County Housing Authorities, sat on the panel convened by Rasmussen. They outlined the issue and discussed the impact the cuts to the Section 8 program could have on their residents.

Combined, the two housing authorities are responsible for more than 15,000 Housing Choice (Section 8) Vouchers. Tierney noted that thanks to SHA's status as a Moving to Work housing authority, most of the agency's vouchers are probably protected from the 2004 cuts and projected 2005 cuts. However, he said that if cuts continue at this

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Top HUD official praises Youngs Lake

KCHA community cited as success story for federal homebuying initiative

By CLAUDE IOSSO
King County Housing Authority

When one of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's top officials came to King County to promote a new homeownership initiative, he chose to highlight the success of residents from Youngs Lake Commons, a 27-unit family development in the Renton area.

When people express doubt about HUD's controversial American Dream Downpayment Initiative, Assistant Secretary of Indian and Public Housing Michael Liu said he tells them about Youngs Lake.

"People ask if we really can help public housing residents to become homebuyers," Liu said during a June 29 visit to Vantage Glen, a King County Housing Authority

manufactured home community outside Renton, just up the street from Youngs Lake. "You not only can do it. It's already been done. Thirty-five residents from Youngs Lake have found homes. That's amazing."

Youngs Lake has been a special community reserved for residents working or taking classes and prepared to find private housing within three years. Since 1997, a YWCA employment specialist has provided intensive, on-site counseling and supervision, including help with job searches, financial planning, budgeting and homeownership assistance programs.

Photographs of former Youngs Lake families who graduated to homeownership were on display at the event. One current Youngs Lake couple, Roman and Lyudmila Ben, came to the event and Lyudmila spoke happily of their experience and progress toward self-sufficiency.

While KCHA has been forced to discontinue the Youngs Lake program due to its high cost and reduced federal funding, homeownership continues to be a priority. Under a new program funded through a Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency (ROSS) grant, public housing residents can receive homeownership counseling and purchase support from a partnership of

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"If you can't expect me to raise a little hell over Section 8, you ought to find someone else to represent you at SHA."

*Seattle Housing Authority
Executive Director, Tom Tierney*

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Neighborhood House
Jesse Epstein Building
905 Spruce Street
Seattle, WA 98104

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Health Notes

A column devoted to your well-being

By DENISE SHARIFY

Community Health Program Manager

Water is one of the most essential ingredients for life and good health. During our dry, hot summer months, an average person should drink at least 10 glasses of water a day. People who exercise a great deal should add one glass of water for each 30 minutes of exercise.

If we don't drink enough water, the most common symptoms are constipation, dry and itchy skin, acne, nose bleeds, repeated urinary tract infections, dry and unproductive coughs, constant sneezing, sinus pressure and headaches.

When we are thirsty, it is more likely that we will reach for a can of soda, a bottle of juice or a sports drink. However, drinking water is the best option for your body and provides many benefits for you such as stronger, healthier teeth and bones, a clear, healthy and vibrant complexion and weight loss because your body requires more water to metabolize properly and to maintain a healthy weight.

To ensure that our tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency approves regulations that set water quality standards for public water systems. These regulations say that drinking water, including bottled water, may contain reasonably small amounts of contaminants. According to Seattle Public Utilities, "Seattle is fortunate to have one of the cleanest sources of drinking water in the country."

Water that has been filtered through activated carbon or charcoal is probably the least expensive way to ensure that it is completely safe. The carbon filter removes

most of the cancer causing agents and bacteria commonly found in drinking water. These filters are often very inexpensive and can be found in almost any department store.

Distilled water, on the other hand, has had all the metals (both harmful and helpful) removed but none of the fluorinated and chlorinated hydrocarbons are removed making it not as good for you. It is these hydrocarbons that cause most health problems. While the Food and Drug Administration provides regulations for contaminants in bottled water, bottled spring waters are not yet required to be analyzed for chemical and bacterial levels.

Drinking the recommended eight to 10 glasses of water a day may be challenging for many of us. Here are a few suggestions that may be helpful:

- Add lemon or orange slices to your cold water bottle in the refrigerator.
- Keep or carry a water bottle by your side at all times.
- During hot summer months, fill water bottles with water and place them in the freezer overnight. Take one out each morning and let it melt during the day. Icy water will help cool you off, quenches thirst and makes it easier to meet your daily water-drinking goal.
- If you find yourself snacking while watching television, place a large bottle of cold water by your remote control. That way, you can drink water instead of soda or other drinks that contain a lot of calories and sugar that your body does not need.
- Drink two, 8-ounce glasses of water before every meal. You can do this while you are cooking or preparing your meal.

KCHA is hub of homebuying initiatives



Partners in making homeownership happen in King County are from left, Linda Taylor of the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle, Lisa Huang of The International District Housing Alliance and Arturo Gonzalez of El Centro de la Raza.

PHOTO COURTESY KING COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

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three organizations – the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle, the International District Housing Alliance and El Centro de la Raza.

At Greenbridge, the new mixed-income community to replace Park Lake Homes I, a quarter of the for-sale homes will be priced for people earning less than 80 percent of the area median income. KCHA is exploring

ways to assist the large immigrant and refugee community in White Center so that these homes can be affordable to them.

"KCHA has been a great partner in affordable housing," Liu said. "We at HUD wanted to honor KCHA's leadership in the area of homeownership assistance." He presented a certificate of appreciation to KCHA Executive Director Stephen Norman and KCHA Commissioner Peter Orser.

The Voice

Charles Redell
Editor
206-461-8430 ext. 227
charlesr@nhwa.org

Reporter
Amity Egge

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.

As school year approaches, tutoring programs abound

One of the most popular in Seattle communities is the Youth Tutoring Program

By KIM CARROLL

Special to the Voice

Every evening at 5 p.m. during the school year, a small crowd of kids starts banging on the door of the community center at Yesler Terrace. They are excited to get inside where their tutors at the Catholic Community Services Youth Tutoring Program wait to help them with their homework.

This same scenario plays out every school day between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. at Seattle's four garden community Youth Tutoring Programs when students arrive for their one-hour session each evening. This year more than 60 youth took advantage of this opportunity to get free homework help at the Yesler Terrace program alone.

Homework help is not the only focus of the Youth Tutoring Program. The educational structure of the program stands independent of whether or not children bring homework. It is one of the things that makes the CCS tutoring centers unique. Homework or not, each session is packed with educational activities for the students. They also work on reading, skill-building and educational games.

Eryn Strong, a fifth grader, summarizes the purpose and the atmosphere at her tutoring center when she explains that she likes the fun activities. "Tutoring teaches me stuff I haven't even learned in school," she said. "The games help me learn, but I just think they are fun."

Education in an atmosphere of fun works perfectly for these kids who come here after school.

The heart of the Youth Tutoring Program centers are the volunteer adult tutors. Thanks to them, the students that attend the YTP all over the city never get overlooked once they head through the doors of a community room. They get one-on-one attention from adults who bring a variety of experience and a lot of energy and caring into the center. That close attention is one

of the things that makes the YTP stand out.

Obsee Hissu, a sixth-grader explains, "I'd have a C or D in Math if there were no tutoring. But I get a B because my tutor helped me. I love my tutor."

The tutors continually bring the program to life with their energy and commitment.

When all the tutoring is set aside, the YTP still has unique contributions to assist the children it serves. For some, it is crucial to have access to a computer and a tutor at the same time in order to complete school projects. Many students take advantage of special clubs that tutoring also offers. These special sessions are offered in addition to the regular tutoring sessions. Youth at Yesler Terrace have taken part in clubs about computers, chess, knitting and drama. Clubs continue even into the summer when the YTP still has a strong presence in the communities it serves.

Through summer reading programs, the Youth Tutoring Program bridges the gap between summer and school with a program that gives students a chance to read and write and even be rewarded with some money at the end for their efforts. This gives youth a chance to buy their own school supplies for the upcoming year. Even better, they get a much-needed boost to their academics which are not given a chance to take a long summer break if they are involved in the Youth Tutoring Program.

Catholic Community Services Youth Tutoring Programs are available in High Point, Jackson Park, NewHolly, Rainier Vista and Yesler Terrace. They are open to families that live in public housing or that receive Section 8 assistance from the Seattle Housing Authority. To find out more about the one in your community or to sign up your child, please call 206-328-5650 or visit www.ytpseattle.org.

Kim Carroll is the coordinator of the Yesler Terrace Youth Tutoring Program.

Other tutoring options

There are other after school tutoring programs available around King County during the coming school year.

The first place parents can and should turn to for tutoring help is their child's school. Often, schools will offer free after-school tutoring and homework help according to Patti Spencer, spokesperson for Seattle Public Schools. She says that a great resource to find help to meet your children's specific needs is their teachers. They know what a child needs most and can point parents to the perfect program for help.

Many King County Housing Authority residents also have tutoring options in their own communities.

The Boys & Girls Club, the Center for Human Services and Kent Youth and Family Services provide after school help at some KCHA developments.

Neighborhood House Youth Tutoring and Resource Centers operate in four locations around the county.

In Auburn, the Youth Tutoring Resource Center at Burndale Homes operates from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The Youth Tutoring Resource Center at Green River Homes operates from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

and in White Center, the Youth Tutoring Resource Center operates from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The program at Tyee High School in SeaTac operates from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. All of their sites currently run Monday to Thursday.

Students are welcome to drop in for assistance and support from the dedicated staff and trained tutors. For those students who enroll in the program and plan to attend consistently, center staff works with the student, parents and the student's teachers to create individual learning plans that best meet the academic needs of each student. Call 206-461-8430 for more information.

Another resource is Childcare Resources. This non-profit agency works with parents and childcare providers by providing information and resources to parents seeking childcare. They also provide resources through their After School Learning program that helps parents find a quality program that supports in-school learning.

To get help finding a tutoring program for your child, call 206-329-5544 or visit www.childcare.org and follow the After School Learning link.

Learning how to start school



This mother and her children learned the kindergarten ropes this summer through the Neighborhood House Health Nutrition and Education Project.

PHOTO BY PUA SMITH

By DANIELLE EIDENBERG-NOPPE
Special to the Voice

The first day of school is approaching and many parents are starting to wonder what starting school means for them and their children.

These are questions all parents face before their first child enters kindergarten. For families new to the United States, the questions and concerns multiply: Who will understand and answer my questions? As my child moves into their new life as a kindergarten student, will they move away from our native culture, language and family? For 15 families from eight countries whose children will be entering kindergarten at Bailey Gatzert in the fall, the answers to these questions are becoming clearer.

With support from the City of Seattle's Office of Human Services, Neighborhood House is offering an 8-week Kindergarten Transition program for children and their parents. Children attend the Getting Ready for Kindergarten program at Bailey Gatzert Elementary School four mornings a week. As the children (a few of whom have never attended preschool before) explore a classroom rich with literacy, science and art activities, it is clear that they are building relationships with one another, a love for their teachers and a comfort with school.

Their families also attend a series of eight family nights as part of the transition program. Culturally representative meals are served and followed by parent discussions facilitated by educators and interpreters around issues of kindergarten readiness

and school involvement. Following the parent discussion, teachers facilitate parent-guided, child-centered literacy activities such as reader's theater, puppet making, book making and games. Activities are associated with books the children have used throughout each week. Parents are each given copies of the weekly book and non-English speaking parents are encouraged to use their home language in discussing the books with their children.

During one Family Night, Bailey Gatzert's principal, Norma Zavala, met families to discuss ways parents can get involved at school and to address some of the parents' questions about starting kindergarten.

An audible sigh of relief was heard among the parents as Zavala described her own memory of the fear and pride she felt as she dropped off her first child on the first day of kindergarten. Later in the program, all four kindergarten teachers met the families and took students and parents on tours of their classrooms. In September, the kindergarten teachers will meet with each family individually over the course of the first week of school – and will begin with their whole class in the second week.

Hopefully this gentle transition into the new world of school will serve to support children's academic achievement through their families' involvement in the school community. In what we hope can be a model for other programs, the Getting Ready for Kindergarten program is one of the ways Neighborhood House and the City of Seattle are helping all children receive an equal and quality education.

A smooth start to school

There is a lot to do before school starts in September. At the top of every parent's list is to get the kids enrolled at school. If you live in Seattle, the Seattle Public Schools' Enrollment Centers open on Aug. 9. If you have recently moved, want to change your child's school or still need to enroll your child, these centers are the place for you. Call 206-252-0410 to find out what to bring and where to go. Some ideas that you can use to ease the transition to school life include:

- Read to your child daily in your primary language or in English. Reading books in your primary language is a valuable way to build language and literacy skills.
- Call your child's school in August to set up a meeting with their teacher. Bring your child in to spend a few minutes with the teacher. When your child arrives in class on the first day of school they will know the teacher recognizes them.
- Help your child get plenty of sleep starting at least a week before school starts.
- Help your child eat a healthy breakfast before school each day.
- Give your child plenty of time to get ready for school in the morning by laying their clothes out the night before.
- Pack fun, healthy lunches and include notes that remind them that you are thinking of them while they are at school.
- If your child will be taking a school bus, introduce yourselves to the bus driver on

the first day so your child feels safe with the adult responsible for them during the ride to and from school each day.

- If possible, follow your child's bus to school in your car on the first day so that you can greet your child and walk them to their classroom from their bus stop.
- Make a plan with your child and the bus driver about what should happen if you are unable to get to their bus stop to pick them up at the end of the day.
- Greet your child at the end of the day with enthusiasm. Ask specific questions about the day.
- Give your child time to talk about any concerns they may have about the new world of school as the weeks progress.
- Talk with your child's teacher if your child is still unsettled after a month at school. Staying in close communication with the teacher and other adults at school is a great way to help your child feel secure.

No one likes options for Section 8 program

Continued from Page 1

rate, they are expected to equal about 30 percent of his agency's budget by 2009.

Housing authorities that are facing these cuts are left with three options Tierney said. He finds none of them to be acceptable.

First, housing authorities could cut back on allowable rents which would limit the latitude people have when choosing where to live and would have the end result of concentrating poverty in certain areas.

Next, he said that if cuts pass in 2005, those costs can be spread out nationwide. This would increase the rents for all families in the country by an average of \$70 a month.

"There are not many low-income people who can spend another \$70 a month on housing," he said.

Finally, Tierney said that the number of people in the Section 8 program could be cut in order to save money.

"I've stopped trying to think about that because it is just too depressing," he said.

Norman continued the same theme when he told the crowd that KCHA administers 8,200 household vouchers for 21,000 people, 10,000 of whom are children. He pointed out that the cuts could result in KCHA having to remove 800 households from Section 8 by the end of 2005 and up to 2,500 by 2009.

"This is very much a significant system," he said. "Section 8 is a critical piece of the safety net."

A major theme of the day's meeting was making sure residents and other citizens stay involved in the fight to save Section 8.

Siobahn Ring, the executive director of

the Tenants Union, a Washington advocacy group, was specifically asked to address the topic in her presentation. She said that it is important to support elected representatives who support this cause by thanking them for their support. People also need to make their displeasure over the cuts heard at the highest levels of government.

"Put your bodies and your voices out there to show your support for the Section 8 program," she told the crowd.

During the public comment period, members of the audience stood up to voice their support for Section 8 and the elected representatives fighting to save it.

"I'm scared of what's going to happen," said Mary Monroe, a disabled recipient of Section 8 assistance since 1991. "Without this, we will all be out on the street."

Gloria Owens, another holder of a Section 8 voucher was in tears as she spoke. "I can't tell you how much it means to people that council members make this a priority," she said. "Please don't give up on us."

Jim Joelson, a former president of The Advocates, an organization that represented the interests of residents of the Seattle Senior Housing Program, asked Norman and Tierney how hard they were willing to fight to save Section 8.

"I've been in affordable housing too long to start throwing people out now," Norman said.

"If you can't expect me to raise a little hell over Section 8, you ought to find someone else to represent you at SHA," Tierney told the crowd.

Get ready to vote

By VOICE STAFF

The Washington state primary election will be held on Sept. 14. Before you can vote, you must be registered as a voter in King County.

To register, you must be a United States citizen and 18 years old. Once you fill out a

registration form, it must be submitted within seven days. The deadline for registering by mail is 30 days before an election (Aug. 14) and 15 days if you do it in person. Forms are available by calling 206-296-VOTE. More election information will be available in next month's Voice.



One to grow on

Garden tips for community gardeners

By ANZA MUENCHOW
Special to the Voice

The bountiful summer harvest is truly here. To maximize food production from each plant, be sure to pick your crops and not let them sit on the vines or stalks too long. Letting these fruiting parts stay on the plants will tell the plant that it has completed its job and doesn't need to produce any more fruit this season. So always pick off the old beans and squashes, even if they are chewed on by slugs or bugs.

Chop up unwanted or unusable crops and put them in your compost so they can become a rich fall mulch.

Speaking of compost, it is very important to water your compost as often as you do your soil. It should be as damp as a wrung out sponge. You may need to cover your compost pile with a plastic sheet to hold in the moisture.

If you have some space in your garden this month, try planting some of the cool-season crops. Try planting snap peas, spinach or bok choy this month and you'll have some delicious harvests in October. If the peas don't produce pods by fall, you can enjoy picking the pea vines for salads or stir fry.

A physical barrier used to protect crops - called a floating row cover - spread over

your newly seeded beds will help control moisture and protect new sprouts from birds eating your seedlings.

In the midst of our growing season, it is impressive what a big selection of fruits and vegetables we have here in the Pacific Northwest. A trip to any neighborhood farmers market is a delightful experience to see all that our climate has to offer. Remember that many vendors at these markets sell slightly damaged fruits and vegetables for a lot less than the "perfect" specimens and they taste just as good.

While enjoying this season's bounty, take time to reflect on where your produce is coming from because having a healthy diet keeps the whole family healthy.

I recently saw a free brochure from Farm Aid called "10 Ways to Ensure Healthy Food for You and Your Family." Healthy food is more than the visual appeal of the produce; it includes eating foods appropriate for the season, supporting local sustainable agricultural practices and having healthy soil. To get a free copy of the brochure, call toll-free, 1-800-FARMAID or send an e-mail with your name and mailing address to memberservices@farmaid.org.

Happy eating this month. Write to me at The Voice, 905 Spruce St. Seattle, WA 98104 or e-mail me at anzam@msn.com to request particular gardening information or recipes.

TRANSLATIONS

TRANSLATED ARTICLES FROM THE VOICE

Council Asks residents How to Solve Budget Mess

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បងប្អូនយើងចង់ដឹងណាស់ថា តើមានអ្វីកើតឡើងទៀត ចំពោះប្រាក់ជំនួយក្នុងឆ្នាំនេះ ។ បងប្អូនចង់ដឹងថា នៅឆ្នាំ ក្រោយនេះនឹងមានការកាត់បន្ថយប្រាក់ចំណូលទៅ ១០០ មីលានដុល្លារ, ហើយនៅក្នុងចុងឆ្នាំនេះប្រាក់កាត់អស់ ៥២៥ មីលានដុល្លារតែម្នាក់។

នេះគឺគ្រាន់តែក្នុងតំបន់ក្រុងស្រីមាតុលីប៉ុណ្ណោះ, អ្នកដំណា ងទីប្រឹក្សានៃក្រុងស្រីមាតុលី លោក Richard McIver បានពន្យល់នៅពេលលោកទៅចូលរួមប្រជុំអំពីការកាត់ បន្ថយប្រាក់ជំនួយនោះទៅតាមអង្គការសហគមន៍នានាដែល លនិងប្រាក់កាត់បន្ថយនូវការបំបែកសង្គមតាមសេចក្តីត្រូវ ការដែលត្រូវតែនឹងកាត់, ហើយលោកបានមានប្រសាសន៍បន្ត ទៀតថា យើងគួរតែមានការប្រជុំប្រចាំខែនេះជាប្រចាំ ឆ្នាំ, ព្រោះខ្ញុំគិតថានេះជាការល្អមួយដែលយើងមានពេល ជួបជាមួយសហគមន៍នានាក្នុងការស្រាយតាមសេចក្តីត្រូវ ការចាំបាច់នៃពួកគេនឹង, ហើយពួកគេនឹងបានយល់ច្បាស់ រូបរាងនៃការកាត់បន្ថយនូវប្រាក់ជំនួយនោះ ។

មូលហេតុបានជាលោក McIver ពោះហៅប្រជុំនោះ គឺលោកចង់បានយោបល់, គំនិត, អំពីមតិ ប្រជាជនជាមុន រូបនិងចូលរួមទៅពិភាក្សានោះស្រាយ ។ រូបរបស់ លោក ក៏ទៅចូលរួមក្នុងក្រុមប្រជុំនោះស្រាយ ក្នុងចំណោមប្រជា ជននោះដែរ។ ហើយលោក មានសំណួរទៅក្រុមប្រជុំថា នឹងយកនៅហេតុការណ៍ដែលមានសារៈសំខាន់ជាងគេ មកនោះស្រាយមុននឹងផ្តល់ជំនួយទៅអង្គការនោះ។

សេចក្តីយល់ព្រមទាំងនោះត្រូវតែមានការពិចារណាសមា ជិកទីប្រឹក្សាទាំង៤នាក់ រួមទាំងទីប្រឹក្សាចៅហ្វាយ យក្រុងជា មុនសិន មុននឹងផ្តល់ថវិការដ្ឋានស្តីអំពីការជំនួយទៅលើអង្គ ការនានានោះ ។

ហេតុដូច្នោះនេះ, យើងត្រូវប្រាប់ចំពោះអង្គការ តាមសេចក្តីស្នើ សុំអំពីមតិប្រជាជននៃសាធារណៈមុននឹងយកមកពិភាក្សា ។ លោក McIver និយាយថា ល្អម្យ៉ាងដែរ ចំពោះការផ្សំ យោបល់ដ៏ល្អៗទាំងនោះគឺជាជំនិតមួយក្នុងការនោះស្រាយ យបញ្ហាស្រុកស្រីមាតុលីនោះនឹងដែរ។

ក្នុងរដ្ឋប្រជុំនេះ, បុគ្គលិកធ្វើការនៅសាលាក្រុងស្រីមាតុលី និងប្រចាំចំពោះហៅប្រជុំសាធារណៈនៅថ្ងៃទី៤ ខែតុលា វេលាម៉ោង ៥:៣០ល្ងាច, ហើយនៅថ្ងៃ ទី៤, ខែវិច្ឆិកា វេលាម៉ោង ៥:៣០ល្ងាចនៃថ្ងៃ គឺជួបផ្សំនៅសាលាក្រុង ដើម្បីជួប ជាមួយលោកដំណាងទីប្រឹក្សា និង សមាជិកអង្គការ ខុសប្រកាត់ការបំបែកនោះ ដើម្បីទ្រទ្រង់នៃថវិការ សម្រាប់ឆ្នាំក្រោយទៀត ។ ដើម្បីឆ្លើយតបនូវសំណួរទាំង អស់នោះ លោក-អ្នកត្រូវសរសេរសំបុត្រទៅ សាលាក្រុង មុននឹងធ្វើការពិភាក្សា : City Hall 600 4th Ave. Second Floor PO BOX 34025, Seattle Wa. 98124.

D{gUgu K ១១• ៤LeSmk -X^ap

k, ' érmk] ៤K ១១> u`X 21 K Èq ៥' édf ' SM k, { } o • 2 } smk DK ១១> S ÈF 3 Dè? „ @è } k, S I ki È t {siB} u`Yu | K [F 2è^a u } DL dDF mksè [Èu kí Èppoh è os³ ° ogF; I DÈ' é -K q ៤%ı' S' è } oñ ៤%V ÓY`VM (King County Work Program) D { ı' éCDı | D ÒX < Dı < {gU Èu ៤K ១១• ÓY`VM DL c | -q ៤ } smk -X^ap „ ı' oF; ៤siB ②ıX ° q -EL M t } ② L ò l D' é ②ıX ° q ' } -F } DK c [] | I mkSo [kèM ៤K ១១• „ 2F`D÷q t } 2ıY 2 { ' é; ៤ { ı' éCDı | ៤ ÒX < Dı < {gU Èu } DK X^aq ៤K ១១• „ } o l l U Èu k [ıY q F ៤q V } } ÒX q I D] F „ } o K X • ' é „ } ÈÈ 2ı' è } ៤K ១១• K S ② DK] • q | ៤K ១១• u`Yu } DL dDF ៤L ıS^a { ' é; t {siB „ } o l l U Èu k % o L ' é ៤q V } } ÒX q I D] F „ } O V o f u k o D ıY È K S ② Èu L D q M k, ' érmk] ៤`sò [Dı & kK } 2 ② SX p u & k q MB X p gñ k 2ı' Èu | k K \ [D è q K S ② Èu ៤ [D • { é „ } o l l U Èu | o h é; „ } o l l U Èu o ② t X [È } DK X^a q kí Èppoh è os³ ° ogF; % t } `Dis • ko » L U Dı D ÷ u c ı c ı È u } M S | 2 V D è;] DC { M t X] È k S k F 1 k L ò l 2 T q c ı c ı c L ò l 2 S ' è } „ } o l l U DK M S 1 S u E D è; ៤L ı È F 2 è q } c ı c ı c [„ o ② DL ' e % È D 2 è k] F < c è X (206) 263-6082 S ②' éD è;

| S] ıY q F % o L S' è }] F ... mkoñ o S % • iké sD ÷ | S l -q a`V q S mk • c h ° H \ l q < i k D è ②ıF g q t`M;

och ° tsi -K q tsi A | MS • { é < È F • è S ` l t t mksı ' éa • ı < Fo -K q tsi > ıY^a \$100 L ıF " } -EX S mk l -q ... sı MMI^a X % o L < c s Æ ò MS • ı è ... mk > K Æ ò t -K \$25 L ıF " } -EX < c s Æ ò t È S mk F | ៤ % o L] ıY q F S' è }] F L } K S F k X ... mkoñ ... mk > o È E D È n p p q s S c - B > l gñ t % • ı l } och ° t s % o L ; < Msi -S { q B > l gñ ... % • ı l p q ... mk { mk [i ' % ı -K q < { S S ②ı S ` l t ②ıF c q och ° % o L M] L - } ②ıF c r M } M M E t } mks - l tsi | S l -q K è i V Æ ò mk > k D Æ < M > È • è M ` l X } ; K S F k X ... mk K ②ıS • mk M ' é Æ t o s } È S mk B > k i H \ mk S e k F ... mk e ②ıL ò 30 och ° ... { | l % • ı M si X n l r ②ıL S mk F { > sı a`X tsi } Mı p l t } p S X, ı r q F ` [é ? t oñ S c ②ı M] X l mk % • Msi ②ıL S 2 F Æ > o Æ S ; l -q } M Æ ı p i t r M q a - o S' è }] F K } } % } o h } ... mk H ② < k Æ ò G è ... D È M] D M } p S ② ... | mk B > k i % i X n o ② F È ? K mks l q „ è A | Æ ò } • d M } H \ l q S mk B > k i t È > M } » i „ ı D è] D > ... M } ; M • • U S mk B > k i Mı l F M [S p gñ D' é : ı c M Æ ò t S mk F M S F k X ;

... mksı Gı } | " sD ÷ | | S] ıY q F % o L t L K l - o è % i X mk t È sD % ı M l \ l q } | S] ıY q F % } o h ... mksı t ②ıV' tsi q F t < D è

NGHI VIEN HOI NONG THANH PHO HOI YUKIEN DAN VE PHONG CAICH GIAI QUYET NGAN QUY BOA BON

"Ngôõı dan can phai biet se coınhöng söi toın hai trong nam nay. Hoıcan phai biet chung toı ñaıcat giam hön \$100 trıeu töı ngın quy trong vong 2 nam qua... vaı chung toı seıcat giam \$25 trıeu trong nam toıı".

Treın ñay lamhöng löı gıai thıch cuı oıng Richard Mcıver - Nghı vieın Hoı ñöng thanh phöıSeattle khı oıng lam caı cuoıı tham vieıg ñeın caı cuııg ñöng cö dan trong chuöı nhöıg cuoıı hop khu phöı Öıng noıı " möı nam, toıı nghı rang chung ta ñeın coıcat cuoıı hop dieın ñan nhö theı' , oıng noıı " toıı nghı rang thät laı thıch thuıkhı ñı ra ngoıı vaınoıı cho coııg ñöıng vınhöıg öu tieın , nhöıg quan tam cuıı ngöõı dan veıvieı cat giam ngın quyıı

Cach maıoıng Mcıver chuıtoıcaıcat cuoıı hop lam cho (ngöõı dan) noıı leın vaıban caı quanh rat nhıeu yıkıeın. Chınh oıng ñöıng thııng ñeın goc cuıı ban chuıtoıvaı noıı tröc tiep vöı ñöı30 ngöõı. "caıı hoıı cuıı toıı ñeın vöıı quıı vö laıquıı vö coınhöıg yııngöı ñöı ñeıgıuııp chung toıı gıaiı quyet vaı ñeııay" ... oıng ñaınoıı nhö theıı

Thuııtuı ñeııcaıı baııg ngın saıch phai qua bööıı khoııkhıı vı phai coıı9 vö nghı vieın trong Hoıı ñöıng thanh phöıvaıoııg thö tröııg phai ñöıng yııtröıng baıı döıkıeın cuoıı cıııg.

Nhö vaıy tai sao laiı phai theın möı buöıı ra hoıı yıkıeın coııg chung trööıı ñeın vaıı ñeııat vaıı ban nghı söı? oııg Mcıver noıı rang nhöıg yıkıeın möıı, nhöıg yıkıeın toıı ñeın töıdan qua caıı cuoıı hop nhö theıı Öıng noıı " toıı nghı rang nhöıg yıkıeın ñöıng gop seırat toıı ñeııcoııhööıı". Trong vong muaı heıı vaıı phong cuıı oııg thö tröııg seıtrıınh ra baıı ngın saıch. Muöı göıı yıkıeın bıınh phıım, xin thö veıı: Mayor Greg Nickels, PO Box 94749, Seattle WA 98124, hoat göıı cho soıı206-684-4000.

Khı maıbaıı ngın saıch chıyeın qua cho Hoıı ñöıng thanh phöı thı seıcoııhai cuoıı hop tröıg cauı dan yııvaı 5:30 chıeu trong caıı ngay 4 thııg Mööıı vaı4 thııg Mööıı Möı öııphöıng hop nghı vieın. Coıı theııgöıı caıı yıkıeın bıınh phıım ñeın caıı nghı vieın trong thöıı gian trööıı ñöıı Xıı göıı thö veııñöıı chıı : City Hall, 600 4th Ave. Floor TWö, PO Box 34205 Seattle WA 98124

Sovetnik spravıvaet 'ı tel ej kak ustranı t; besporq dok v b[d' ete

^L [di dol ' ny znat; , hto predstoi t tq' el yj god. Oni dol ' ny znat; , hto my urezal i b[d' et na bol ee hem 100 mi l l i onov za posl edni e dva goda... i predstoi t urezani e na 25 mi l l i onov v sl edu [] em godu.&

Tak ob=qsnet sovetni k gorodskogo Soveta Si `tl a Ri hard MakAj ver svoi vi zi ty na mnogohi sl ennye vstrehi s publ i koj .

^Q shi ta [, hto taki e forumy nado provodi t; e' egodno,-govori t on.- Q дума [, hto i interesno vysl uwat; mneni e l [dej na taki x vstreha x o tom, hto dl q ni x va' no, kaki e u ni x zaboty i naskol ; ko i x bespokoi t uezka b[d' eta.&

Bl agodarq nepri nu' dennoj obstanovke, kotoru `t sozda `t na taki x vstreha x MakAj ver, mnogi e i dei stanovqt sq ponqt nymi i pri ni ma [tsq k obsu' deni [. On u [tno pri strai vaetsq na kra [sceny i naprqmu [govori t s pri merno tri dcat; [l [d; mi .

^Q spravi va [, kaki e soobra' eni q est; u vas, htoby pomoh; nam s `toj probl emoj ,&- spravi vaet on. Sl edu [] ij za `ti m process

utver' deni q sbal ansi rovannogo b[d' eta truden tem, hto Gorodskoj Sovet v sostave 9 hl enov i m`r dol ' ny pri dti k pol nomu sogl asi [po povodu okonhatel ; nogo pl ana.

Dl q hego ' e togda dobavl qt; dopol ni tel ; nyj wag na `tom puti , vstrehaqs; s ob } estvennost; [, do togo, kak predstavi t; na rassmotreni e kaki e l i bo i dei * MakAj ver govori t, hto novye i dei , xorowi e i dei i sxodqt ot l [dej na vstreha x, podobny x `toj .

^Q дума [, hto ohen; xorowo i met; takoj vkl ad,&- govori t on.

K koncu l eta ofi s m`ra zakonhi t rabotu nad proektom b[d' eta. Kommentari i mo' no posyl at; m`ru Gregu Ni kel s - Greg Nickels, PO BOX 94749, Seattle, WA 98124 i l i pozvoni t; 206-684-4000.

Kak tol ; ko b[d' et budet predstavl en Gorodskomu Sovetu, budut organi zovany publ i hnye sl uwani q v 5 vehera 4-go okt qbrq i 4-go noqbrq v pome] eni i Gorodskogo Soveta. Kommentari i v adres ot del ; nyx hl enov Soveta dol ' ny byt; posl any do `togo. Pi wi te City Hall, 600 Fourth Ave. Floor Two, PO Box 34025, Seattle, WA 98124.

Mayor Greg Nickels PO Box 94749 Seattle WA 98124

] F % ı (206) 684-4000

t oñ | S l -q t L K ...mk e ②ıL ò S' è }] F < Fo `sò | S B > k i K 3 mk ...ıY < e S mk t È t < r k X 4 5.30 ②ı U c b q U ~ k Æ M k X 4 ...mk | S S' è }] F K 2 l ...ıY ... ②V a sD % ı M X, ı r } % • ı D ÷ M ... l E q S' è }] F ... mksı ... ②ıV ` tsi q Æ ò l ` i D : M



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.

Take it easy
FINDING PEACE AT RV
See page 5



SHA NEWS

August
2004

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

Groundbreaking gets High Point project going



BY KARI SHERRODD
Seattle Housing Authority

A jogger on her morning run passes children playing in a pocket park. She waves to neighbors standing on their porches and passes seniors sharing the quarter-of-a-mile path around the pond. She then runs back up the hill on the new tree-lined sidewalk to the coffee store on the mixed-use site and orders an iced latte.

This is the picture Tom Phillips, Seattle Housing Authority senior development manager, described to the more than 250 elected officials, community members and High Point residents at the High Point groundbreaking ceremony on June 30.

High Point, a 120-acre public housing community, is being redeveloped by SHA into a mixed-income community to provide housing opportunities to approximately 1,600 families along a range of income levels while retaining the environmental quality of the site. The project replaces worn out World War II-era public housing with a development of healthy homes that benefits both residents and the environment. The first homes will be available in March 2004.

The High Point redevelopment represents a significant milestone in knitting this public housing community back into the fabric of West Seattle, said Tom Tierney, SHA executive director. This community has been home to people struggling to improve their lives and become more self-sufficient for more than 60 years. Its redevelopment will support their goals and retain the strength of the original community. It will also enhance the natural environment and provide a more vibrant urban neighborhood for original residents and new ones.

Please see "Improving health through ..." on page 2

Though it was officially called a groundbreaking, no actual ground was broken at High Point. Instead, in keeping with the project's environmental nature, the soil was "amended" or mixed with additives like gravel to help drain water.

Ballard House to be senior-only building

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Department of Housing and Urban Development recently approved Seattle Housing Authority's application to designate Ballard House as a senior-only building. The building will soon begin the transition to that status now that the last of

the necessary approvals have been attained.

Once the transition is completed, new residents who move into the building must be 62 years old and older. However, no current resident, regardless of age, will be required to relocate because of this designation.

SHA is trying to offer very low-income seniors the opportunity to live in public housing buildings where there is a community of seniors and associated services specifically targeted for seniors' needs and interests. SHA would like to have three geographically-dispersed public housing buildings with this designation.

The first senior-designated public housing building is Westwood Heights in West Seattle which is fully operational. Based on market research, Ballard is a neighborhood which appeals to seniors and would provide for a senior-designated building in the northern part of the city.

Important meetings scheduled

In early August, Ballard House residents

Please see "Changing to ..." on page 2

Seattle Housing Authority launches online application

New option makes applying easier

BY RYAN SPEAR
Seattle Housing Authority

Low-income Seattle residents can now apply for housing assistance with a few clicks of a computer mouse. As of July 20, the Seattle Housing Authority is accepting applications for public housing and senior housing online.

Applicants can use the online application to place their names on the waiting lists for Low Income Public Housing, the Seattle Senior Housing Program, and other SHA housing programs. Applicants will not be able to apply for the Housing Choice Voucher Program (also known as Section 8), because this waiting list remains closed.

SHA's online application is one of the most sophisticated and easy-to-use systems offered by housing authorities nationwide.

"We're excited about the new online application system because it will make it easier and simpler for our computer-literate

customers to apply," said Kathy Roseth, director of SHA's PorchLight Housing Center. "It will also allow us to do our job more efficiently and accurately."

Roseth noted that the online application will also make it easier for advocates and other service providers to help their customers apply for housing.

The online application is available at www.seattlehousing.org. It collects the same information as the traditional paper application, and takes about 15 minutes to complete. Users can save partially completed applications and finish them later if necessary.

The new online application will not replace the paper application form. Applicants can still apply with the familiar paper form.

Paper application forms in six languages are available for download at www.seattlehousing.org. Applicants may also call 206-239-1500 to have an application mailed to them.

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Improving health through redevelopment at High Point

Continued from front page

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) has worked in partnership with SHA to create a "natural drainage system," allowing landscape features to mimic nature's functions and hold and filter water in a network of swales. The natural drainage system will cover 34 blocks throughout the redevelopment, connecting the community to the creek watershed through a visual network of artwork and vegetated watercourses. SPU has already implemented a neighborhood-scale natural drainage system in the Pipers Creek watershed and plans to complete projects in each of Seattle's three major creek watersheds over the next few years.

"We must preserve our natural environment because it defines our quality of life," said Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels. "This is an unprecedented opportunity to significantly benefit the Longfellow Creek watershed, improve water quality in the creek and protect salmon habitat."

Residents of the new community will also be the beneficiaries of the Healthy Homes and Community for High Point Families and Seattle Healthy Communities, Healthy Homes grants totaling \$1.8 million. These grants will provide funding to build 35 homes with exceptional environmental and health-related features that will decrease risk factors which cause asthma among low-income residents. As part of this project, an environmental outreach program will

address resident health issues, said Aregawi Abiraha, Healthy Community, Healthy Homes Action Committee member and a High Point resident.

The High Point housing development is SHA's largest site. It will eventually include a neighborhood shopping center, a senior village, extensive parks and a new neighborhood center. The High Point Community Center recently underwent an expansion. In addition, a new medical and dental clinic and library have recently opened and more than 100 significant trees on the High Point site will be protected to add value to the new neighborhood. The trunks of another 62 trees will be used as street furniture in new parks or as lumber in a new neighborhood facility.

The groundbreaking ceremony was emceed by SHA Board of Commissioners Chair Jennifer Potter and included messages from Seattle Mayor Nickels; Tom Tierney, SHA executive director; Tom Phillips, SHA senior development manager; Kathy Fletcher, People for Puget Sound executive director; Aregawi Abiraha, Healthy Community, Healthy Homes Action Committee member and High Point resident; and Lisa Cipollone for Senator Maria Cantwell. SafeFutures' Coconut Dancers and West Seattle musician Michael Powers performed. Food from West Seattle vendors, representing the variety of ethnicities in the High Point community, was served.

SHA Commissioners adopt annual plan and budget

By KARI SHERRODD
Seattle Housing Authority

The Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners adopted the Moving To new Ways plan and Seattle Housing Authority agency budget on July 19. Several actions in the plan and budget will affect current and future SHA residents and community members. Some of these include:

- Creating 219 new public housing and workforce units at NewHolly and 184 at Rainier Vista by the end of SHA's fiscal year 2005.
- Creating 344 new public housing and workforce units at High Point by the end of SHA's fiscal year 2006.
- With non-profit partners, build new housing for seniors and people with

disabilities at Rainier Vista and High Point.

- Selling 71 scattered-sites units and buying 71 units in more accessible locations to replace them.
 - Evaluating ways to renovate Jefferson Terrace, helping to make it a better place to live.
 - Designing and implementing changes in the Housing Choice Voucher rent policy to encourage people who are able to work to do so.
 - Planning for likely continued reductions in federal funding for public housing and the Housing Choice Voucher program.
- The plan and budget were presented at a public hearing on June 15. To view the meeting notes visit www.seattlehousing.org and click on the "For Residents" section.

Changing to senior only

Continued from front page

will receive a letter about the coming changes to their building. This will be followed by a meeting with SHA staff at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 10 in the Ballard House community room. The meeting will provide an opportunity for residents to hear more about the details of the transition plan and to get their specific questions answered. The meeting will also help residents evaluate whether they want to stay at Ballard House in the future or consider moving. Each resident will need to make a decision about this by Aug. 27.

How will the transition take place?

No one will be forced to move from Ballard House, regardless of their age. Current residents still have the option of continuing to live there. However, any resident, regardless of age, who chooses to move out of Ballard House will be entitled to some special options.

Residents who want to stay within the SHA system of housing but prefer not to live at Ballard House once it becomes a senior-designated building, will be able to transfer to another public housing development. Some younger disabled residents may also qualify to receive a Housing Choice (Section 8) voucher in order to rent in the private housing market.

Rents will not change for any resident who stays in public housing, at Ballard House or another public housing development.

Physical improvements planned

In order to make the building more attractive to seniors, SHA will make about \$1.5 million in improvements. New carpeting will be installed in the bedrooms and living rooms and in exterior hallways. Microwaves will be added to the kitchens. Water fixtures and door knobs will be replaced in each unit. Finally, the first floor common area will be upgraded with new furnishings and equipment, based on resident input.

SHA will also make some other physical improvements including upgrades to the water lines, boiler replacement, air ventilation

system and intercom system.

Before any physical improvements are started, SHA managers will meet with residents to let them know exactly what they can expect and what the construction schedule will be. The building will continue to be occupied during renovation. The renovation is expected to take several months, and most likely would not be complete until some time in 2005.

Assistance for those who choose to move

The type of assistance offered to residents will depend on what type of housing a resident chooses: For residents who choose to transfer to another public housing development, SHA will provide professional movers to relocate a resident's belongings to the new development and will reimburse the resident for fees associated with relocating utilities such as phone, cable and electricity; or SHA will provide a check in the amount of \$750 to provide financial assistance for relocation. In this case, the resident will be solely responsible for moving and paying for any fees associated with relocating.

Residents who are eligible for and choose to take a Housing Choice voucher will receive \$750. With this option, residents will be responsible for moving their belongings and hooking-up their utilities in their new home. SHA staff will provide housing search assistance to help residents identify a housing unit in Seattle where their Housing Choice voucher may be used.

All Ballard House residents are invited to attend a meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 10. For residents interested in relocating, there will be a second meeting at 5 p.m. on Aug. 12 to discuss the relocation process. Residents with additional questions may also contact the senior property manager, Bruce Garberding, at 206-770-6841 or the property manager, Lisa Dressler, at 206-770-6819.

Building community

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

"Building Community" contains brief news about SHA activities and initiatives, with links to full stories on SHA's Web site.

Topics covered vary widely and will be of interest to anyone who wants to know more about housing in Seattle and across the

country. This month's issue covers everything from the Department of Housing and Urban Development budget that is currently being debated in the House of Representatives to the redevelopment process at Rainier Vista.

If you are interested in reading "Building Community," SHA would be glad to add your name to the subscription list.

To begin receiving "Building Community," simply send an e-mail to newsletter@seattlehousing.org.

Get to know Executive Director Tom Tierney

You are invited to attend an informal discussion with Tom Tierney. All are welcome.



NewHolly Gathering Hall
Wednesday, August 18
6-7 p.m.
7050 32nd Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98118

Center Park
Thursday, August 19
10-11 a.m.
2121 26th Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98114

Island View
Monday, August 23
1-2 p.m.
3033 California Ave. S.W.
Seattle, WA 98116

Cedarvale House
Thursday, September 2
11 a.m.-12 p.m.
11050 8th Ave. N.E.
Seattle, WA 98125

POINT OF VIEW

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

Cedarvale resident helps fellow residents

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

Since June, residents at Cedarvale House have had a little extra help getting assistance from The North Helpline Food Bank. Thanks to the efforts of one concerned resident – Grigoriy Meymis – people living in the community who are unable to get to the food bank can now have bags of food delivered to them.

“We bring the food bank to our building every Friday,” Meymis said.

The special program started last year when Meymis became aware of the fact that some of his neighbors needed the assistance provided by their local food bank but were either not able to make the trip or were unable to wait in line because of a disability or illness.

“A lot of people can not go to the food bank. They need but [they] can not go,” Meymis said.

So Meymis called the food bank’s manager, Gayle Munns, and asked her if there was a way they could deliver bags of food to his community. Although there had been a food bank in the area that delivered in the past, according to Munns, The North Helpline Food Bank doesn’t have the resources or volunteers available to make

this a possibility.

Meymis was not deterred because he saw a need that had to be filled. His next step was to contact different agencies that provide transportation services in the area to see if they could help with the delivery of food. For a while he worked with Access transportation, but it didn’t pan out for the long term. Next, Meymis turned to residents for help. Now, the daughter of one his neighbors donates her time and her van to pick up about 60 bags of food and bring them to Cedarvale House.

According to Munns, this is a special arrangement she has made with Meymis because he has taken on the responsibility of getting her all the registration information from his neighbors that she needs and because he picks up and delivers the food.

“We’ve taken them on as a group since Grigoriy is willing to pick it up,” she said. “He’s been great.”

If you are interested in going to The North Helpline Food Bank, call 206-367-3477. They serve residents in zip codes 98125, 98133 and 98155.

If you see an issue in your building that you think you can help with, contact Marsha Johnson, Seattle Housing Authority community builder, at 206-615-3554.

Leisure activities help your mental health improve

By JEFFREY GERHARDSTEIN
Special to The Voice

Natives of Seattle know best the affordable summertime leisure activities in the Puget Sound area, but some of us transplants have learned our way around town too. Still, many of us may have a list of affordable leisure activities at our fingertips but do not possess the peace of mind to carry them out and enjoy the Pacific Northwest. This is how and why slogans exist in Alcoholics Anonymous and other support groups to help teach newcomers the essence of serenity, one of the promises of the 12-Step program. Serenity is considered a gift received by those who “work the steps.”

A good friend of mine back in Ohio had a bumper sticker. It read: “Wherever you go, there you are.” Whenever I get restless today, I remember that bumper sticker. It reminds me that one can be unhappy anywhere, be it in the country or big city. It may not surprise you to learn that many mental health centers advise and promote leisure activities as a key component of any individual treatment plan. This may include a range of hobbies, sporting activities, entertainment, street fairs, cultural events and parades.

Yet some don’t go for hikes because they’re too restless to slow down the pace, smell the pine needles, listen to birds or watch for tracks and wildlife. People like this don’t yet possess the serenity to enjoy leisure activities –an important part of anyone’s life.

What do these activities look like day to day? Well, you’ve seen the woman next to you on the bus crocheting or watched your neighbor work a crossword puzzle? Maybe you’ve heard someone else practice a violin, watched them gardening or seen them enroll in a self-defense class at the community center? What you’ve been seeing and watching is other people in active pursuit of their hobbies and their passions. These activities are how they find their serenity.

How about you? Do you have a special hobby that absorbs you? Have you been putting off that card party or dinner you want to throw for friends? One’s hobbies and pastimes can represent a barometer of personal mental health.

If you put away your hobbies long ago and they are in deep storage somewhere, this can be a warning sign. If you have not been having fun lately, here on the shores of Elliot Bay, maybe you missed that low-cost pedestrian passenger ferry to Bainbridge Island. But that’s OK. There are plenty more ferries to catch, and plenty more chances to find your serenity.

Make sure, when you go, to smell the salt water, let the wind blow you back some and marvel at the gulls that follow above you. Even better, take a friend.

Jeffrey Gerhardtstein is the mental health case manager for Seattle Housing Authority’s high-rise communities. He is available for questions or to help with mental health issues. Call him at 206-545-8611.

Bell Tower blossoms



PHOTO BY MARSHA JOHNSON, SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
Last month, the residents of Bell Tower unveiled their new garden area. The new garden was paid for with a Small Sparks Grant from the City of Seattle. Above, Tom Tierney, executive director of the Seattle Housing Authority, cuts the ribbon on the new space.

Resident knows his licks

By JOSEPHINE COOPER
Special to the Voice

The focus of attention in Cecil Blackwell’s living room is his three guitars and the single chair that overlooks South Jackson Street and 25th Avenue South. This is where he sits and plays jazz guitar. He came to Seattle 25 years ago from his native home of Kansas City, Kansas so that he could be near his niece. His quiet, unassuming manner is reflected in his jazz rendition of “Tenderly” that brings out the simple beauty of the tune.

Blackwell was born in 1933 when Kansas City was the center of an outstanding music scene. As a young man, he went to the Musicians Union Hall in Kansas City and was fortunate to hear many of the great musicians of the era: Claude Williams on jazz violin, Willie Rice on piano, Hurley Davidson on guitar. The music must have infused his spirit because he hasn’t stopped playing since he returned from his military duty in Germany during the Korean War.

One of Blackwell’s inspirations was a left-handed guitar player named Roy Littlejohn. Blackwell saw him pick up a guitar with one missing string at the barber shop, turn the

guitar upside down, and produce a perfect sound from an imperfect instrument. Since then, Blackwell has followed the example of other self-taught musicians, and listens to the teacher within himself.

Blackwell has a steady quality. Like his father, he has worked as a janitor most of

This story is part of a semi-regular series of resident profiles written by community members about the people in their community. If you would like to submit a profile of a neighbor or other community member, please contact Charles Redell, Voice editor, at 206-461-8430 ext. 227 or by e-mail at charlesr@nhwa.org.

his life. He recently retired from his work at the Sand Point Naval Station. Music and family seem to be the central themes in his life. He is in frequent contact with his sister and son and is particularly proud of his nephew Maurice Green who is preparing to win back his title as the fastest man in the world.

Community notes

Discount cards for disabled adults

FLASH cards, which qualify disabled Seattle and King County residents for discounts, services and programs, are available for free from the city. FLASH stands for Fun, Leisure, Access, Savings and Health. Those with permanent disabilities can get discounts at restaurants and businesses, theaters and recreational facilities. It also works at the Seattle Public Library and 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 in the Alaska Building, at 618 Second Ave., and from other locations. Call 206-684-0500 for information.

Advocates II board meeting

The Board of The Advocates II meets on the third Wednesday of each month at alternate buildings. These meetings are open to any interested resident. If you are interested in attending, please feel free to call for the latest location and time. Call Edie Koch at 206-217-9451 or Bette Reed at 206-523-8685.

All-SSHP picnic coming up

The Advocates II are having their First Annual Picnic for all Seattle Senior Housing Program residents at noon on Aug. 17th in Ravenna Park. Please be sure to RSVP so that refreshments and travel assistance can be planned for by calling Edie Koch at 206-217-9451 or Bette Reed at 206-523-8685.

HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY

Resident is happy to educate his community

By AMITY EGGE
Voice reporter

High Point resident and resident council member Aregawi Alem Abiraha is a happy man. According to him, education is the key to that happiness. In his native Ethiopia, he was a junior and high school teacher for 20 years.

He said that teaching was "very difficult. It was a tough job."

Now that he lives in the United States, he no longer teaches, but he still enjoys helping his children with their homework.

But there is more in Abiraha's life that makes him happy. He is happy that he can share a three-bedroom house in High Point with his wife and three children for a rent that is affordable.

Abiraha also says that he looks forward to High Point becoming a mixed-use community, because then it will no longer isolate the low-income people who live there from the rest of society.

"It is good to mix up the people," he said.

As a High Point community council member, Abiraha uses his love of educating to help his neighbors understand more about the revitalization process of High Point and what kinds of opportunities are available to them because of it.

"He sees opportunities in everything," said Kari-lynn Frank, High Point community builder. "Aregawi is amazing. He stays in the process and he is energetic. Then he takes it back to the people who aren't energetic. He takes a message and delivers it so people who aren't in the process can know what he knows."

According to Frank, Abiraha is a great asset to the High Point community council, because he thinks outside its structure.

"He sees how the structure works. He has a firm understanding and is a fantastic learner," Frank said. "He is quiet and he listens. After he understands everything, he makes suggestions that go beyond what SHA is already doing."

According to Frank, Abiraha's



PHOTO BY CHARLES REDELL, VOICE
Aregawi Abiraha gives his speech at the High Point groundbreaking in June.

community activism shines because of his intelligence.

"When he gave a speech for [High Point's] groundbreaking ceremony, he was so thoughtful in his approach. He stood alongside Tom Tierney and the Mayor in front of a huge crowd. He was seamlessly professional," Frank said.

Another project that Abiraha is involved in is the Healthy Community, Healthy Homes project Action Team. The Action Team addresses environmental justice issues in the community. Neighborhood House community health project coordinator, Steve Barham, who works closely with Abiraha, shares Frank's views about him.

"He's very smart and has a lot of good ideas," Barham said. "He thinks through his ideas thoroughly."

Abiraha talked about the Healthy Community, Healthy Homes project in his speech at the High Point ground breaking. One piece of it, he told the crowd, is Breathe Easy Homes. These 35 homes will be built at High Point to reduce the incidence of asthma for High Point residents.

Abiraha says that the people who move into the Breathe Easy Homes will be carefully selected. "They will be given basic health education. And be told to use non-toxic substances when they clean to reduce asthmatic factors."

Diversity Fest welcomes all

By KARI-LYNN FRANK
Seattle Housing Authority

The 10th Annual Diversity Festival at High Point will be from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, August 14 at the High Point Playfields, 6920 34th Ave. S.W. The theme this year will be "People Celebrating People."

Admission to the festival is free and parking is available on the street.

The festival is organized and run by a committee consisting of High Point and West Seattle residents, the Safe Futures Youth Center, Catholic Community Services Youth Tutoring Program, International District Housing Alliance, Horn of Africa, City of Seattle Parks Department, Neighborhood House, the Community Clinic and Dental Center, Job Connections, Family Services, High Point Community Technology Center, the Seattle Housing Authority, Seattle Parks and Recreation and Seattle Neighborhood Group.

Knowing how much work the Diversity Festival committee has put into planning

this year, many around the community are looking forward to what is expected to be the best-ever Diversity Festival.

More than 37 diverse cultures are represented in High Point and a majority of those will be featured at the Diversity Festival. They will be showcased through a variety of ethnic foods, arts and crafts, music, sports and fashion. The festival offers fun for adults and children, and gives attendees an opportunity to explore ways in which their own unique cultural backgrounds intersect with other cultures from around the world.

In addition, more than 40 community organizations and services will be providing valuable information and interesting activities for all who attend.

For more information about the festival or to volunteer for the event, please contact Kari Frank at 206-937-3292 ext. 12 or send an e-mail to kfrank@seattlehousing.org. Those interested in cooking for the festival should contact Michael Dorse at 206-938-9606 ext. 111.

Construction is underway

By JAMES OWENBY
SHA Staff

July 2004 marked the beginning of visible construction activity at High Point.

The first thing an observer may notice is the busy movement of large grading machinery belonging to RCI, an earthwork and utility contractor. They are completing the final grading on the entire Phase I site. Since protection of the environment is a major priority at High Point, much of the machinery, including these large trucks, will be running on an alternative cleaner-burning fuel called biodiesel.

Biodiesel is made from natural, renewable sources such as recycled vegetable oils. It is the only fuel that passes all Clean Air Act health regulations. Using biodiesel significantly reduces harmful gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide, which is the primary cause of the greenhouse effect. Also, biodiesel has a pleasant aroma -most of the big machines running in the area will be emitting a clean exhaust that smells like popcorn or french fries.

Once RCI finishes with the construction of streets, sidewalks and utilities, an assortment of contractors will begin working on the site. Onlookers will start seeing forms

being set for building foundations. Concrete trucks and workers will then begin pouring foundations. Framers, plumbers, roofers and a myriad of other contractors will then come to the site -each will play a part in building the rental housing in Phase I. Housing units will be completed gradually. The first batch will be available for occupancy in spring 2005. By April 2006, all 344 new Phase I rental units will be completed.

Most of this work will take place behind the fences. For the most part, residents shouldn't experience any inconveniences. However, 32nd Avenue Southwest and Southwest Juneau Street will be torn up between late July and September so that new utilities can be put in place. Once this work is done, these streets will be paved over again and put back in service as soon as possible. Contractors and planners are doing everything possible to minimize major disruptions.

The overall plan calls for the completion of Phase I in 2006. By then, Phase II residents will have moved into their new homes in Phase I. Starting in 2006, construction in Phase II will begin and will last approximately two years.

If you have questions regarding HOPE VI construction at High Point, call George Nemeth at 206-615-3415.

Music for kids' ears

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

The High Point Community Council is known for being an advocate in the neighborhood on all sorts of issues. However, the Council is moving in a new direction now, even as it continues to be an effective voice for the High Point community. Namely, the High Point Community Council is joining the ranks of service providers in the neighborhood. It's first offering? Music lessons for High Point's youth.

Every Monday and Wednesday in July and part of August, Jon Jenkins, a Seattle-area professional musician, is volunteering his time to teach a class of eager young students about music theory, music technique and music appreciation.

"I am trying to combine different things all at once," he said, "so that they are able to relate to the themes we hear in music."

At the end of each class period, Jenkins spends a few minutes on music



PHOTO BY CHARLES REDELL, VOICE
Jon Jenkins works closely with students on a new song.

appreciation. He plays an excerpt of an important classical music piece and talks with his students - most are under 10 - about the concepts they learned and how they present in the piece they are hearing.

"It gives the children an opportunity to get some practical experience," he said. "The children will, in future encounters with music, find that they will feel comfortable with many musical terms and concepts."

Community notes

Community Council meeting

The High Point Community Council meets at 6 p.m. on the second Monday of every month at Holly Hall. This month, the meeting will be held on Aug. 10. For more information call 206-937-5459.

Sunday service and community dinner

Every Sunday, Pastor Deborah Dinkins offers Sunday school and worship services for High Point residents. Afterward, a free community dinner is offered. Sunday school starts at noon and the service begins at 1 p.m. The services and community dinner are

held in the old YMCA building at 3000 S.W. Graham St.

Kids dental screening

High Point Medical & Dental Clinic will be holding their annual Just 4 Kids Dental Day on Thursday, August 12. Children will be seen on a first come, first served basis. Dental patients can choose a morning check-in from 6:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. or an afternoon check-in from 12:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For questions about Just 4 Kids Dental Day, contact High Point Medical & Dental Clinic reception at 206-461-6966.

RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

Inside-Out looks forward



PHOTO BY CHARLES REDELL, VOICE

Working on a painting inspired by the style of the Spanish artist, Joan Miro, this young Rainier Vista resident carefully chooses her colors at the Inside-Out art program.

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

Mike Putnam, site manager for the Seattle Children's Museum Inside-Out art program at Rainier Vista is feeling very optimistic about the community art program.

"We're still going strong," he says.

This is no small thing after a year in which Inside-Out's sister program at NewHolly was forced to close its doors because of budget cutbacks and when the community around his program was torn up, literally, by two major construction projects.

Still, through it all, Putnam has plenty of plans for his program over the next few months and says that he wants people in the neighborhood to know that during the summer, Inside-Out is definitely active and open to all.

The main focus of the summer programs is what Putnam called "redevelopment art." During summer afternoons, youth at Inside-Out are working on painting ceramic tiles, putting together a mural and painting the playground behind the Boys & Girls Club. He said that these works will help the new community be a beautiful one as it gets finished.

During the other half of their day, the youth spend time working on their showcase pieces. These are works of art created through the study of different themes. Some of the themes the classes will study this summer include a Master Art Program where they look at works by artists such as Vincent Van Gogh and Joan Miro and then create their own pieces in that style. Other themes include Usable and Wearable Art where students will make their own shoes, Industrial Art which is a study of everyday objects such as tables and chairs, and Art and Technology. This last

theme will provide students with a glimpse into the future of art and may even include a trip to Seattle's new Science Fiction Museum.

Putnam hopes to find an area art gallery willing to display these showcase pieces before they move on to the Children's Museum in Seattle Center for another showcase. After that show closes, Putnam said, the artworks will come back to Rainier Vista where they will be displayed in the Inside-Out room and around the community on the refrigerators of proud families.

Another major activity for the summer is Putnam's drive to get more parents and caregivers associated with Inside-Out. He said that there are different ways this can happen.

Parents can always decide to volunteer some time in the classroom working with youth on art projects or helping staff with other tasks. In addition, Inside-Out will be bringing art materials to the Crime Night Out Festival. At that event on Aug. 3, everyone is welcome to stop by and paint something for the community's redevelopment mural.

"This is going to be the biggest and the best Night Out that we've had," he said.

Finally, Putnam wants to invite his students' parents into the classroom as active participants as well. He said that he hopes to open up the class later this summer for about an hour a week and get all the parents to come in and make some art along with their children.

"It's about making that partnership," he said.

The summer art program continues until Aug. 27. It is a drop-in program. Youth between the ages of 5 and 14 are welcome to come in any morning at 9 a.m. For more information, call 206-722-6709 or e-mail childrensmuseum@comcast.net.

Crime Night Out is coming

By VOICE STAFF

Rainier Vista's annual Crime Night Out celebration and picnic is going to be held this year from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Aug. 3 in its traditional spot behind the Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club. According to Nefertari I, Rainier Vista community builder, everyone should make an effort to come out and celebrate this year.

"This is going to be the last Night Out in the old Rainier Vista," she said. "We should make it the best ever."

Next year, she pointed out, HOPE VI redevelopment will most likely change the community's mix of residents and the party's

location. This will inevitably change the feel of the party.

This year however, many old favorites will return. Visitors can expect a free multicultural dinner, a resource fair and entertainment including a Vietnamese seniors dance group and the Boys & Girls Club Drill Team. There will also be Cambodian and Vietnamese youth dancers as well as karaoke.

The Crime Night Out organizers are still looking for volunteers to help staff the event and clean up. To volunteer call the Rainier Vista Leadership Team at 206-722-8983 or Nefertari I at 206-722-4010 ext. 3.

Slow breathing, slow movements and peace

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

Setting up for a small Tai Chi class in the 500 building on a recent summer morning meant moving tables and chairs and opening all the doors to let in a refreshing summer breeze. A few minutes before 10 a.m., the normally bustling community room had been transformed into a site fit for exercise and peaceful contemplation.

Tai Chi is an ancient form of martial art that has evolved into a comprehensive series of gentle physical movements and breathing techniques in which practitioners can experience a meditative state and improve their overall health and fitness. At Rainier Vista, one resident helped start a Tai Chi class earlier this summer. The class is now taught by a Tai Chi master and is attended by 10 to 15 mostly Vietnamese senior citizens.

"Tai Chi has lots of meaning for both young adults and for seniors," said the class instructor, Mitsuo Aoki. "It is training your mind."

Each class starts with Aoki at the front of the room and his students standing before him. After a group greeting, the class checks their postures and corrects what Aoki points out. In accented English, he reminds his students - many of whom speak very little English - to make their feet parallel "like a railway" and to "soften your knees."

Once Aoki is satisfied that everyone is aligned and breathing correctly, he takes them through some waist twisting movements during which a chorus of pops and creaks can be heard coming from the well-used joints in the room. Though on first glance the scene may look like a senior exercise class, Tai Chi is very different. It is exercise, but according to Aoki, someone new to the practice, no matter how low their

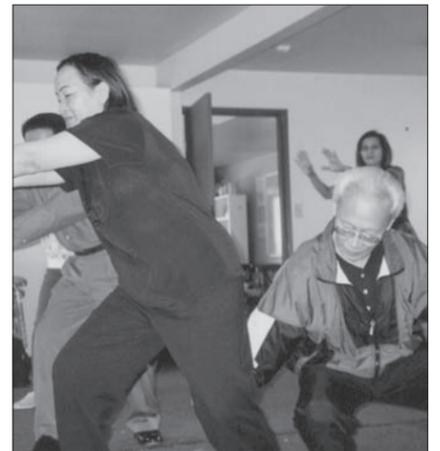


PHOTO BY CHARLES REDELL, VOICE

Mitsuo Aoki, a Tai Chi master, corrects the stance of a Rainier Vista resident during a recent class.

normal activity level is, won't feel sore after a first lesson.

"Tai Chi movement is slow," he said. "It makes muscles become stronger."

The class progresses each week through different steps or parts of a full "movement." Though the class is filled with laughter and jokes between teacher and students, Aoki takes the movements very seriously and exhorts his students to watch their form and hold themselves correctly. No one escapes his sharp eyes.

To correct one student's hand movement which Aoki said was too stiff, Aoki said, "In Tai Chi, we move our hands in soft ways."

A student in the class, Hunog Bui, 65, said that she has been taking the class for a month and that she practices her movements every morning after waking up.

"After I do Tai Chi, I breathe better," she said.

The Rainier Vista Tai Chi class meets at 10 a.m. every Monday in the 500 Building. Residents are invited to drop in.

Community notes

Council meeting

The Community meetings for the Rainier Vista Leadership Team is on the second Wednesday of the month. The meetings are at 6:30 p.m. In August, the meeting will be held on Aug. 11.

Library re-opening

The Columbia City public library will re-open at 1 p.m. on Aug. 22 after being closed for an expansion. The expanded 12,420-square-foot library will feature an updated collection, more seating, special areas for children, young adults and adults, more computers and instructional areas, modern electrical, mechanical and ventilation systems, more efficient lobby, circulation desk and staff areas, and better access for people with disabilities.

Rainier Vista Center groundbreaking

All residents, service providers and neighbors of Rainier Vista are invited to attend the Neighborhood House Rainier Vista Center Groundbreaking at 8:30 a.m. on Aug. 5. The new Rainier Vista Center will be a 10,000-square-foot facility designed and built as a hub of community activity in the new Rainier Vista

community. It will house Head Start classrooms, offices, an enclosed play area and meeting rooms which can also be used by the community. For more information, visit www.nhwa.org.

Free bus tickets

If you have relocated from Rainier Vista as part of the HOPE VI redevelopment and need assistance with transportation costs to continue participating in community meetings and/or services, contact the Rainier Vista management office at 206-721-2980 or the JobsPlus office at 206-722-4010 ext 1. They may be able to provide you with METRO bus tickets to help you get to and from Rainier Vista for that purpose.

Free advertisement for residents

Rainier Vista's Community Information Station is available for residents to place advertisements or notices free of charge. The bulletin board is outside on the wall of the community room. To place an ad or announcement contact Christine or Kathy at Rainier Vista Neighborhood House at 206-461-4568 or stop by the office located at 3600 S. Oregon St.

NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

Families will find fun at annual Family Fun Fest



PHOTO BY CHARLES REDELL, VOICE

At last year's Family Fun Fest, one of the crowd's favorite performances was this Hip-Hop dance created and performed by a group of young residents. This year's festival, to be held on Aug. 14, is still accepting applications from performers.

By JOY BRYNGELSON MORO
Seattle Housing Authority

This will be the fourth year for the annual NewHolly Family Fun Fest at the Van Asselt Community Center. Each year the Family Fun Fest has the key ingredients of a great summertime party with an added flavor that is completely unique to NewHolly. There are opportunities for people of all ages and from every cultural background to enjoy themselves and their diverse community. The Family Fun Fest is a place to connect with neighbors and have a good time. It's fun, exciting, delicious, and it can even be relaxing if you grab a good place in the shade while you watch the performances.

There is a lot that goes into the recipe that makes a great Family Fun Fest including:

- Great barbecue for only a \$1 suggested donation.
- Family games including Family Olympics 2004
- Children's games
- Senior activity tent
- All-ages crafts
- Information and resources
- Cultural and community performances
- Dedicated community volunteers

- Hard working staff from the NewHolly Campus and Van Asselt Community Center

- Community spirit
- Neighborhood pride

This year the volunteers and staff are working very hard to build on the theme of family by planning the Family Olympics 2004. Don't worry, there is no need to start training. There won't be any hurdles to jump or laps to run. Instead, you should imagine fun and quirky games like a three-legged race, Hula-Hoop tournament, a watermelon eating contest, badminton, volleyball and even a scavenger hunt.

One thing that makes Family Fun Fest special is that the work of putting the event on is shared by many members of the community. If you'd like to be a volunteer, it's not too late to get involved. Volunteer Orientation is from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Aug. 10 in the Campus Art Room. Or, you can sign up on the volunteer list at the NewHolly Library, at the Family Center or in the Management Office. The Family Fun Fest organizers are still accepting performance nominations as well. The event is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 14. Contact Joy Bryngelson Moro at 206-723-1725.

Strengthening the families of NewHolly

New program at NewHolly aims to bring daughters and their parents closer together

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

In a continuing effort to expand the assistance that they provide to entire families at NewHolly, Atlantic Street Center, in partnership with Girl Scouts, is starting a new class in August called Strengthening Families. The program is aimed at working with parents and their daughters between the ages of 10 and 14 years old with the goal of building bridges between the two.

"We are providing parent education that really is accessible, responsive and helps families be true to their own traditions," said Sue Siegenthaler, program manager at the NewHolly Youth and Family Center. "Strengthening Families will help them feel more in control without being in control."

Strengthening Families is a seven-week course developed at the University of Iowa and is a parent, youth and family skills-building curriculum designed to prevent teen substance abuse and other behavior problems, strengthen parenting skills and build family strengths.

During the first half of each class, parents and their daughters are split into two groups where they build skills, most of which are aimed at helping them improve life skills such as communication, conflict resolution and anger management.

"It's meant to strengthen the relationship of parents and youth," explained Marylou Rivera Buckner, outreach membership manager and a facilitator for the program at

NewHolly. "The aim and the goal is that the girls will have reduced attraction to drugs. The parents will learn how to love their teens while at the same time setting limits."

Some of the topics parents will cover in the first half of each session include Using Love and Limits, Making House Rules and Encouraging Good Behavior. Youth will take part in sessions called Having Goals and Dreams, Appreciating Parents and Dealing with Stress, among others. These so-called breakout sessions are generally based around videos that portray typical family interactions. Depending on the makeup of the class, these videos may be used as a backup to class discussions instead.

Also working in the class will be Atlantic Street Center staff members, Marath Men and Juanita McQuay. Thanks to their experience in the community, Siegenthaler is sure that families from many different cultures will feel comfortable in the class and come away with something from it.

"Marath and Juanita will play a critical role ... making the material accessible for families," she said.

The Strengthening Families program is open to anyone living in NewHolly with a daughter between the ages of 10 and 14 years old. Classes will meet from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays starting Aug. 4 and will run until Sept. 15. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Families do not have to be involved with Girl Scouts. Activities for younger children are available. For more information or to sign up, call 206-723-4073.

Expanding Van Asselt

By VOICE STAFF

In 1999, Seattle voters passed a \$72 million Community Center levy meant to update the city's Community Center system. As a part of that levy, the Van Asselt Community Center will undergo a \$3.9 million expansion. When it is complete, the new Van Asselt Community Center will have 9,000 square feet of program space which will more than double its current size.

Starting in March 2004, a Project Advisory Team, or PAT, has been meeting every month to advise the Department of Parks and Recreation on the project. The members of the PAT represent different, key stakeholder groups in the community. They provide input on the design of the gym, assure balanced stakeholder participation and review the project's scope, budget and schedule.

In June 2004, Parks hired Ron Wright and Associates to design the new Van Asselt Community Center expansion. According to Parks spokesperson Karen Lynch, two design choices are now complete and ready to be discussed by the public.

She said that the two choices will be unveiled at the first public forum on the project in August.

At that forum, community members will have the opportunity to look at and comment on the basic designs. Those comments will then be reviewed by Parks staff and a final decision on which design to use will be made.

Lynch said that there will be at least two more public meetings about the expansion of Van Asselt as well as more PAT meetings which are also open to the public. It is likely, she said, that there will be even more public meetings as the project continues.

The new Van Asselt Community Center is scheduled to be complete in 2006.

All members of the NewHolly community are invited to attend the first public forum on the Van Asselt Community Center expansion at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 17 at the Van Asselt community Center, 2820 S. Myrtle St. Parks is trying to provide childcare during the meeting. For more information, call Karen Lynch at 206-733-9188 or e-mail her at karen.lynch@seattle.gov.

Community notes

Seeking submissions

The Voice is seeking submissions for its NewHolly community section. Articles, photos and community announcements can be sent to Charles Redell at charlesr@nhwa.org or by phone by calling 206-461-8430 ext. 227.

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. During this time, school-aged youth receive help from tutors while at the same time, parents can get help

learning English as a Second Language, GED preparation, citizenship studies and even home childcare training. No appointment is necessary. For more information, call 206-723-4073.

Want some project news?

Interested in learning about projects and opportunities in your neighborhood? If you would like to participate in projects around Sound Transit, NewHolly Campus changes, Traffic Safety Club activities or another project, please contact Joy Bryngelson Moro at 206-723-1725 or by e-mail at jmoro@seattlehousing.org.

YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

Yesler's future discussed

By KRISTIN O'DONNELL
Special to the Voice

At the July Yesler Terrace Community Council meeting, representatives of the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice urged Council members to prepare for the complete redevelopment of Yesler Terrace and demand total replacement of all demolished apartments on site. At that meeting, the Community Council voted to welcome the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice as a partner in the process of determining the future of the neighborhood.

Tom Tierney, executive director of the Seattle Housing Authority, told the group that the Housing Authority has "no plans for redevelopment." He also said that a community process to explore options for Yesler Terrace will begin in June 2005 and that no actual redevelopment will take place until 2009.

Additionally, Tierney said that all low-income units would be replaced, as the Housing Authority says they are doing in NewHolly, Rainier Vista, High Point and other areas of redevelopment in the city.

Some people do not believe what SHA says. Some residents from the old Holly Park neighborhood say that promised homeownership and job programs did not deliver what they had been led to expect and the redeveloped Rainier Vista community may not have apartments for all of the residents who were promised that they could return to the neighborhood.

John Fox heads the Seattle Displacement Coalition and is a long-time supporter of housing for low-income people. He has done a study of SHA's replacement housing for Holly Park which concludes that many replacement units are either significantly

different types of housing than what was demolished or are apartments in low-income buildings not owned by SHA and are affordable to very low income families only because SHA has assigned a Section 8 voucher to the apartment. But these vouchers are good only as long as Congress continues to fund them. In the current climate, this is hardly long-term housing.

Tierney and the Housing Authority insist that the replacement units they have built for other communities serve the same purposes that the demolished units were and that no one is being evicted from SHA housing.

"We cannot be treated as if we cannot be believed," Tierney said at the Yesler meeting.

Comments from Yesler Terrace residents – and the results of a telephone survey of the community conducted last year for the Housing Authority – indicate that many people who live in Yesler Terrace like the neighborhood the way it is now. They appreciate the diversity and neighborliness of the community; value the accessible services; find the location convenient; and are very fond of the small, fenced and private yards, gardens, trees and views. Many residents question whether a redevelopment – which may tear down Yesler Terrace to build large apartment or office buildings or mean three to four times as many people living in a small and already densely populated area – may in turn mean that fewer low-income families will be able to live in this neighborhood. Many wonder if this is something which will be good for those of who now live here or for those who will need public housing in the future.

Kristin O'Donnell is a long-time resident of Yesler Terrace and Secretary of the Community Council there.

SHA responds

By VIRGINIA FELTON
SHA Communications Director

Next year we will begin discussions with Yesler Terrace residents about the future of this important and valuable community. Meanwhile, we will continue to answer residents' questions and work closely with the Yesler Terrace Community Council.

John Fox does the Housing Authority and the residents of Yesler Terrace a disservice by inaccurately representing the replacement housing story. SHA has served the residents of Holly Park and Rainier Vista very well, and the vast majority of residents have been able to relocate to the housing they wanted. Last year, a City of Seattle audit of the Holly Park relocation effort verified this. The Housing Authority has kept its

commitment to replace housing lost to redevelopment. To learn more about this housing and see pictures of it and where it is located, visit SHA's Web site at www.seattlehousing.org, click on "development," then click on "replacement housing."

Please do not be lulled into thinking that traditional public housing is more stable or a better long-term solution than Section 8 vouchers. A housing unit owned by a non-profit organization and subsidized by a Section 8 voucher may be just as stable as public housing or even more stable in the long term. Both public housing subsidies and Section 8 have been under pressure for cuts in Washington, D.C. for the past ten years or longer. Reductions in either of these programs are bad for low-income residents.

Center on schedule

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Construction on the \$6.6 million, 20,000 square-foot Yesler Community Center is 45 percent complete. Construction is expected to be complete in January 2005.

The facility has been designed on one level with visibility from the entry desk to all key areas and entries for security. The center will be registered with the Green Building Council to achieve the Silver level

of LEED (leadership in energy and environmental design). It will achieve energy efficiency through intelligent lighting systems such as day lighting.

Seattle Parks will recycle more than 75 percent of demolition and construction debris and the existing gym and community center will remain open during construction.

For questions about the Community Center call Toby Ressler at 206-615-1482.

Nature Consortium continues at Yesler



During a summer class in the Neighborhood House Head Start classrooms, these three young Yesler Terrace residents used mixed media to create some nature-related art.

PHOTO BY CHARLES REDELL, VOICE

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice editor

The Nature Consortium recently received word that their contract at Yesler Terrace is being extended for another year. According to Nancy Whitlock, Nature Consortium executive director, the organization is excited to be staying at Yesler Terrace.

From the creation of illuminated puppets to Brazilian drumming, Cambodian kites and more, there should be something for every child in Yesler Terrace in the coming year.

Before the new year of classes starts however, the organization's first year of work in the community has to come to a close. This will happen just in time to showcase the work the youth have produced at the annual Arts in Nature Festival in West Seattle.

During the remainder of the summer, The Nature Consortium classes will meet in Neighborhood House's Head Start classrooms. There, students will take a Khmer kite class which will end with the youth building a Cambodian kite that they will display at the Arts in Nature Festival.

Among other offerings in August, there is also a martial arts class called Nature Kicks which will teach the youth about nature-related martial arts. Those students have

the opportunity to continue on and learn how to perform a traditional Lion Dance.

According to Whitlock, classes like these and others are all a part of the Nature Consortium's effort to teach arts that relate to the culture of the populations they serve.

"We're trying to bring in the cultural arts of the kids that are there," Whitlock said. "We're doing really great things with Asian art classes."

As the fall approaches, The Nature Consortium will move back to their original space which is in the same building as the Yesler Terrace Management office. Whitlock says that although the space is tight, amazing things can happen there. One class she is looking forward to in particular will be a theater class taught by an accomplished local African performer. The details of this class will be worked out with the students as it begins.

"The new class will be developed together," she said.

Classes start at 10 a.m. Mondays to Fridays in August. Once school starts in September, they will run from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday. For a detailed class schedule, or to register for a class (they are all free), call 206-923-0853 or send an e-mail to Mulu Abraha at mulu@naturec.org.

Notes from the Manager

By JUDI CARTER
Community manager

I have been noticing some graffiti around the community. I suspect it is the result of bored children who are not in school for the summer. If you see a child writing on a wall, please request that they stop immediately. If you know who the child is, please report it to the management office.

The heat isn't going anywhere anytime soon and some people are concerned about their refrigerators. From what I hear, as the temperatures rise, people are turning their refrigerators up. This is not only unnecessary, it's bad for the refrigerator as well. Please don't turn yours up past six for any reason.

I am pleased to announce that there have been fewer incidents of crime reported this summer than in past years. This is thanks in part to some residents near Harborview Hospital.

When they see people who do not live in the neighborhood hanging out, the residents ask them nicely to leave. Because so many people do ask, the people do leave. This is a fine example of Block Watch in action. Thank you for being such great neighbors.

Speaking of good neighbors, last month I told everyone to look at a beautiful yard four yards east of 10th Avenue. That fabulous, colorful and weed-free space belongs to Laura Filarca. Thank you Laura for beautifying the community.

Community notes

Make a difference

The council needs your help and your ideas about the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace. Please come to our next meeting at 6 p.m. on Sept. 14 in the Epstein Building conference room at 905 Spruce

Street. Questions about the Community Council? Call 206-622-4858 or 206-682-3197.

Please be sure to note that there is no Community Council meeting for the month of August.

