



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



The Voice

February
2005
Articles translated
into six languages

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

Gregoire named governor Rossi contests election, files lawsuit

By VOICE STAFF

Although Christine Gregoire was sworn in as governor of Washington last month, questions about the validity of the election persist.

After two recounts of the November vote, Gregoire officially took office on Jan. 12. She was declared the winner over her Republican challenger Dino Rossi by a slim margin of 129 votes.

"The bottom line is the election is over," the *Seattle Times* quoted Gregoire as saying. "It's time to move forward, and I am prepared to take on the people's work."

Still, six days before the inauguration, Rossi and the Republican Party filed a suit in Superior court, arguing that errors and possible fraud in the vote counting leave the true outcome of the election unknown.

Rossi is calling for Gregoire to be removed from office and for a second election to be held.

State Democrats promptly asked that the suit be dismissed, arguing that the Legislature – which their party controls – is the constitutionally-mandated venue to decide the outcome of the election dispute.

The cases is pending in court.

To complicate matters, on Jan. 23, the *Seattle Times* reported that more than 129 convicted felons in King and Pierce counties voted illegally during the November election.

The Republicans had cited this issue, along with votes credited to dead people, problems with provisional ballots and discrepancies between the number of people listed as having voted and the number of votes actually cast, as grounds for their lawsuit.

The *Times* reached their number by reviewing records on felony convictions and comparing them against voting records from the two counties.

However, reporters pointed out that the votes in question did not necessarily change the election's outcome, because not all of the felons cast votes for Gregoire.

Still, the article suggested the findings could illustrate that a large number of felons voted illegally across the state.

Still, Gregoire marched forward in her post as governor.

During her inaugural speech, she talked of creating a task force to devise recom-

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Rally and march spread King's message



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

Thousands gathered at Garfield High School last month to march in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By STACY SCHWANDT
Voice editor

Thousands of Seattle residents braved heavy rains to observe the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday last month, reaffirming his message that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

About 2,000 people of every race and age gathered at Garfield High School for the 22nd annual rally and march organized by the MLK Celebration Committee. The event, which focused on ending racial disparity, was chaired by King County Councilman Larry Gossett.

Gossett opened the rally with a reminder that had King not been assassinated, the day would have marked his 76th birthday.

"Dr. King said, 'Longevity has its place, but that's not the most important thing,'" Gossett continued, "It's what you do on earth while you're here that makes a difference."

Many who attended the event spent the morning participating in workshops on issues of domestic violence, economic justice, housing displacement and the criminal justice system.

At the rally that followed, they continued to tackle social justice questions.

Speaker Dr. Alexes Harris, assistant professor of sociology at the University of Washington, asked them to test the reality

of the American Dream, which holds that any person who works hard will find success.

"What this dream leaves out is the structural inequalities that are systematic and present in our society," she said, pointing out that wealth is disproportionately held by white people, while youth of color are imprisoned in unequal numbers.

Later, speaker Dustin Washington of the People's Coalition for Justice said he was calling, as King did, for a radical redistribution of wealth and a move toward democratic socialism.

"We will not continue to look for capitalist solutions to our problems," he said.

After the rally, participants marched from the school, down Yesler Avenue toward the new Federal Building. They carried umbrellas and signs calling for family wage jobs, the end to racial disparity and equal access to health care.

The group stopped briefly at the entrance to Pratt Park, which is named after Edwin T. Pratt, a civil rights leader who served as the director of the Urban League in the 1960s and advocated for equal housing opportunities for black people. In 1969, Pratt was shot in his doorway. His murder has never been solved.

Although turnout to the event was high, it was nowhere near the 5,000 participants
See "King's life celebrated" on page 2

Tax credit could put money in your pocket

By VOICE STAFF

Taxes fund many social programs that benefit those living in the United States.

Now is the time of year when employers send out the W-2 forms that workers use to report their earnings and pay their taxes to the IRS.

For many low-income individuals, however, taxes can be a drain on limited resources. That's why they're eligible for and can claim the Earned Income Tax Credit.

The Earned Income Tax Credit is a federal tax credit originally approved by Congress in 1975.

Many view it as an effective anti-poverty tool because it reduces the tax burden on low- and moderate-income earners, offsetting social security taxes and encouraging everyone to keep working.

When the EITC exceeds the amount of

taxes a person owes, they are eligible to receive a tax refund that can reach as high as \$4,300.

But each year many qualified workers do not apply for the credit.

To ensure Seattle-area workers make the most of this benefit, United Way of King County and the King County Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign are offering free tax-preparation services by trained volunteers.

Last year, campaign volunteers prepared 1,772 returns that generated about \$2.2 million in refunds. This year, campaign organizers expect to file over 4,500 returns at 12 sites across the county.

"The 2005 goal for the Earned Income Tax credit program is to put \$4 million back into the pockets of those Seattle and King

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"I decided I could not wait."
Governor Christine Gregoire on her decision to relax the rules governing Medicaid just days after being sworn in to the post and with the election still contested. Gregoire says the change will bring nearly 20,000 additional children into the program.

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Health Notes

A column devoted to your well-being

Web site helps seniors stay fit

By JESSICA LEAKE
Special to the Voice

It's time to shape up, King County.

A new Web site called just that, www.shapeupkingcounty.org is now available to the public.

The site offers a wealth of information on places to play tennis, enjoy water aerobics, take a Judo class, join a walking team or even try fencing.

The Web site is targeted toward older adults and is a great resource for seniors who want to know about the activity options available in their King County neighborhoods.

The site includes an interactive guide that lets browsers search for activities by type and location.

The work for Shape Up King County was started over a year ago by a medical student who wanted to survey the area for places that offered fitness activities for older adults. Senior Services of Seattle/King County then completed the project by developing an interactive Web site.

The Healthy Aging Partnership, a coalition of more than 30 Puget Sound organizations dedicated to the health and well-being of older adults, supports the Web site.

Members hope it will be used both by seniors and by businesses and health care providers.

"The Web site has information on hundreds of fitness activities," says Eileen Murphy of Senior Services, part of the part-

nership. "Studies have repeatedly shown the benefits of physical activity, and we want to make it easier for people to find programs that will help them remain active."

Murphy says the Shape Up King County Web site is a place where health care providers can direct patients for information.

They can also use it themselves for a quick and easy reference guide to physical activity.

Interested King County residents without Internet access can call (800) 435-3377 for a list of fitness activities in their area.

Other organizations affiliated with the site include City of Seattle Aging and Disability Services, Public Health - Seattle & King County, Comprehensive Health Education Foundation and the University of Washington Health Promotion Research Center.

The Health Promotion Research Center has reported that the National Healthy Research Network would like to use the site as a national model.

Fitness program providers or related businesses and organizations that would like to be included on the Web site can go to <http://www.shapeupkingcounty.org> and click on 'Contact Us' to register or for more information.

For answers to questions about fitness and other issues related to living a healthier life as an older adult, call (800) 435-3377 or visit the Healthy Aging Partnership's Web site at <http://www.4elders.org>.

Flu shots now available for everyone

Seattle & King County Public Health is further expanding the list of those who can receive the flu vaccine this season.

Now, health care providers in King County can administer flu shots to anyone requesting one, as long as the demand among persons in high-risk groups has been met.

"Our emphasis remains for those in high-risk categories to get vaccinated, but we also want to make certain that no vaccine is left on the shelf," Dr. Alonzo Plough, director of the public health organization, said in a statement. "That is why we are opening up the vaccine availability to everybody."

Public Health still recommends priority vaccination of children and adults in high-risk categories. Influenza cases are increasing at this time and are expected to peak in February or later, so it is not too late to get vaccinated. The influenza vaccine this year matches strains circulating in the community.

King County residents should first call their personal health care provider to get a flu shot. Flu shots are also available at public health centers. Call (206) 296-4969 to find the public health clinic nearest you.

Public Health recommends that all children

aged 6 to 23 months, all adults aged 50 or older, all persons aged 20 to 64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions, all women who will be pregnant during the influenza season, residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities, children aged 6 months to 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy, health-care workers involved in direct patient care, out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children less than 6 months of age and household contacts of persons in high-risk groups receive the flu shot.

Intranasal, live-attenuated vaccine is still available in many locations for use in healthy persons between 5 and 49 who are not pregnant.

Low-cost flu vaccination for high-risk children, including household contacts of other high risk persons, is available at 300 health care providers and clinics throughout King County through the Vaccines for Children program.

Visit the Public Health flu season Web pages at <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/immunization/fluseason.htm> for updated information on the flu season.

King's life celebrated

continued from front page

organizers had counted at previous years' events.

Several other events honoring the life of Dr. King also took place across the city last month, including a celebration organized by the City of Seattle at Seattle Center.

There, members of the Central District Forum for Arts and Ideas recited King's "I Have A Dream" speech using multiple actors and song.

In a similar approach, King County's celebration featured dramatic monologues by actors portraying Marva Collins, Rosa Parks and Fannie Lou Hammer.

The performance was directed by the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center.



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

Althea Lute from the Washington Federation of State Employees rallies the crowd.

Tax credit

continued from front page

County residents who need it most," Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels said in a statement. "We encourage as many low- and moderate-income working families and individuals as possible to take advantage of this great program."

Volunteers will be providing tax preparation services until April 15 in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian and Samoan.

"We're offering the service in many locations and languages because we need to meet people where they are," United Way of King County Program Manager Dave Sieminski said in a statement. "King County has many refugees, immigrants and other residents who aren't familiar with IRS tax codes or preparing their own returns, and we need to help them make sure they get all the tax benefits they have earned."

To qualify for the credit, you must have worked in 2004 and have a Social Security number.

If you are a single person without a child, you must have earned less than \$11,490 in 2004 to qualify. If you are married without children and filing your tax return jointly with your spouse you must have earned under \$12,490 in 2004 to qualify.

With one child, you must have earned less than \$30,338 or \$31,338 if you are married and filing jointly with your spouse. If you have more than one child, you qualify if you earned less than \$34,458 or \$35,458 if you are filing with your spouse.

The campaign workers also help customers open bank accounts, sign up for financial education classes, connect with public benefits and learn how to reduce debt, earn better credit and plan for the future.

Sites are located in Bellevue, Beacon Hill, Burien, the Central District, Rainier Beach, downtown Seattle, White Center, Renton, Kent, SeaTac International Airport and Federal Way.

For more information about the campaign and its services, call (800) 755-5317.

Election

continued from front page

mendations to improve the state's election infrastructure and mentioned she'd like to set a goal of providing health care to all children by 2010.

In one of her first actions as governor, Gregoire ordered the state Department of Social and Health Services to ease its Medicaid rules by requiring recipients prove their eligibility once a year, instead of every six months.

The state estimates this will bring another 20,000 children into the program.

She also said she will not pursue a plan to ask some Medicaid recipients to pay monthly premiums.

Know the facts before you sign for a tax-refund loan

New Seattle law requires businesses to disclose fees to customers

Are you planning to get a loan based on your estimated income tax refund?

As of January 2005, any business in Seattle that offers these loans must tell you what the loan will cost and how much you will receive in cash.

Consumers should bear in mind these loans often carry high interest rates and other fees.

The loans may not even be necessary because most people can receive their Internal Revenue Service refunds in three weeks or less.

The new law also requires tax preparation businesses to tell you that the IRS will mail your refund to you at no cost just three weeks after you file your return (two weeks through direct deposit to a bank account).

The business also must tell you that you do not have to agree to a refund anticipation loan in order to get tax help, that you must repay any loan you receive even if the IRS denies, delays or reduces your actual income tax refund and that if you have no bank account, you can open one to get a refund anticipation check.

The message behind Seattle's law is simple: **KNOW BEFORE YOU SIGN.**

If a business fails to give you this required information in English or in Spanish, you should contact the City of Seattle immediately by calling the Department of Executive Administration's Revenue and Consumer Affairs Division at (206) 233-0067 or via text telephone at 615-0476.

Gregorie went on to introduce a series of bills she plans to advocate for this year.

The bills, which also concerned health care, included one that would allow private employers to purchase health insurance for their employees from the government and another that would allow citizens to legally purchase prescription drugs in Canada, where prices are lower than in the United States.

Gregoire said she had considered including the Medicaid changes in her budget proposal, which should be presented this month, but she said thousands more children would have fallen off Medicaid if she delayed.

"I decided I could not wait," she said.

Information from the Seattle Times was used to compile this report.

The Voice

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

Do you recognize these children?



PHOTO BY ELMER BALL

Neighborhood House is looking for families and individuals who have been served by the organization during its nearly 100 years of service.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

It's a familiar photo, seen on Neighborhood House vans, billboards and publications. But we know next to nothing about "the children of Yesler Terrace" whose faces have become icons of Neighborhood House and its work for generations.

All we know is that the photograph was taken in the early 1940s by the late Elmer Ball, a U.S. Navy veteran who took photography classes in the International District on weekends.

According to Ball's daughter Laurie, that may have been when he snapped the photo at nearby Yesler Terrace.

Beyond that, the identity of the children and the circumstances of the photograph

remain a mystery.

Now, with the 100th anniversary of Neighborhood House approaching in 2006, we would like to know more.

Who are these children? Are they still living in Seattle, likely as grandparents or even great grandparents by now?

How have their lives progressed from those childhood days behind the worn picket fence? Do they remember Neighborhood House?

We are also interested in collecting the stories of others who have been served by Neighborhood House over the past century. If you or someone you know has been touched by the organization, please call us at (206) 461-8430 ext. 227.

Minimum wage meets annual increase

Wage still not high enough to meet family needs

BY VOICE STAFF

Washington's minimum wage jumped in January to \$7.35 an hour, up 19 cents from the 2004 wage of \$7.16 an hour.

Still, most people who live on this wage cannot afford the rent and utilities on a two-bedroom apartment, an advocacy group on low-income housing reported in December.

The Department of Labor and Industries recalculates the state's minimum wage each year according to the change in the federal Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers.

The annual inflation adjustment is required by Initiative 688, which was approved by Washington voters in 1998.

Though the annual adjustments are welcome, the typical worker would need to make at least \$14.32 an hour to afford a two-bedroom rental unit in Washington, said the National Low Income Housing Coalition in

their annual report on the affordability of the nation's housing.

An apartment is considered affordable if the cost of rent and utilities is no more than 30 percent of the renter's income.

"The disparity between income and rent for people of modest means is so wide as to be unfathomable," the report's authors said in its introduction.

Washington is one of three states nationwide, along with Oregon and Florida, that have voter mandates to automatically adjust their minimum wages each year.

Fourteen states have minimum wages higher than the federal minimum, which is \$5.15 an hour.

Washington's minimum wage applies to workers in both agricultural and non-agricultural jobs, although 14- and 15-year-olds may be paid 85 percent of the adult minimum wage.

Classes offered at NewHolly

The Seattle Housing Authority and South Seattle Community College has entered into a partnership to offer a free "Work Discovery" class for residents at NewHolly.

The 10-week class takes place on Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

It is held in room 206 of the family building, 7050 32nd Ave. S.W. in Seattle

Up to 30 individuals may be enrolled, and the class has an open entry and exit policy.

To join, contact SHA employment specialist Cora Laim at (206) 760-2709.

For more information on South Seattle Community College call NewHolly site coordinator Marie Coon at (206) 768-6618.



One to grow on

Garden tips for community gardeners

Crop rotation is key to healthy gardens

BY ANZA MUENCHOW
Special to the Voice

Finally, the days are getting longer.

The extra sunlight will be welcome, but the temperatures are typically at their coldest this month.

Nevertheless, we know we can look forward to the 2005 growing season.

In planning for your 2005 food garden, there are lots of factors to keep in mind.

Besides considering how much of what vegetables you and your family will eat, consider how you can best use your limited space for growing.

Take some time to draw out a map for your summer 2005 garden. The different crops will have different light, water and soil needs.

This month, let's look at some ways to address soil needs without having to do a lot of work. I always like to find short cuts that make gardening easier.

Crop rotation is one of those shortcuts.

Many of our food crops have particular pests that harm them but aren't a problem for plants from a different family.

Pea weevils won't bother broccoli. Club root (the fungus that attacks brassicas like broccoli) won't bother lettuce or cilantro.

Moving your crops to different parts of your garden will slow or eliminate many of your pest problems.

Besides confusing plant pests, crop rotations can help you provide the right soil nutrients to your plants without adding a lot of fertilizers.

Here are some basic crop rotation concepts to keep in mind as you plan your garden map for 2005 growing season.

Legumes are a family of plants that actually put more nitrogen into the soil than they use. They have colonies of bacteria that live on their roots that take nitrogen out of the air and excrete it into the soil, in a very useable form.

Peas and beans (all kinds, including green beans, fava, soybeans and garbanzos) are common in Northwest vegetable gardens. Not only do you not have to add nitrogen rich fertilizers for them to grow well, they will improve your soil for the next crops you grow after them.

I like to follow a bean crop with broccoli or spinach the next growing season. These crops and all the greens (including lettuce, arugula and green onions) will benefit from having that extra nitrogen from the previous legume crop.

Did I forget corn? Those tall green stalks need lots of nitrogen too.

The fruiting crops (tomatoes, peppers, squashes) don't need as much nitrogen.

Some people who add lots of nitrogen rich fertilizers such as blood meal or cottonseed meal to their gardens actually have problems growing tomatoes because they get too much leaf growth and not enough fruits.

The excess nitrogen in the leaves can cause more problems with leaf spot and blight.

So, I will try to grow the fruiting vegetables the year after the green leafy crops because the soil will have less nitrogen in it. Then, after the fruiting crops, I like to grow the legumes to help put the nitrogen back in the soil.

This may be the simplest rotation to use when planning your garden: legumes then greens then fruiting crops.

If you keep in mind your plant's light requirements and water needs, this rotation will be an easy method to increase your garden performance without too many added fertilizers.

Enjoy looking through your seed catalogues this month and next month we can discuss some of the best seeds to look for in 2005.

Anza Muenchow is a volunteer with P-Patch and an avid community gardener.

Time for Seattle Public Schools' open enrollment

BY VOICE STAFF

Parents who live within the Seattle School District have the opportunity to choose the school their children will attend.

Now is the time for those with children entering kindergarten, middle school or high school for the first time, families who are new to Seattle Schools and those who just want to switch their child's school to make their choices.

Families that apply for a school before Feb. 28 are considered "on time," and their choices will be given priority when school assignments are made in the fall.

Current 5th- and 8th-grade students going to middle or high school next year should have received an enrollment guide and school application form in the mail.

Others can pick up this information at the district's enrollment service centers, on the Internet or have it sent to them. School applications can be returned by mail, by fax, or in person.

Choosing a school can be a confusing process for parents who are worried about making sure their children receive the best possible education.

To make this decision easier, the school district offers a number of resources.

The enrollment guide is a booklet that

includes information about the services and programs offered at each individual school. In the booklet, a staff member from each school describes the school and the learning approaches taken by its teachers.

The booklet also describes transportation options, graduation requirements and the steps parents can take to make a good school choice.

The school district's Bilingual Family Center is available to help immigrant and refugee families choose an appropriate school.

Staff can assist in Amharic, Chinese, Ilokano, Lao, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, Tigrigna and Vietnamese.

The center is in room 104 at Aki Kurose Middle School, 3928 S. Graham St., with office hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. More information is available at (206) 252-7750.

Parents are also invited to visit the schools in which they are interested. Tours and open houses are scheduled for every school in the district.

For more information about making school choices for your children, contact the Enrollment Services department at (206) 252-0410 or visit its Web site at <http://www.seattleschools.org>.

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.

Student makes a difference

EXHIBIT WOWS COMMUNITY

See page 4



SHA NEWS

February
2005

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

New community center at Rainier Vista possible

By VIRGINIA FELTON
Seattle Housing Authority

Next month, the local Salvation Army office, supported by Seattle city officials, the Boys & Girls Club and the Seattle Housing Authority, will submit an application to the Western Territory of the Salvation Army that could pave the way for an extensive new community center at Rainier Vista.

The national Salvation Army has received a \$1.5 billion bequest from the estate of Joan B. Kroc, wife of the founder the McDonald's restaurant chain.

The bequest is being used to build and support community centers across the country. The first Kroc Center was built in San Diego.

The western territory office has requested applications from many local Salvation Army offices. The Rainier Vista area of Seattle was one of those selected.

Final site selection for the community center will be made in May.

"This is an incredible possibility for our community," said SHA Executive Director Tom Tierney. "It may be a long shot for us, but if Rainier Vista is selected for a Kroc Center, I am convinced that both our residents and the surrounding neighborhood will enjoy and benefit greatly from the results."

The Kroc bequest could provide as much as \$30 million to build the new center and an additional \$30 million for an endowment

to support its ongoing operation.

If Seattle and Rainier Vista are selected, the new community center would provide recreational, educational and cultural opportunities for the residents of the area.

The facility could include swimming pools, gyms, fitness facilities, classroom space and art, music or drama facilities.

The local office of the Salvation Army is working with the Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club. The new youth center the Boys & Girls Club has been planning would likely be part of the center.

No final decisions about how the new center would be used have been made yet. If the Seattle site is selected, the Salvation Army will want to hear from area citizens about their vision for the center.

The Salvation Army does not intend to duplicate or compete with other services and providers in the area.

If it happens, the addition of the Kroc Center will require some changes to the Rainier Vista redevelopment plan.

Any changes will be discussed with the Community Review Committee and residents of the neighborhood. In fact, the possibility of a Kroc Center at Rainier Vista has already been discussed with the CRC at its last two meetings.

The possible addition of the Kroc Center does not change SHA's commitment to build 481 units of low-income housing, both on- and off-site, to replace the 481 units at Rainier Vista prior to redevelopment.

Homes for sale generate excitement



Billy Gano inspects a kitchen at one of the model homes.



PHOTOS BY KARI SHERRODD

Brand new homes like these are for sale at Othello station.

By KARI SHERRODD
Seattle Housing Authority

Camping out for two days to buy a home at Othello Station didn't faze Billy Gano, who showed up at the sales office with a portable television and sleeping bag.

He and his brother wanted to be among the first in line to buy a new home at Othello Station, the third phase in the NewHolly redevelopment. The affordable prices, new construction, and close proximity to the future LINK light rail attracted them to the new development.

Gano and his brother weren't alone.

Polygon Northwest advertised that it would offer up to 10 homes for sale on a first come, first served basis last month. More than six families camped out for two days in advance of the sale date. Thirty people came through the office doors when they opened at 8:30 a.m.

By 10 a.m. all 10 advertised homes had

sold and eight more homes the company hadn't planned to release for another week had also been sold.

"There were more people than I expected," said Sam Chug, Polygon sales representative. "And, I really didn't expect them two days early."

The new houses are attracting people who want the amenities of city living and new construction, but not at the high prices common in Seattle's real estate market.

The Othello Station homes range from 1,250 to 1,780 square feet and are selling from \$266,990 to \$308,990, Chug said.

The prices attracted Leticia and Kevin Osterman. The Ostermans grabbed their first place spot in line around noon on Thursday.

"We wanted an affordable house in the city that's close to downtown, and one that would appreciate well over time," said Leticia. "Othello Station and its surround-

Please see "Homes for sale" on page 2

Self-sufficiency program funded by feds for another year

By JAMES OWENBY
Seattle Housing Authority

Seattle Housing Authority officials are breathing a sigh of relief as their Family Self-Sufficiency program has received funding

from the federal government for another year.

The program was established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1990, as an employment and savings incentive program for low-income families who have Section 8 vouchers or live in public housing.

Typically, SHA is notified months in advance if funding will be available for the next fiscal year.

Last year, the federal government didn't notify the housing authority about the grant's status until December, two months after the fiscal year began.

"The program is funded through September 30, 2005," said Cheryl Sabin, the program's supervisor.

The HUD award totaled about \$261,000 and provided enough money for three full-time staff people. Additional funding has been obtained through the Washington State Finance Commission, Sabin said.

The Family Self-Sufficiency program of-

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The hard facts of home ownership

The process of becoming a homeowner can be hard work.

"Possible home buyers need to have good credit, know how to budget, and be aware of the help that is out there for them," said Billie Martin, Seattle Housing Authority resident home-ownership counselor.

Martin teaches home-ownership classes that help residents figure out how much they can spend on a house or, if they aren't ready yet, what they need to do in order to qualify for a mortgage.

If you would like more information about home ownership, come to one of the upcoming free classes.

Home Ownership Basics will be offered

on Feb. 8, 15 and 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. at SHA's Central Office, 120 6th Ave. N. in Seattle.

Let's Talk About Your Credit and Predatory Lending will be offered on Feb. 12 and 26 from 10 a.m. to noon at SHA's Central Office.

To register for one of these classes contact Martin at (206) 615-3498 or by e-mail at bmartin@seattlehousing.org.

A five-hour Homebuyer Seminar, which is required to obtain any down payment assistance, will be offered on Feb. 26 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at SHA's Central Office. To register for this class contact Heather Anderson from Eagle Home Mortgage at (425) 602-6072.

Employment services programs renamed



PHOTO BY VIRGINIA FELTON

The Seattle Housing Authority Job Connection staff is eager to serve residents.

By **KARI SHERRODD**
Seattle Housing Authority

When Amin Ararsa came to the United States more than a decade ago, he dreamed of working as a security guard with a company that supports and respects its employees.

With help from the Seattle Housing Authority's Job Connection, Ararsa's dream became a reality.

SHA's employment services programs have helped many residents like Ararsa move toward self-sufficiency. In Seattle Housing's last fiscal year, 320 new individuals enrolled in the program and 130 were placed in jobs. The average hourly wage of these jobs was \$10.58 and 75 percent of them offered benefits.

Until the beginning of this year, SHA offered three employment services programs to help residents – The Job Connection, JobsPlus and the Career Development Center. The three programs have now merged to create one program called The Job Connection.

This merge was prompted by the conclusion of the JobsPlus program at Rainier Vista. JobsPlus was part of a six-year national demonstration project in six major metropolitan cities, including Seattle.

Even though the program has ended, SHA is still committed to providing first-rate employment services by the same staff members at Rainier Vista, just under a new name.

"We work continuously to assure that residents have the opportunity to get and keep jobs that they want, advance in their careers, start their own businesses and, where funds are available, we will refer residents to appropriate homeownership pro-

grams," said Laura Lakings-Becvar, SHA employment services coordinator.

The one service unique to JobsPlus that will not continue is the opportunity for escrow accounts, Lakings-Becvar said.

Through JobsPlus, residents at Rainier Vista were eligible to deposit a portion of each month's rent into an escrow account for buying a house or starting a business, or to further their education.

Residents with current escrow accounts will be able to cash them out or transfer the money to a Tenant Trust Account or an Individual Development Account.

A couple of tenants cashed out their accounts to purchase homes and another tenant is in the process of starting a business, Lakings-Becvar said.

For more information about The Job Connection and its services, call or visit one of its five offices.

The Job Connection at High Point
3136 SW Holly St.
Seattle WA 98126
(206) 937-3292

The Job Connection at Yesler Terrace
825 Yesler Way, Lower Level
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 344-5837

The Job Connection at Lake City
12546-1/2 33rd Ave. NE
Seattle, WA 98125
(206) 363-1471

The Job Connection at Rainier Vista
4500 MLK Jr. Way S.
Seattle, WA 98108
(206) 722-4010

The Job Connection at NewHolly
7050 32nd Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98118
(206) 760-3284

State Housing Finance Commission will also support SHA's efforts to provide counseling for residents on home ownership and predatory lending, Sabin said.

"These grants make a big difference in our ability to help SHA residents address all of the issues around home ownership and self-sufficiency," said SHA Community Services Manager John Forsyth. "We appreciate the support from both HUD and the Washington State Housing Finance Commission."

SHA currently has space available in the program for about 30 families who live in low-income public housing program.

To get your name on the list for consideration, contact Cheryl Sabin at (206) 615-3317 and ask for an FSS application.

You can also download the application online at <http://www.seattlehousing.org/forresidents/fssapp.html>

Program funded

Continued from previous page

fers case management services to help residents pursue employment and education, save to purchase a home or accomplish other tasks.

Residents can also set up escrow accounts through the program. These accounts help them save money by paying additional rent as their earnings rise.

Families who complete the program can withdraw funds from these accounts for any purpose after five years.

SHA has approximately 320 participants in the program.

Every year so far, SHA has applied for and received funding from HUD for the program.

An \$8,000 grant from the Washington

Resident input sought on new fees and deposits

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Seattle Housing Authority is considering making changes to a number of fees and deposits paid by some residents, and officials are seeking residents' written comments on the changes.

Last year, the Housing Authority reviewed the fee and deposit amounts paid by all residents who do *not* live at NewHolly, Rainier Vista and High Point, comparing them to the actual service costs they're associated with. Officials realized that many had not been updated in over eight years.

First, the agency proposes raising apartment security deposits by \$50.

This would set the deposit for a one-bedroom apartment at \$150. The deposit would be \$250 for a two-bedroom, \$350 for a three-bedroom, \$400 for a four-bedroom and \$450 for an apartment with four or more bedrooms. This new rate will apply to new residents only and residents who transfer between units.

SHA is also considering raising the deposits for waterbeds, gardens and fences from \$50 to \$250.

These changes would not apply retroactively to those who have already paid deposits for these items. However, if a tenant were to get rid of a waterbed and get a new one, the new rate would apply.

SHA is also considering changing the fee charged when a tenant transfers from one building to another. Such a move would cost a flat fee of \$650, rather than the current fee,

which ranges from \$577 to \$1,320 depending on when a resident moved into public housing.

SHA also proposes a revision to the lock-out policy, which includes fees residents must pay when the Housing Authority lets them into a locked apartment after business hours.

Instead of charging residents between \$38 and \$47 dollars when they are let into their unit by a contractor, SHA proposes charging residents for the contractor's actual time, or \$40 per half hour.

Those who are let into their apartment by an SHA staff person after hours would be charged \$15 every time rather than \$10 for the first time, \$12 the second and \$15 every subsequent time.

In addition, the lock-out policy has been revised to allow only heads of household access to the unit when they are locked out. These people will need to make arrangements for other family members who get locked out, perhaps by leaving a spare key for them with a friend or neighbor.

This change is being made to control access to the apartment when the household head is not home and to give this person responsibility for the others in the household.

Residents can submit written comments on the revised fees and deposits by the end of February.

Changes will then be implemented in the early part of March or April.

Help needed on policy advisory committee

By **JOHN FORSYTH**
Seattle Housing Authority

The Seattle Housing Authority wants advice from Scattered-Sites residents.

The Joint Policy Advisory Committee is a major forum for residents' to offer their opinions on Housing Authority policy.

JPAC has been in existence since 2000. It meets quarterly and is made up of residents who review drafts of major policies.

"It is a chance for SHA staff and residents to discuss the policies before they go to the Board of Commissioners for final approval," said Don Ashlock, director of housing operations for the Housing Authority. "JPAC members often provide very insightful comments."

In 2004, JPAC members advised SHA about policies on admissions, fees charged to residents for lock-outs, the amount of money required for security deposits and services to limited-English speaking residents.

The JPAC also provided input about SHA's major work plan, called the "Moving to New Ways" plan.

Unfortunately, there were no scattered site residents who participated in these discus-

sions last year. SHA would very much like to see two to three scattered site residents join the committee.

It is important that your voice is heard.

JPAC members meet quarterly with SHA staff for about two hours at a time, depending on the number of policies that are being discussed. Transportation to and from the meetings is available.

Each duly-elected resident council is also entitled to have a representative and an alternate as members of the JPAC.

SHA also encourages residents from SHA communities without this type of council and Housing Choice voucher (Section 8) clients to participate.

If you would like to be part of JPAC, please contact SHA Community Services Administrator John Forsyth at (206) 615-3579 or by e-mail at jforsyth@seattlehousing.org for an application.

Applications are due February 28, 2005.

Forsyth encourages all interested residents to apply.

"The committee provides a great opportunity for residents to weigh in on SHA draft policies before they are finalized," he said. "JPAC members continue to provide important feedback to SHA."

Homes for sale

Continued from previous page

ing neighborhood looked like an area that could offer this."

Soon, all 150 single-family homes and multi-family townhomes at Othello Station will be finished.

They are being built by the private, professional homebuilders Polygon Northwest and Bennett-Sherman, LLC. Seattle Housing Authority sold the land in the

redevelopment's final phase to them, with the stipulation that the homes be sold at affordable prices for the Seattle market and that some be sold to low-income and first-time buyers.

Within the year, builders will also offer single family and multi-family homes for sale at Rainier Vista and High Point. Proceeds from the sale of the lots will help the Seattle Housing Authority complete its redevelopment projects.

For more information about the homes visit <http://www.othellostation.com>.

POINT OF VIEW

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

Jefferson Terrace hosts visit from Tom Tierney

By VIRGINIA FELTON
Seattle Housing Authority

Last month, Seattle Housing Authority Executive Director Tom Tierney met and talked with about 50 residents of Jefferson Terrace.

He heard about the successes of resident efforts in the building, answered resident's questions and shared hot dogs, salads and desserts provided for the occasion by agencies that work in the building.

The event was originally planned to include a visit from Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels as a part of a walking tour of First Hill, but as Tierney pointed out, "Even mayors sometimes get the flu."

Mayor Nickels' visit has been rescheduled for Feb. 10.

The program started out with introductions from six Jefferson Terrace residents who are active in the building.

Carol Brown explained that she chairs the Garden Committee and is the secretary of the Safety and Security Committee. She helped the security committee advocate for a security station with camera monitor at the sixth floor door to increase the visibility of the building security guards.

Dennis Bejin introduced himself as the lead resident volunteer for the Jefferson Terrace Computer Lab. The lab is staffed by resident volunteers and provides free access to computers and the Internet.

Jimmie "Big Time" Caine introduced himself as an artist who is active in building safety and security. He presented four sketches to Tom Tierney, all of which are being framed by SHA.

Three will be hung at Jefferson Terrace, and the fourth, a picture that Big Time described as the "fat cat bureaucrats" will be



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
Jimmie "Big Time" Caine presents a piece of his artwork to Tom Tierney.

hung in a conference room in SHA's central office.

Julie Sahlberg introduced herself as the chair of the Welcome Committee. This committee distributes welcome bags to help new residents feel at home at Jefferson Terrace.

Lawman Travis introduced himself as the Emergency Floor Assistant for his floor, helping residents in fire and emergencies.

Harry Williams introduced himself as a resident and advocate for Elderhealth Northwest services at Jefferson Terrace.

Elderhealth helps older residents address the challenges of independent living.

Tom Tierney expressed SHA's gratitude and appreciation for all of the things that these residents and others do to make Jefferson Terrace a safer and more comfortable place to live.

He then fielded questions from residents, many of which included suggestions for how security at Jefferson Terrace could be improved.

"We heard some excellent ideas here," Tierney said later. "Especially about how to make our security guards more effective. Our property managers will be following up on them."

Mental Health program transformed

By DUANE DARLINGTON
Mental Health Case Manager

The Seattle Housing Authority Mental Health Case Management program continues its transformation with the hiring two new case managers. These employees will join me to round out the new three-person, expanded team which is part of Community Psychiatric Clinic.

Roger Eddy began work last month. For the past 10 years, he has served as a case manager for Community Psychiatric Clinic at Wallingford House. Prior to coming to CPC, he worked at Eastside Mental Health in Bellevue. He has a degree in psychology from Fairfield University in Connecticut.

Eddy has a particular interest in music, and in the past he has played in his own band and performed locally. He said his extensive history of world travel from childhood led to his interest in human behavior and psychology. Eddy reports that he has a family member dealing with mental illness, so his interest in mental health is personal.

Timothy Stephens also began work as a mental health case manager last month. He has worked for the past 13 years for Com-

munity Psychiatric Clinic as a case manager at Keystone, a CPC residential facility, and in a transitional facility for homeless mentally ill clients. His work involved issues such as symptom-management, crisis intervention, and helping people develop problem solving skills and obtain stable housing. Stephens is a graduate of Evergreen State College and his interests include gardening, traveling with his wife, sports, and making sculptures and other art forms, particularly mask-making.

The new SHA mental health case managers hope to continue and expand the excellent work that started when the program began more than two years ago. The team is ready to help you with issues such as depression, anxiety attacks, alcohol or drug use, grief and loss, anger management, clutter and hoarding and many others. The team's primary goals are to prevent eviction and to help individuals connect to more long term mental health resources.

You can be referred to the mental health case managers by your ADS case manager, SHA staff, or you can refer yourself. For more information, please call me at (206) 545-8611.

Leschi residents question lunch program

By STACY SCHWANDT
Voice editor

Residents of the Seattle Senior Housing Program's Leschi House expressed concern at a building meeting last month about the ongoing use of their community room for a Native American lunch program.

The lunch program, which is run by United Indians of All Tribes, serves nutritious meals to about 40 people every weekday afternoon.

The residents argued that the community room should be reserved for their own use. They complained that the visitors are not clearly identified, congregate in the halls and compromise the building's security.

They added that they don't feel welcome to join the lunch program and stand by the conclusion they made in an October petition to the Seattle Housing Authority.

That petition, signed by the majority of tenants in the building, asked that the program be relocated.

Housing Authority officials said they are working with UIAT to find a more suitable site for the program, but that they will not discontinue the program until one is found.

SHA has had a memorandum of understanding with the lunch program for two years. The program was housed in Leschi House when the building first opened in the 1980s and returned in 2003 after being relocated for a number of years.

Michelle Sanidad, a spokesperson for UIAT, said Leschi House is good for their program in part because the Indian Health

Board is directly across the street.

At the meeting, residents said through translators that they recognize the importance of the lunch program, but are unhappy with its location.

"I am aware of the very large contribution Indians have made in the development of this country," said one resident. "I really think that they deserve appropriate treatment in their programs."

Still, he said he feels the program infringes on his rights as a building resident.

SHA's Senior Property Manager Judith Anderson said both organizations have made adjustments to address the concerns.

SHA removed outdoor ashtrays when residents complained that the lunch program participants were congregating in the doorways, she said, and UIAT officials are trying to make sure visitors wear name badges identifying themselves.

"We had hoped to integrate our culture into the culture that is here," Sanidad added. "But meetings, invitations to the program didn't get sent out. That was lacking on our part and SHA's part."

Bette Reed, president of the senior housing residents' advocacy group, has a similar point of view.

"Instead of being a friendly, neighborly gesture which it was intended to be, (the lunch program) has created ill-will and a modicum of hostility between residents and visitors," she said.

Neither SHA nor UIAT gave a timetable for the program's relocation but said they are actively looking for a new facility.

Partners in Caring changing

FREMONT PUBLIC ASSOCIATION

The Partners in Caring program at the Fremont Public Association is undergoing some changes.

The program started in 1994 with a grant from the Seattle Housing Authority to address issues of isolation and cross-cultural differences among seniors and disabled adults living in public housing.

The program's intent is to build a stronger sense of community among residents and in their surrounding neighborhoods.

Due to funding cuts, Partners in Caring transitioned out of five buildings last year including Center West, Olympic West, Bay View Tower, Lictonwood and Westwood Heights. The program also has a new director.

The program received a grant from SHA to maintain services in Bell Tower, Cedarvale House, Pinehurst Court, Jefferson Terrace and University West. This funding contin-

ues through the end of June.

After that time, the program will suspend operations unless additional funding is secured.

In order to prepare for the program's end, new director Mary Fogh is concentrating her efforts on supporting residents as they learn to run their own programs.

She is currently looking for a retired business professional or professor to volunteer. This person would deliver leadership training to interested residents in preparation for this transition.

The goal is to promote leadership skills and empowerment, thereby helping residents to become more active in their communities. Efforts are also underway to connect isolated SHA residents to vital community organizations and resources.

"We are optimistic that we can accomplish our goals during the next five months," Fogh said.

Community notes

Valentine bake sale

The residents of Michaelson Manor in lower Queen Anne are inviting you to join them for a Valentine's bake sale and bazaar.

The event takes place on Saturday, February 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Michaelson Manor, 320 West Roy in Seattle.

It will offer the perfect opportunity to find a Valentine's Day gift and home-baked goods for someone you love.

Tutoring opportunity for seniors

Are you over the age of 55 and interested in helping children succeed in school?

Opportunities for one-on-one tutoring with kids of all ages in math, writing, reading, Spanish and science are available in south Seattle schools for 30 minutes per week.

For more information contact Mari Becker at (206) 722-2052 ext. 210 or by e-mail at mbecker@spu.edu.

HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY

Students bring baseball legend, exhibit to Sealth *Negro League event a hit at high school*



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

Chief Sealth high school student Rosa Gibray was one of the organizers of the race and social justice seminars that were a part of the Negro Leagues event.

By STACY SCHWANDT
Voice editor

A legend visited West Seattle's Chief Sealth High School last month.

Buck O'Neil, a 93-year-old baseball Hall of Famer, was there to introduce a traveling exhibit from the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City.

O'Neil played in the Negro Leagues for years and in 1962 became the first black coach in the major leagues. He sits on the museum's board of directors.

Seattle is as far west as the exhibit has ever traveled, and it did so thanks to the efforts of a handful of Chief Sealth students.

It was with this in mind that O'Neil told the crowd gathered to greet him that he wasn't the most important person in the room.

"It's you," he said. "You are doing things. You're going to raise the next generation."

And it's the kids, he said, the kids who brought him here.

Those were the students in Gary Thomsen's sports and events marketing class. They found a way to pay for the exhibit, organized its arrival and arranged a series of 10 evening and weekend seminars on race and social justice.

The exhibit includes photographs, jerseys and memorabilia from the Negro Leagues and will remain on public display until Feb. 11.

Sealth Student Rosa Gebray, who is a former Rainier Vista resident, helped organize the seminars, which include talks on race and politics, immigration and diversity in the media.

"We called hundreds of people and left them messages," she said. "I had to e-mail every city council member and everyone who is important to get the word out. Then Christmas break came around and no e-mails. I got like two responses out of 50 or 75 e-mails."

But Gebray and her fellow students kept up their efforts, eventually recruiting notable participants including City Council member Jean Godden, Naomi Ishisaka, editor of Colors NW magazine, and Dara Doung, the owner of a Cambodian history museum.

Gebray said the project deepened her ap-

preciation for the game of baseball and the contribution made by the Negro League players.

"In the beginning I was like, baseball? You just hit the ball and run around, but then I learned," she said, adding that O'Neil was an especially persuasive teacher.

"He made you want to listen to everything he said and think about the meaning of baseball and how they kept playing, even though they were discriminated against," she said.

Gebray has her own history of tirelessness and persistence.

The daughter of Eritrean immigrants, Gebray is a member of the cheerleading team, a student advanced placement biology, her school's ASB vice president, a soccer and softball player and the writer of an award-winning essay.

The essay, on the influence her Eritrean dance instructor has had on her life, earned Gebray a trip to a Boston, MA conference for African American high schoolers interested in math and science.

The news wasn't a surprise to High Point Community Builder Kari-lynn Frank who has gotten to know Gebray through her work at the high school.

"She is a phenomenal student," Frank said. "She is a humble girl, but she has made phenomenal contributions."

Both are qualities she shares with O'Neil.

O'Neil may have reminisced during his Seattle speech about playing ball with Satchel Paige and Babe Ruth, but his key message to those gathered was on the importance of recognizing the connections that exist between all people.

"Everyone says to me, 'Buck, I know you hate people for what they did to you and what they did to your folk,'" he said. "I say, 'No, man, I never learned to hate. I hate cancer, because cancer killed my mother and my wife. I hate AIDS. I hate what the Klan did. I hate what happened on Sept. 11."

"But I can't hate a human being. Those are God's creatures, and God never made anything ugly. You can get ugly if you want to, but God didn't make you ugly."

To emphasize this point, O'Neil asked the audience to join him in song as he completed his speech.

The refrain he chose: "The greatest thing in all my life is loving you."

Community invited to traffic forum

Neighbors are invited to a pedestrian safety forum to discuss traffic issues in the High Point community.

The meeting will take place on Feb. 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Holly Hall.

Many people in the neighborhood have noticed that cars are speeding along 35th Avenue S.W. near S.W. Morgan Street and on Sylvan Way S.W.

"What we want to do is prevent injury and deaths from occurring," said Denise Sharify, the community health project

manager for Neighborhood House who is organizing the meeting with a coalition of community providers. "Especially with the new services on 35th near Morgan, such as the High Point Clinic and Library."

Representatives from the City of Seattle and the Washington Department of Transportation will be in attendance.

The Department of Transportation has already committed to placing speed monitoring devices along the road this spring.

Healthy Home visits to start this month

By VOICE STAFF

Beginning mid-month, the Healthy Homes Community Action Team will be conducting home environmental checks for families who live in High Point.

The specially-trained High Point residents will be offering to help their neighbors identify ways to keep their homes and community healthier and safer.

All members of the High Point community are invited to attend the Feb. 11 home visit kickoff, which will take place between 6 and 8 p.m. at Holly Hall.

The event will include presentations, sign-ups, food and door prizes.

The Community Action Team is an intergenerational team of residents that reaches out across language and cultural barriers to educate other residents about making their home and High Point healthier.

The team, which formed in March 2004, includes adults and youth who speak five languages.

In December, the group received training from Neighborhood House and Seattle Public Utilities on how to conduct the home visits.

"This is a community mobilizing project," said Denise Sharify, community health program manager for Neighborhood House. "The project staff will help residents become promoters of their own health. When the community gets involved, the result will last."

Team members will help residents control dust, identify and reduce mold and recognize dangerous household products.

They will also present each family with a



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

Members of the Community Action Team will be reaching out.

"green" cleaning bucket filled with environmentally-friendly cleaning products and information on how to use them.

The visits are not the team's first project.

Last fall, members performed a community assessment where they identified environmental hazards in their neighborhood including a broken sewer cover, burned out barrels and high-speed traffic on streets frequently used by residents.

Seattle Public Utilities employees have already repaired the storm sewer, Sharify said. A forum is planned to discuss the transportation issues.

The Community Action Team's work is funded by a nearly \$1 million grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

"The Action Team is looking forward to spreading a simple, valuable message about health and safety in the community," said Project Coordinator Steve Barham.

To learn more about the team's activities or to sign up for a home visit, contact Barham at (206) 923-3266.

Community notes

Classes for home buyers offered

The International District Housing Alliance is offering a class for those interested in buying a home.

The class will be taught in both English and Cambodian and will meet on Saturday, February 26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Holly Hall, 3204 S.W. Holly St.

The class covers basic topics like loans, real estate, credit and insurance, but instructors also spend time discussing predatory loans, down payment assistance and fair housing rights.

For more information in English call (206) 623-0122 and for information in Cambodian call (206) 331-2741.

Community Council meeting

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

To find out more information, call (206) 937-5459.

Sunday service and dinner

Every Sunday, Pastor Deborah Dinkins offers Sunday school and worship services for High Point residents. Afterwards, a free community dinner is served.

Sunday school starts at noon and the service begins at 1 p.m. at the old YMCA building at 300 S.W. Graham St.

RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

Tenants move in to new apartments

By VIRGINIA FELTON
Seattle Housing Authority

Before the holidays, residents began moving into the new apartments in the redeveloped Rainier Vista community. A total of 22 units were placed in service during 2004 and a total of 184 new units will be available this year.

The new apartments are two-, three-, four- and five-bedroom units ranging in size from 1,000 to 1,700 square feet.

They are close to the future light rail, minutes from downtown and in the heart of

a culturally-rich community. The units are energy efficient and every unit includes a washer and dryer, making them very suitable for families.

Many of the residents who were living in the original Rainier Vista housing on the east side of MLK Jr. Way have moved across the street to the new apartments. These units serve as replacements for the original low-income units that were torn down to make way for the new community.

According to Redevelopment Property Manager Willard Brown, both the Walsh Construction team and the Rainier Vista leasing team deserve recognition for their commitment to finishing these apartments in time for families to move in December.

Issa Ulo, property management assistant at Rainier Vista, leased the last available unoccupied unit in Rainier Vista West at the end of January.



PHOTO BY JAMES OWENBY

Moving day went smoothly for many who were returning to a redeveloped Rainier Vista.

All but one of the households were residents of Rainier Vista and moved from the east side of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, where they were living in the original Rainier Vista housing stock.

As more of the new Rainier Vista homes are completed, residents on the east side of the street will continue moving across.

Currently, a drive along MLK Jr. Way offers a unique view of the differences between the past and the future.

The old World War II-era public housing on the east side of the street contrasts sharply with the new mixed-income community on the west side.

Households interested in future available units may apply by filling out an interest card at the Rainier Vista management office at 4500 Martin Luther King Way S., by calling (206) 721-2980 or by visiting PorchLight at 907 Ballard Way NW.

Boys & Girls Club leader receives award

By JAMES OWENBY
Seattle Housing Authority

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. reminded us that people who have a stake in their society work hard to protect it.

Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Bill Burton has made a career of fostering and protecting his community in the Rainier Valley.

Last month, Burton received a distinguished service award from the University of Washington in front of a crowd of several hundred. The award was granted at the university's annual Martin Luther King observance.

"Bill Burton grew up in public housing at Rainier Vista and has committed 24 years of his career and personal life to improving the lives of children from that same community," said John Coulter, executive director for UW Health Sciences Administration. "For Bill, community service and helping young people are a way of life....He loves every one of the 1,000 Boys & Girls Club members like they were his own."

Burton gave a humble speech of thanks to his wife and his family. He encouraged people to volunteer in their community and talked about his plans for a new Youth Development Center at the Boys & Girls Club.

The club has raised \$2.5 million for the project and plans to break ground in 2006.

The Youth Development Center will be adjacent to the Boys & Girls Club and serve kids aged 13 to 18 with SAT prep classes, job training, workshops, a recording studio, a game room and other programs.

The Boys & Girls Club will continue to serve youth aged 6 to 12 with educational enhancement, sports leagues, leadership and character development classes, and



PHOTO BY JAMES OWENBY

Bill Burton receives his award.

summer programs.

As a young man, Burton went to Yakima Valley College on a football and baseball scholarship. He said his coaches were mentors that inspired him to learn self discipline.

"I learned that getting an education was more important and a bigger priority than playing sports," he said.

He transferred to the UW and graduated with a degree in recreation, planning and administration.

Shortly after graduation, he and his wife lost a baby son to AIDS, a tragedy that he said inspired him to help children and make a difference in his community.

Burton also remembered growing up in Rainier Vista, where the community room had only a stage and one basketball hoop.

"It wasn't much, but it was a safe and fun place to hang out," he said. "I like to give back to the kids in community and give them something, a facility that is better than we had."

Computer lab opening

By VOICE STAFF

The Rainier Vista community will get its first taste of the fruits of over half a million dollars in technology grants this month.

A 10-computer technology center will open temporarily in the community's Jobs Resource Center in on Feb. 12.

An expanded lab will move to the new Neighborhood House Rainier Vista Center building when its construction is completed in late spring.

"We wanted to increase access to technology for the community and to increase self-sufficiency for families living in and around Rainier Vista," said Amy Kickliter, the Neighborhood House manager who will eventually oversee the lab's coordinator.

To make way for the new lab, the Rainier Vista Leadership Team will be hosting a computer parts giveaway on Feb. 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Computer towers, memory cards and monitors are among the equipment that will be given away.

When it opens, the lab will offer a computer fundamentals class three days a week in Amharic and Tigrigna.

Two computer tutoring sessions taught by members of the Rainier Vista Leadership Team and the University Presbyterian church will meet each week.

Tax preparation classes led by teachers trained by Deloitte Tax LLP will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on February 16 and 21.

English as a Second Language classes are expected to start next month and a computer basics class is also scheduled to start in February with both day and evening hours.

The lab is currently outfitted with nine reconfigured Pentium 3 computers with Windows software and Internet access. When the lab moves to its permanent home, between 12 and 14 new Pentium 5 computers will be purchased, Kickliter said.

The older machines will then be donated to the leadership team's Community Shares program, which provides incentives for residents to volunteer their time in their community.

The three-year, \$250,000 grant that will fund the computer lab was awarded to the Seattle Housing Authority by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in October.

An additional \$270,000 will be contributed by partner agencies to complete the network.

The grants also fund the youth computer lab Club Tech, which is operated by the Rainier Vista Boys and Girls Club.

If you are interested in enrolling or finding out more information about the Rainier Vista Technology Center's computer classes call Amy Kickliter at (206) 461-8430 ext. 255.

The Boys & Girls Club can be reached at (206) 725-4197.

Resident thanks parents for job success

By SYPHA RITH
Rainier Vista resident

Editors note: Rith is one of a growing number of residents working in the management offices at Rainier Vista, High Point and NewHolly. Below, you will read Rith's testimonial on his career and academic success.

Born in Seattle and raised in Rainier Vista since 1987, I am very fortunate to not have been involved with the gangs and criminal life that were my surroundings during my childhood.

I give all that credit to my parents. Having a strong and smart mom is the only reason I stayed out of trouble. Her method of staying involved with everything I did and keeping me busy by enrolling me in pro-

grams, kept me focused and helped me avoid getting distracted by what was going on in the 'hood.

I am currently 18 years old and attending Seattle Central Community College as a full-time student. I am also a full-time employee at Rainier Vista Impact Property Management and have been an SHA employee for more than three years now.

My greatest motivations in life are my parents. Because they've done so much for me, it feels as if my success is also their success.



Sypha Rith

Community notes

Children sought for art program

After-school adventures in art and learning are waiting for youth ages 5 to 14 at Rainier Vista.

Monday through Friday from 3 until 6 p.m. children can create hands on arts projects, write poetry, practice puppetry and learn about other cultures.

For information call (206) 722-6709.

Boys & Girls club hosts banquet

Community members are invited to a banquet celebrating Black History month on February 24.

The event, which will include a potluck dinner, will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club. Entertainment will be provided.

For information call (206) 725-4197.

NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

Neighborhood leader hosts community water bill forum

By GAIL-MARIE VIELLE
Resident and community advocate

NewHolly community members are continuing to voice our concerns and questions about our water bills.

We want to make sure every household in NewHolly has an accurate bill and that residents understand the billing system.

To that end, I planned a community forum last month for residents to speak directly with Seattle Housing Authority staff.

I'd like to thank SHA staff for participating in our forum and showing support for our community. Andrew Lofton, deputy executive director and director of finance and administration, Willard Brown, property management administrator for HOPE VI, Terry Hirata, senior property manager for NewHolly and Bob Wyda, housing operations support manager all attended.

Seattle City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen also honored our community by attending the forum to make sure we know the Council is a resource for us.

I'd also like to thank our NewHolly Community Builders Joy Bryngelson and Mohamed Mohamud for providing support.

I am very happy to say the forum was a great success. About 50 community members attended. SHA staff answered many questions and promised to follow-up with more information.

We'll be posting additional information

about the meeting on our community Web site at <http://www.newhollycampus.org>, but I wanted to share some of the highlights as soon as possible.

The water billing structure at NewHolly is very confusing because renters and homeowners in each phase are billed on different systems.

In addition, Mr. Brown explained that most households in NewHolly are charged an extra fee on their water bill because SHA borrowed money from the City of Seattle when it rebuilt the NewHolly water infrastructure system.

To repay this loan, SHA is adding the fee to many of our water bills.

SHA says the utility allowance it gives to tenants in public housing or Section 8 should be enough to cover this extra fee.

But what about the other renters and the home owners? What about families with the Habitat for Humanity program? Can they afford this extra fee? Is it fair for residents to pay for SHA's construction project?

When questioned about this, Mr. Lofton said that SHA is beginning to explore options for a different way to pay back the City.

He's already had meetings with Seattle Public Utilities, and he said he will keep the community informed of any future decisions.

Another highlight is that while SHA is going to be doing its own direct monthly

water bills for Phase II and III tenants, all tenants who live in Phase I will still be billed by the third-party biller Minol.

SHA has a long-term contract with Minol that officials say they are currently "examining."

Mr. Lofton explained that SHA is checking the company's customer service record.

If any community members have positive or negative experiences to report about Minol, please share them with the NewHolly Management Office as soon as possible.

Mr. Hirata also reminded us that unusually high water bills may indicate a leak, and we should also report that immediately.

I would suggest that all of us begin recording the actual readings from the water meters in our homes. That way when we get the bills from Minol or SHA, we can check them against our own records. If Minol is just estimating our water usage, we can show them our actual usage.

I already do this every week, and it's very helpful. Mr. Hirata said that if any tenant would like to learn how to read their meter, they should contact the management office and a staff person will help you.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
Gail-Marie Vielle, at left, joins SHA officials at the forum.

If home owners need assistance, please contact Sandi MacCalla, the manager of your homeowner association.

Again, I thank everyone who participated in this community forum. I look forward to working with all of you to find answers to our questions and solutions to problems with our water bills.

NewHolly is a wonderful neighborhood. I should know, I've lived here since 1979.

We do not need to be focused on bills when we could spend our time working to strengthen our community.

If anyone has questions or would like to contact me, I can be reached by phone at (206) 725-8830 or by e-mail at eaglesunwoman30@msn.com.

New Year's potluck satisfies all

By JOY BRYNGELSON
SHA Community Builder

The NewHolly Neighborhood Potluck Party is becoming a wonderful tradition.

For the past four years, community volunteers and staff from the Neighborhood Campus have joined together to organize this informal gathering.

Each year the party reflects the interests, talents and vision of the party committee. If you have ideas, think about getting involved next year.

While the program and entertainment may vary from year to year, our colorful buffet table is guaranteed to be packed with a wide variety of dishes that are diverse, interesting and sometimes surprisingly spicy just like our community.

Each dish is labeled with the name of the food, the main ingredients, the cultural background and the name of the cook in case you want to get the recipe or ask questions.

Sharing food with one another is a great way to celebrate community and learn more about other cultures and traditions, but it is not the only ingredient in this neighborhood gathering.

The gathering began with several goals in mind. Community members wanted a place to celebrate the new year together in a fun, safe, kid-friendly, casual and multicultural environment.

They also wanted a way to learn about other cultural and religious traditions celebrated by NewHolly neighbors during the winter months including Eid, Tet, Ramadan, Hanukkah, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Kwanzaa and Orthodox Christmas.

This year the party also included an open-mic for brave community members



PHOTO BY JOY BRYNGELSON
Linaye Solomon sings during the annual potluck celebration's open-mic.

who wanted to share their talents, hopes and even their resolutions for the new year.

The friendly crowd encouraged everyone who participated.

Highlights included four young girls from the teen center's G'z group who read excerpts from Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech and Linaye Solomon who sang a beautiful rendition of "The Children are our Future."

I had the pleasure of handing out awards to several community volunteers who donated their creativity, time and resources to their community in 2004, including Beverly Riley, Jerry Satzman, Lisa Wilson-Stockill, Ina Bliss, Kay Lutz, Linda Rasmussen, Gail-Marie Vielle, Darleen and Leticia Young, and Mohamed Mohamud and his volunteer youth flyering crew.

Anyone who lives in NewHolly and enjoys building community, collaborating with neighbors and hosting a good party is welcome to join next year's New Year Club.

If you missed the party this year, or if you'd like to view some of the photos, please check out the community pages on <http://www.newhollycampus.org>.

Learning life-long lessons

By ROBIN MCGINNIS
Voice reporter

After a long day at school, why would a teenager willingly give up an hour and half of her evening for yet another class?

"Because it's fun and interesting to learn these things," said 14-year-old Girl Scout and NewHolly resident Bayosh Alemayehu.

"These things" are skills that the Girl Scouts Totem Council transformed into a three-year curriculum for girls living in public housing communities.

Partially funded by the Department of Health, the Life Skills program serves over 200 girls in elementary school through high school. The NewHolly Campus is one of eight program sites.

"The Girl Scouts organization has always been known to reach underserved populations," explained Girl Scouts Totem Council Outreach Manager Marylou Buckner. "Life Skills helps us give these girls important life training."

At NewHolly, approximately 15 girls attend the Wednesday evening sessions. Each week, Girl Scouts Outreach Coordinator Denise Brown talks about issues such as developing communication skills, drug abuse prevention and thinking critically about the media.

Aided by a Girl Scouts workbook, Brown uses creative games and hands-on examples to keep the girls engaged in the class.

"Sometimes, you can really tell they're listening and learning," said Brown. "We'll have classes when it's amazing to see what comes out of these girls."

Buckner explained that the program is designed to foster the four goals of the Girl Scouts, realizing one's full potential, developing positive values, relating to others and contributing to society.



PHOTO BY ROBIN MCGINNIS
From left, scouts Luwam Kibreub and Solomuna Ghebreamlak do their work.

The program is funded by Seattle & King County Public Health's drug and alcohol prevention program with funds from the state's Department of Health and Human Services office. It is run in partnership with Atlantic Street Center's NewHolly Youth and Family Center.

Now in its second year, the Life Skills program is in the "booster" stage, serving as a follow-up to the skills learned in the first year. However, the curriculum is not set in stone.

"We listen and find out where the girls' interests are," explained Buckner. "They said they were really interested in anger management and coping with an anxiety, so we spent a night talking about it."

Along with offering valuable life lessons, the program has an attendance incentive. The girls receive a star for each class they attend. Thirty-five stars translate to a free trip to Girl Scouts' Core Camp in June.

"A lot of these girls have never been to camp before or wouldn't normally get to go," Brown said.

If you are interested in learning more about the Girl Scouts, contact Nicole Kidder at (206) 826-2181 or by e-mail at NicoleMK@girlscoutstotem.org.

YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

Gatzert neighbors weigh in on new playground design



PHOTO BY CHARLES REDELL

Neighbors of Bailey Gatzert Elementary School examine plans for a new playground.

By CHARLES REDELL
Voice reporter

A cold, dark January night is not a time when most people think about the playful shouts of children in a school yard, but approximately 75 people did exactly that in the Bailey Gatzert Elementary School cafeteria last month.

At an event organized by the nonprofit group Friends of Gatzert playground, parents, neighbors and community members weighed in on three design schemes the Friends hope will become the basis for a new playground at the school.

Both the Friends and the Seattle Parks Foundation are in the process of raising money to overhaul the playground.

The three designs, developed by local civil engineering firm SvR Design, were presented to the community in part because the playground is so large that changes will make a big impact, said Kristin Kildall, a landscape designer with SvR Designs.

"We want (the playground) to meet the needs of the community," she said.

But the design process for a new playground didn't start with the community, or even the school's administration.

Instead, the first people the design team talked to were those who would use the playground – the children.

"It was important to start with the kids because their voice can get lost in the process," Kildall said. "They should inspire adults about what to do with a playground."

In December, designers visited fourth- and second-grade classrooms, leading kids through brainstorming sessions and teaching them how to think in design concepts and arrive at ideas that would make the space attractive to others in the community.

As a result, the three designs, "Exploring Seattle," "Earth Forms" and "Global Living," incorporate ideas that might otherwise have been left out.

For example, many of the children asked for clubhouses – at least two clubhouses – one for the boys and one for the girls.

It was a request that the designers were happy to fulfill.

"In four days of lessons, they reflected on what worked and didn't work (about the current playground), what to change and what to keep," said fourth-grade teacher Alma Alonzo.

Of the three design choices, the favored one seemed to be "Global Living" according to Isaac Cohen, an AmeriCorps volunteer with the Seattle Parks Foundation.

"It really fits the school," he said.

He pointed out however, that the final design will most likely be a synthesis of all three designs.

A quick glance of the design copies that were laid out for people to write comments on last month confirms this.

Each was praised by anonymous commenters, who all shared similar suggestions, such as adding a tether ball, more clubhouses and something unique for the kids to climb on.

Play group forming

A free weekly play and learn group for children ages birth to 5 years and their parents or caregivers will begin at Yesler Terrace later this month.

The group will be sponsored by the Cascade People's Center, a non-profit family support center.

"Play groups are a way to promote healthy child development and give caregivers a chance to find support" said center employee Myla Becker.

The group might be a great way to meet other Yesler parents or caregivers and have some fun with your child.

If you are interested in joining please call Becker at (206) 587-0320 or Ellen Ziontz at (206) 343-7484.

Tet celebration planned

Do you want to help make the Yesler Terrace Community Center a fun and hip place to hang out by building a stronger community and bringing people together?

Are you ready for a party?

Then join Neighborhood House, the Seattle Housing Authority and the Vietnamese Tea Time group on Monday, February 7 from 12 to 2 p.m. for the first Tet (New Year's) celebration.

The event will include a Lion Dance, a traditional ceremony, food, games and good neighbors.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Community center grand opening nears

By STACY SCHWANDT
Voice editor

For months, Yesler Terrace residents watched the new community center take shape on the corner of Yesler Avenue and Broadway. Now they'll finally get a chance to walk inside.

The Seattle Parks and Recreation department is hosting a grand opening celebration on Saturday, February 12 from 2 to 4 p.m. The event will include speeches, dance performances, art projects, refreshments and tours of the 22,000 square foot facility.

"It's an open, inviting space that allows users to get a feel of both the outdoors and the indoors," said Toby Ressler, project manager for the Parks Department.

On a clear day, visitors will be able to see Mount Rainier from the patio on the building's south side, he said.

A levy approved by voters in 1999 provided \$6.6 million to replace the existing Yesler Community Center, which is only 4,700 square feet.

Architects from Mithun created a building that includes a gym, outdoor play area, kitchen, multi-purpose room, teen center and more. The building was built by Berschauer Phillips.

"It's pretty state-of-the art," said Karen Lynch, public relations specialist for the Parks Department.

The facility includes a standard, high school-sized gym with a maple floor and eight basketball hoops.

There is a fitness room with two elliptical trainers, a weight station, free weights, a tread mill and two recumbent bikes. Recreation Center Coordinator Shari Watts said they are considering hiring a trainer to help



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

Construction on the community center is nearly finished.

community members develop fitness plans.

The building also includes a commercial kitchen with a stove, two full-size refrigerators, a convection oven and microwaves.

The child care room will include kid-sized furniture, Lynch said.

Architects planned an environmentally friendly building, aiming to achieve U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design silver status. To do so, they chose water-efficient landscaping and sustainable construction materials.

Inside, the lights will be on sensors so they dim as daylight pours in, Ressler said.

"It was the first (community center) built with the idea of environmental design," he added.

Watts said the center's programming won't change until mid-April. Then, she'd like to see more adult-oriented fitness, dance and art classes.

"We need to be in there for awhile to find out what adults who come in to the facility want to do."

Notes from the Manager

By JUDI CARTER
Community Manager

Already in 2005, there are a few things that have changed in the Yesler Terrace community.

Last month, the management office stopped issuing keys to anyone except the head of the household or their wife or husband.

In the past, children and teenagers made a habit of coming to the management office to get a key to their apartment – sometimes every day.

We have had complaints from parents when youth got in and made a mess with their friends.

Seattle Housing Authority officials have decided that if a child has forgotten their key, or does not have a key, they will need to find some place to go until their parent comes home and lets them in.

If you want your child to get in after school, please give them a key.

If they lose it, they will have to wait for you to get home from work to get in.

In order to keep the community looking nice, I am also asking that every household return their garbage can to their unit every Monday afternoon or evening.

This will help cut down on the complaints about missing garbage cans and will make

the sidewalks look less cluttered.

If the cans are not returned to your unit by Tuesday morning, SHA maintenance staff will return them to your unit and charge your account \$5.

If SHA staff has to return your can more than once or twice, we will ask you to discuss this with us.

Please do your part to keep Yesler Terrace beautiful.

I have also noticed that a large number of units are missing their recycling bin.

If you have a recycling bin that does not have your unit number on it, or if you have more than one recycling bin, please phone the management office to report it. We will be working to get the correct bin to each unit.

We will also be working to get those that have been misplaced back to the correct unit. Your help with this will be greatly appreciated!

If the faucet in your kitchen or bathroom is dripping or the pipe under the sink leaks, please call (206) 223-3758 and let us know.

We have noticed that the water bills have been high, and we would like to conserve both water and money.

Without your help, we cannot do this.

I hope that the year 2005 has been bringing success to all of you and pride to our community.

TRANSLATIONS

TRANSLATED ARTICLES FROM THE VOICE

Free Tax Preparation Available
កម្រៃព្រមទំនើបឥតគិតថ្លៃ
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DIYAARINTA CANSHUUR
 CELINTA OO LACAGLA’AANTA
 AH EE DADKA DEGAN PARK LAKE.

Waxaad dawlada ka heli kartaa lacagbadan haddii dhaqaalahaagu yaraa sanadii lasoo dhaafay ee 2004tii waxaad xaq u yeelankartaa, kasbashada dakhliga canshuur celinta oo aad helikartid boqolaal ama kumaankum doolar taasoo ku xiran hadba tirada qoyskaagu ka kooban yahay.

Haku bixinin kharash xaraynta canshuurtaada adoo heli kara in laguugu xareeyo lacagla’ aan. Waxay bilaamanaysaa 15ka janaayo dad tababaran oo ku shaqaynaya iskaa wax u qabso ayaa ka imanaya isbahaysiga United Way of King County iyo dhismaha rasumaalka ee king county way caawindoonaan dhamaan dadka degan park lake iyo dadkii kaguuray intaba.oo ay wehilso labo meelood oo white center ka tirsan.

Canshuur diyaariyayaasha oo luqado kala duwan ku hadlaya ayaad heli kartaa.

Dhinayada ku haboon caawinaada canshuur celinta sidaasoo kale dadka ku nool meesh lagu magacaabo Boulevard manor iyo Yardley Arms, waxay noqonayaan White Center Library oo ku taal 11220 16th AVE. S.W. iyo kaniisada lagu magacaabo Semoan

Assembly oo ku taala 10237 16th AVE. S.W.

Meeshan lagu magacaabo Steve Fisher of KCHA telefoonkeeduna yahay (206-574-1280). waxay indinku caawinaysaa gaadiid lacagla’ aan ah oo aad ku gaadhaan White Center khamiista 12:00 duhurnimo ilaa 4:00 galabnimo waxay kaloo idin gaynayaan kaniisada Semoan assembly khamiis kasta laga bilaabo 5:00 galabnimo ilaa 8:00 fiidnimo.

Si aad u fududaysid diyaarinta canshuur celinta soo qaado foomamka ay du yaalaan lacagtii aad shaqaysay sanadii 2004tii oo ay ka midyihiin W-2s iyo masaariiftaadii oo kooban. Fadlan soo qaado aqoonsigaaga masawirka leh (picture I.D.) iyo kaararka sooshal sekuuratiyaasha adiga iyo cidii kale ee aad masuul katahay. haddii aad wax su’aal ah ka qabtid ololahan lasoo xariir United Way of King County taleefoonkooduna yahay 1-800-755-5317.

ነጻ ናይ ታክስ ምምላእ ሓገዛት ክትረኽቡ ትኽእሉ።
FREE TAX PREPARATION

ካብ መገባዕቲ ኣብዚ ዓመት እዚ ብዙሕ ገንዘብ ታክስ ክምልሱኩም ይኽእል ይኸውን ኣብ ዝሓልፈ ዓመት ማለት 2004 ብዙሕ ዘይሰራሕኩም ምስትኹኑ ብምእቲ ውይይት ብኸኡ ዝቆጸር ናይ ኤርንድ ኢንካም ክረኢትገንዘብ ክትረኽቡ ትኽእሉ ትኹኑ ብምሰራት ብዝሒ ቆጵሪ ስደራ ቤትኩም።

እትኸፍልዎ ገንዘብ የሎን ብነጻ ሓገዝ ምምላእ ታክስ ትረኽቡ ዝሰልጉኑ ሰብ ሙያ ወለንተኛታት ካብ ዩናይትድ ወይ ኦፍ ኪንግ ካውንቲ ኣብ ዝተፈላልዩ ቦታታት ከተማ ስያትል ኣገልግሎት ክቅረቡ ኣየም።

ናይ ዳውንታውን ስያትል ካብ ሰኑይ ክሳብ ሓመስ ካብ ሰዓት 10 ንግሆ ክሳብ ሰዓት 2 ድሕሪ ቐትሪ ኣገልግሎት የቅርቡ ኣብ ስያትል ቤት መጻሕፍቲ ዳውንታውን 100 4 ኢኸኑ ሰንትራል ኢንሰቲትዩት 2120 ሳውዝ ጃክሰን ስትሪት ሓሙ ሓመስ ካብ ሰዓት 5 ክሳብ ሰዓት 8 ምሽት ቐዳም ካብ ሰዓት 9 ክሳብ ፍርቂ መዓልቲ ንቪትናማውያን ኣገልግሎት የቅርብ።

ናይ ረይጎር ቢች ድማ እብረይነር ቢች ኮሚኒቲ ተክናሎጂ ሰንተር 8825 ረይነር ኢኸኑ ሳውዝ ሰለብን ሓሙስን ካብሰዓት 4 ክሳብ ሰዓት 8 ምሽት ናይ ዋይት ሰንተር ድማ ኣብ ዋይት ሰንተር ሳይብሪር 11220 16 ኢኸኑ ሳውዝ ወስት ሰለብ ሰለብ ካብ ሰዓት 5 ክሳብ 8 ምሽት ኣገልግሎት የቅርብ ሓመስ ካብ ሰዓት 12 ድሕሪ ቀትሪ ክሳብ ሰዓት 4 ኣገልግሎት የቅርብ።

ነጻ የታክስ ምምላት ኣገልግሎት ይቀርባል።
Free Tax Preparation

ከፊደራላዊ መገባዕት ብዙ የታክስ ተመላሽ ገንዘብ ለማግኘት ብቁ ሊሆኑ ይችላሉ።

በ2004 ገቢዎ ዝቅተኛ ከሆነ ለኤርንድ ኢንካም ታክስ ብቁ በመሆን በሙቶ ወይንም በጂ የሚቆጠር ገንዘብ ለማግኘት ይችላሉ። በቤተሰብዎ ቁጥር መሠረት።

ታክስዎን ለምምላት በነጻ እርዳታ ለማግኘት ይችላሉ። ብዙሁ ሙያ የሰለጠኑ ሾልንተር ግለሰቦች ክዩናይትድ ወይ ብስያትል ከተማ ነጻ የታክስ ምምላት ኣገልግሎት ያቀርባሉ።

የዳውንታውን ኣገልግሎት ጣቢያ ከሰኞ እስከ ሓመስ ከ10.00 ጥዋት እስከ 2.00 ያስተናግዳሉ ብስያትል ፓብልክ ቤተመጻሕፍት(ሳይብሪር) 100 4 ኢኸኑ ሰንትራል ኢንሰትሪክት ጣቢያ ብስያትል በሽክሻናል ኢንሰቲትዩት 2120 ጃክሰን ስትሪት ከ5.00 እስከ 8.00 ሓመስ ማታ ክፍት ነው ቅዳሜ ደግሞ ከ 9.00 እስከ 12.00 ኣገልግሎት ያቀርባል ቪትናም ለሚናገሩ።።

የረይነር ቢች ቢች ጣቢያ በረይነር ቢች ኮሚኒቲ ተክናሎጂ ሰንተር 8825 ረይነር ኢኸኑ ሳውዝ ማክሰኞ ኖቨ 4.00 እስከ 8.00 ኣገልግሎት ያቀርባል የዋይትሰንተር ጣቢያ በዋይት ሰንተር ሳይብሪር 11220 16 ኢኸኑ ሳውዝ ወስት ማክሰኞ ከ 5.00 እስከ 8.00 ኣገልግሎት ያቀርባል ሓመስ ከ 12.00 እስከ 4.00 ኣገልግሎት ያቀርባል

Giuúp Khai Thueá Mieãn Phí
 Bạn có thể được hợp lệ để nhận lại số tiền thuế bồi hoàn từ chính phủ. Nếu lợi tức trong năm 2004 của bạn ở mức thấp, bạn có thể hội đủ điều kiện để nhận tiền thuế từ Tín Chỉ Bồi Hoàn Thuế – Earned Income Tax Credit, nhận lại từ cả trăm hay cả ngàn đồng, tùy theo số người trong gia đình bạn.
 Và bạn không phải trả tiền để khai thuế. Những người thiện nguyện đã được huấn luyện từ United Way of King County đang giúp nhiều người khai thuế ở các nơi trong thành phố Seattle.
 Văn phòng (giúp Khai Thuế) ở Downtown sẽ mở cửa từ Thứ Hai đến Thứ Năm từ 10

giờ sáng đến 2 giờ chiều tại Thư Viện Công Cộng Seattle, địa chỉ là 100 đường số 4 th Ave.. Phòng khai thuế khu Central District nằm trong cao ốc Seattle Vocational Institute, 2120 đường S.Jackson St thì mở cửa từ 5 giờ đến 8 giờ tối, và các ngày Thứ Bảy thì từ 9 giờ sáng đến 12 giờ trưa, có nhân viên nói tiếng Việt.
 Nơi Khai Thuế khu Rainier Beach thì nằm trong trung tâm Rainier Beach Community Technology Center, số 8825 Rainier Ave S, giờ mở cửa từ 4 giờ chiều đến 8 giờ tối. Nơi Khai Thuế thuộc khu White Center thì nằm trong Thư Viện White Center, 11220 đường 16th Ave SW, mở cửa trong các

ngày Thứ Ba từ 5 giờ chiều đến 8 giờ tối và các ngày Thứ Năm thì từ 12 giờ trưa đến 4 giờ chiều.
 Để cho việc khai thuế được dễ dàng, thì hay mang theo các mẫu đơn ghi số tiền lợi tức của bạn, như mẫu W-2, các tờ báo cáo tiền phụ cấp lãnh được, giấy chứng minh cá nhân, thẻ An Sinh Xã Hội của bạn và người trong nhà. Nếu bạn có câu hỏi, hay danh mục các địa điểm khai thuế, xin gọi cho United Way ở số (800) 755-5317.
CHÚC MỪNG NĂM MỚI
Báo THE VOICE xin Kính Chúc Quý Độc Giả Người Việt Một Năm Mới Khang An – Thịnh Vượng