



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



The Voice

April
2005
Articles translated
into six languages

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

Bilingual families to weigh in on school district budget

BY VOICE STAFF

The Seattle Public School district is in a period of financial trouble where expenses are outpacing revenues, and district officials are looking for ways to cut costs.

The school district estimates it will be short \$12 million for the 2005-06 school year and \$20.7 million during the following school year.

Several short and long-term solutions are being examined to address these problems, including closing some smaller schools and changing the rules about transportation and the way students are assigned to schools.

District officials will be holding a meeting for bilingual families with translation provided on Thursday, April 7 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Aki Kurose Middle School lunch room, 3928 S. Graham St.

The meeting will include information on the proposed changes and a chance for parents' to ask questions and provide input.

A meeting for English-speaking parents will take place on Tuesday, April 5 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Olympic View Elementary School, 504 N.E. 95th St.

Other meetings for English-speaking families were held in March.

In February, the school district superintendent presented the school board with a proposed list of criteria to use when making decisions about closing schools.

The list included such points as whether a high percentage of children can walk to a school, whether the building has room to be expanded and whether the school contributes to the equitable spread of school programs throughout the city.

The school board will ultimately make the decision about whether and which schools will be closed. Some members have said they are against closing schools.

However, the estimated \$9 million savings school consolidation could provide will not solve all of the district's budget problems.

District officials have discussed other cuts including eliminating some high school elective classes, charging students to participate in sports or laying off teaching assistants who work with bilingual students.

The superintendent is expected to make recommendations to the school board about school consolidation on April 20. The board meets at 2445 3rd Ave., and its meetings are open to the public.

Program helps students land good jobs

BY STACY SCHWANDT
Voice editor

Megan Sadler knows many of her customers at the Lake Meridian Safeway by name. As a barista at the grocery store's Starbucks kiosk, she sees many of them often and takes pride in remembering their drink orders.

Sadler, 18, said she is thankful for the job, which she landed with help from a Neighborhood House employment specialist who works in partnership with West Auburn High School.

"Safeway is a place where everyone seems to like what they're doing," she said. "People are very nice and supportive."

Sadler found the Neighborhood House program last year after she gave birth to a

baby girl and began a night school program that allows her to work while finishing her high school diploma.

At that time, Sadler was unemployed and unsure about her career goals. Finding a good job seemed impossible because she didn't have very much work experience.

Jenifer Chao, the Neighborhood House case manager Sadler worked with, helped her put together her resume and prepare for interviews.

"I didn't realize how much that I was missing that I could put on my resume," she said. "Jenifer also asked me (interview-style) questions and taught me to speak more professionally."

Finding work was important to Sadler. "I knew I had to take care of my daughter."

Please see "Good jobs" on page 2

Leaders sound the alarm on federal cuts



PHOTO BY KARI SHERRODD

Seattle City Council President Jan Drago addresses the crowd at the rally.

BY KARI SHERRODD
Seattle Housing Authority

Concerned regional and city leaders made their message very clear at the "Sound the Alarm on Federal Cuts" rally on March 10 at Seattle City Hall.

They urged Congress to oppose the proposed federal funding cuts to Section 8, Community Development Block Grants, Medicaid and other critical programs that contribute to the health of cities, counties and local communities.

"These federal reductions will have a devastating impact on seniors, those who are homeless, working families, small businesses and children," said Councilmember Tom Rasmussen, chair of the Council's Housing, Human Services and Health Committee.

The President's budget proposes cuts of five percent to the low-income public housing operating subsidy and 10 percent to its capital subsidy.

Operating subsidies help pay for the day-to-day operations of buildings for low-income residents. Capital subsidies help pay for major maintenance items and repairs.

"It is important to understand that the cuts being proposed in the President's budget come on top of reductions over the last several years," Sybil Bailey, a low-income public housing resident of more than 20 years, told the crowd. "Overall funding for public housing has decreased by 20 per-

cent since 2001, including these proposed cuts. For this same period, capital subsidies have decreased by 22 percent."

On the Section 8 side, the proposed budget locks in the cuts already made in 2005.

The 2005 funding leaves the Seattle Housing Authority about \$6 million short of the funding needed to pay for all of the 7,861 vouchers that the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development has assigned to them.

"Residents depend on the Housing Authority to keep these buildings up to good standards - we (the residents) just can't do that ourselves," said Bailey. "Without adequate subsidy, we will see the value of these important buildings decline over the years, and our safety net will be irreparably damaged."

Federal cuts made last year left the King County Housing Authority with a \$3.5 million hole to fill. The agency was forced in February to freeze its Section 8 waiting list and take other measures to cut costs.

Leaders and citizens signed a petition at the rally for elected officials to deliver to the state's congressional representatives at the National League of Cities meeting last month.

They said they hope the message will challenge representatives to pledge opposition to federal cuts.

The rally was sponsored by the Seattle City Council and 35 regional nonprofit organizations.

In this issue

Health Notes	Page 2
AIR POLLUTION	
One to grow on	Page 3
CONSIDER RAISED BEDS	
New low-income housing	
PIKE PLACE MARKET	Page 3
EXPANDS OFFERINGS	
Translations	Page 4
JOB SEEKERS OFFERED FREE WHEELS	

Quotable

"Our program helps newcomers to this community take control of their destiny."

JumpStart Program Director Greg Hope on the services that help refugees start their own businesses.

See story on page 3

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

Non-profit org.
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Vocational English classes available in White Center

By VOICE STAFF

Are you interested in improving your English and learning job skills?

Neighborhood House is offering an English as a Second Language class at its Park Lake Career Center that links participants to jobs in the janitorial field.

The class includes instruction in the basic English used in the workplace and in the actual skills students will need to work as a janitor in a school or hospital setting.

The program includes individualized case management to make sure students succeed in the class and find a job afterwards.

Case managers help students make initial contact with employers and guide them through the job application process.

Students will also receive support services for one year following graduation.

Those interested must be citizens or permanent residents who are in ESL levels one, two or three. Students must live in the White Center or Boulevard Park and qualify as low-income.

The class runs from April 18 to June 23 and meets Monday through Thursday



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

ESL class participants listen to their instructor.

from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The center is located at 10041 6th Ave. S.W. in White Center.

For more information, Somali speakers can call Fartun at (206) 730-3699, Khmer speakers can call Sophea at (206) 730-3868 and Vietnamese speakers can call Tuy-Linh at (206) 331-5275.

Health care training for Head Start parents this fall

By VOICE STAFF

The Neighborhood House Head Start program will sponsor health care training for 75 parents this fall, providing them with information on how to best care for their children's health needs.

The training will help parents in many Seattle Housing Authority communities be better informed caregivers and more empowered decision makers. It is hoped this will increase their overall self-esteem and confidence.

"Head Start parents, like all parents, want only the best for their children," said Neighborhood House Child Development Director Kathee Richter. "We want to give them the tools they need to make the best decisions for their children's health."

The project will be funded with an \$8,000 grant from UCLA and the Johnson & Johnson Healthcare Institute.

Last year, a UCLA study showed that when Head Start parents are provided with easy-to-understand healthcare guidance, they make fewer unnecessary trips with their children to clinics or the emergency room.

In fact, parents who participated in the training cut unnecessary trips to the emergency room by 48 percent and to the clinic by 37.5 percent. This translated into a dra-

matic drop in the number of days they missed work and their children missed school. The study also showed a profound impact on parents' ability to trust their own judgment when considering their children's health.

Researchers pointed out that this could mean tremendous savings for Medicaid, which most Head Start parents rely on for their healthcare needs.

"The findings could have far-reaching implications," said Ariella Herman, a senior lecturer at UCLA and the lead investigator on the studies.

The Neighborhood House program will involve community partners including Harborview and Swedish medical centers, Seattle & King County Public Health and area dental providers.

Parents who participate in the program will receive a medical reference guide designed for readers with low health literacy. The book offers information on more than 50 common childhood medical issues, from fevers and minor scrapes to chicken pox and head lice.

The program was started as a pilot project in 200. By the end of 2005, 11,000 families will have received the training. Program organizers aim to train 400,000 families over the next 10 years.

Health Notes

A column devoted to your well-being

Air pollution more than an outdoor problem

By JESSICA LEAKE
Special to the Voice

We often hear startling reports about the dirty air we breathe in our cities. But air pollution can be an even bigger threat in a place where you'd least expect it — your own home.

The amount of pollutants inside, where Americans spend 90 percent of their time, can actually exceed those outside.

That's due, in a large part, to homes that are much better insulated than they used to be, according to the American Lung Association of Washington.

Older adults, who are more likely to die from lung conditions, are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, according to the Healthy Aging Partnership, a coalition of more than 30 Puget Sound nonprofit and public organizations dedicated to the health and well-being of older adults.

Unhealthy indoor air can come from a multitude of sources — faulty furnaces, mold, household cleaners, pet dander and secondhand smoke — and bring on a range of symptoms, including itchy, watery eyes, runny nose, coughing and fatigue.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, which includes bronchitis, emphysema and asthma, is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States and can be life threatening to older adults. Mainly, it is caused from smoking or exposure to smoke and pollution.

Robin Evans-Agnew, a spokesperson for the state lung association, said if nothing else, people should be aware of the two major culprits behind indoor air pollution: humidity and dust mites.

"You should always pay attention to the amount of humidity and moisture in your home, and the amount of dust mites, especially for those who suffer from any kind of allergies or emphysema," he said.

Particularly in winter, leaving a window open for even ten minutes will help your home stay ventilated, and keep you and your

family breathing cleaner air, Agnew said.

Here are some other tips from the Healthy Aging Partnership.

Monitor when and where you stuff up. If your respiratory problems ease up or go away when you're away from home, you should consider the possibility of indoor air pollutants.

Try to identify the source of the pollution. Many older homes, for example, have gas stoves or furnaces that could be emitting harmful amounts of nitrogen dioxide or carbon monoxide, the leading cause of accidental poisoning in the United States. Have your appliances professionally inspected every year and make sure they are ventilated to the outside.

Don't allow smoking in your home. Tobacco contains thousands of poisons as well as known carcinogens.

Replace your air filters regularly and choose one with the highest efficiency rating. Ratings of 10 or higher are your best choice for capturing twice as much dust, pet dander, mold and other allergens.

Buy allergen-proof pillowcases and mattress covers for your beds to control dust mites.

Keep pets outside or away from bedrooms. If you choose to keep them inside, change your air filters more often.

Fix leaky pipes or spills within 24 hours to prevent mold growth. Water damaged carpets or ceiling tiles should be replaced.

Clean air conditioners, humidifiers and dehumidifiers often. Use distilled water when filling humidifiers. Wash sheets and bedding materials frequently, in hot water, to reduce dust mites.

For more information about indoor air pollution and other issues related to life as an older adult, call the Healthy Aging Partnership's free and confidential information and help line at (888) 435-3377.

The partnership is supported by member agencies and by the Comprehensive Health Education Foundation and Public Health Seattle-King County.

Good jobs

continued from front page

ter, finish school and get my life back on track," she said.

Sadler now works between 30 and 40 hours a week at Safeway and attends classes three nights a week. Her mother helps her take care of her daughter.

"My old life is completely gone, and that's not such a bad thing," she said. "I think I took a lot of things for granted before."

Sadler added that she is happy to have set some goals. Her plan is to have a full-fledged career, possibly in the dental field, by the time she's 25.

She said she feels lucky that Safeway gave her a chance.

Christine Miller, an employment specialist for the grocery chain, said applicants who are working with job coaches can sometimes get further in the application process than they would otherwise.

"We're interested in working with anyone who wants to pursue a career with Safeway," Miller said. "We have a lot of job opportunities and a lot of upward mobility for those who are interested."

Neighborhood House Business Account Representative Tina Hoang works to develop relationships with local employers. She encourages them to hire program participants, who may have fewer job skills but have demonstrated they're serious about finding steady work.

"I would ask them if they'd like to have



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

Megan Sadler is happy to be working at Safeway.

these youth become productive members of the society," Hoang said. "There's a real chance for these youth to come in at entry-level and to move up in the company."

Hoang said she has worked to build relationships with Auburn Regional Medical Center, Office Depot, Safeway, Fred Meyer and other local companies.

The Neighborhood House jobs program is made possible by funds from the Workforce Development Council and King County-specific resources that target at-risk, out-of-school youth.

It is open to youth in South King County who are interested in finishing their education and working.

Neighborhood House is part of the Out-of-School Youth Consortium, which is made up of a number of agencies working to keep young people in the job market, including the YWCA and the King County Work Training Program.

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.

JumpStart can help you open a business

Loans and support for refugees can make the difference

By MICHAEL SKINNER
Special to the Voice

Have you ever thought of starting a business in your own home?

About 53 percent of all small businesses in the United States are home-based, according to a recent study by the Small Business Administration.

Sewing and tailoring businesses, hair cutting or weaving businesses and child care businesses can all be operated from an extra bedroom or study.

The JumpStart program has helped many people start home-based businesses.

JumpStart is a nonprofit program that offers loans and business assistance to micro-businesses owned by refugees and asylees living in the Puget Sound area. JumpStart's clients do not have access to traditional sources of business capital due to a lack of business experience or a lack of credit history.

Greg Hope, director of JumpStart, sees the program as a way to help refugees and asylees become self-sufficient and contribute to the economic development of their new communities.

"Self-employment is often a viable alternative to wage labor," he said. "Our program helps newcomers to our community take control of their destiny."

Peter Bezman, a JumpStart client, was a bookseller in the former Soviet Union who came to Seattle in September 2003, not knowing how life would be different here.

He hoped that business opportunities would be abundant but suspected that, as in Moscow, the paperwork to start his own business would be few inches thick. He also thought a large tax payment would be required before his doors could open.

Bezman claims shock and amazement that a Washington State business license was a two-page application and that the



PHOTO BY MICHAEL SKINNER

JumpStart helped Peter Bezman purchase this vacuum cleaner and set up his own cleaning business.

JumpStart loan process was direct and simple.

Bezman used a micro-loan to purchase a new vacuum for his cleaning business, and he has increased his customer accounts from 6 to 18 over a two-month period.

Since its start two years ago, JumpStart has helped entrepreneurs from Somalia, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Ukraine, Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq and Nepal start or expand many businesses, including coffee stands, bakeries, catering businesses, restaurants, janitorial services, child care centers, grocery stores, clothing stores, handyman services and long-haul trucking outfits.

Those interested in learning more about home-based business opportunities should call Jenelle Landgraf, JumpStart program coordinator, at (206) 323-3152 ext 104.

Michael Skinner is a JumpStart VISTA program developer working with the Refugee Resettlement Office.

More low-income housing planned for Pike Market

By VOICE STAFF

Members of the Pike Place Market community broke ground last month on a new six-story, 28,000 square foot mixed-use building on Western Ave.

The new building, designed by Hewitt Architects in Seattle, will add 24 new low-income apartments to the LaSalle Hotel apartment building, bringing the total to 64.

The project will also ensure the preservation of 40 units of Section 8 housing and provide a new home for the Pike Market Senior Center.

The building will include about 3,000 square foot of retail space at street level.

The LaSalle Hotel, built in 1901, will also be renovated as part of the project.

The Pike Market Senior Center has been serving Seattle's low-income and homeless seniors since 1978.

With the expansion, the center's senior wellness program will be able to conduct

stress reduction, nutrition and health education classes and private space will be available for social workers to talk with clients. The center's hot lunch program is also expected to double the number of people it serves each year.

The Pike Market Medical Clinic will be expanding into the former senior center space.

The project's total cost is expected to be \$16 million and will be paid for primarily with an allocation of low income tax credits from the State of Washington. Financing will also be provided by the City of Seattle Office of Housing, Washington State Housing Trust Fund and from a number of other loans.

The building's exterior design has been approved by the Pike Place Market Historic Commission, and construction is expected to be completed in the summer of 2006.



One to grow on

Garden tips for community gardeners

Consider raised garden beds

By ANZA MUENCHOW
Special to the Voice

The weather this February was so amazingly warm, everybody was getting ready to plant.

I may be wrong, but I think we still have some cold rainy days in the forecast, so don't plant anything too tender.

It's O.K. to plant the cool season crops I listed in last month's article (peas, broccoli, cabbage, choys, cilantro, etc.) but wait at least till the end of April to plant the beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, corn or squashes.

Normally, in Seattle we plant these warm season crops in Mid-May, but it just seems so warm outside as I am writing this.

As you are preparing your garden, mix lots of rich compost into your planting beds. Try adding as much as 6 inches of compost and mix it well with your existing soil.

If you have worm casting compost, a well-decomposed leaf mold compost or Cedar Grove compost (Seattle's yard waste product), this may be enough fertility for most of the crops you want to grow.

For the leafy greens, like spinach or later on the basil, you may want to add a nitrogen source like blood meal, alfalfa meal, cotton seed meal or fish fertilizers.

I just want to caution you against adding too much nitrogen to the fruiting crops, like tomatoes or squashes, or to the root crops. Don't promote the leaf growth. Let the plants work on their fruits and roots by having a balanced fertility, like what the compost gives them.

If you haven't tried them before, consider using "raised beds" in your garden. By mounding up the soil into approximately 3 foot wide beds, the soil will warm sooner and allow earlier spring planting.

Starting with a flat garden area, choose where the paths and beds should be. Using a shovel, take the top soil off the paths and mound it on the beds while mixing in your 6 inches of compost. Build up the sides of your beds with wood, plastic lumber, stone

framing or just mound the soil with no frames.

I need to emphasize that the beds should be only 3 or 3 1/2 feet wide so you can comfortably reach the center for weeding and harvest.

As for the paths, you need to be comfortable walking around the garden so make them at least 2 feet wide. You will never have to step in the garden beds and you will avoid compacting your loose, crumbly soil.

For weed control in the paths, I use a couple layers of cardboard or thick stacks of newspapers with 3 or 4 inches of wood chips covering them. Tree services will give away their wood chips or you can purchase "play chips" at a landscape supply outlet.

Another reason raised beds are great is that they are easy for children to work in. Children won't trample the plants when they can see the difference between the path and the vegetable bed.

And let's face it, our children need to be in gardens. Bring your kids to your garden this spring. Give them a shovel. Let them notice the soil and all its creatures. Introduce them to the "magic" of seeds. And most of all, give them the delight of tasting their way around a garden.

Is there anything like a sun-ripened strawberry or cherry tomato? A fresh snap pea or broccoli flower can change a child's opinion of eating their vegetables.

I've taught many children in school gardens who initially tell me, "I don't eat green things."

Then a short time later, they become amazed at the flavors of sorrel and peas. Suddenly they want to snack in the garden whenever they can.

My own children have loved grazing in our garden since they were very small, and now they are young adults.

Keep children involved in all aspects of food growing and preparation, and they will be life-long healthy eaters.

Anza Muenchow is an avid gardener who volunteers with the P-Patch community gardening program.

Community notes

Free organic gardening class

Spring is here and it is time to start planting! Learn techniques for planning your garden that will help you maximize your harvest.

To help new gardeners develop skills for successful organic gardening, the Seattle Tilth Association, the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods P-Patch program, Seattle Public Utilities and Grant Central Station will be offering free organic gardening classes.

The second class will take place at the Delridge P-Patch at 5078 25th Ave. S.W. on April 9 from 10 a.m. to noon and on April 17 at the Hawkin P-Patch on E. Jefferson and MLK Way from 2 to 4 p.m.

Pre-registration is required.

The class is expected to be the second in a series of four. Call the P-Patch program at (206) 684-5011 for more information.

Information session on finding work

If you're facing a layoff, currently receive unemployment benefits or have exhausted your unemployment benefits in the past two years, you should know about the Worker Retraining

Program at Seattle Central Community College.

Attend a free orientation session on Wednesday, April 6 to learn about tuition assistance and job training programs. The session begins at 2 p.m. and is held in room 4180 on the college campus, located at 1701 Broadway on Capitol Hill.

Pre-registration is not required. For more information call (206) 587-6310 or visit the Web site at <http://seattlecentral.edu/wrp>.

Fundraising breakfast planned

Neighborhood House will be hosting its anniversary breakfast celebration on Thursday, April 21 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel and Towers, 1400 6th Ave.

The event, chaired by King County Councilmember Larry Gossett, will feature a keynote speech by Rabbi Anson Laytner of the American Jewish Committee, Greater Seattle Chapter.

Neighborhood House is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping low-income people attain their goals for self-sufficiency.

For more information, contact Liz-Beth Levy at (206) 461-8430 ext. 230.

NH Neighborhood House

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.

Making the grade
STUDENT HEADS TO IVY LEAGUE
See page 4



SHA NEWS

April
2005

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

A new home for ElderHealth



PHOTO BY DOUG HARKNESS

Neighborhood House paratransit driver Joseph Adamecz helps Ed Lehnert exit the bus. Lehnert is visiting ElderHealth's new Ravenna center. See story on page 3.

Wages grew with Jobs-Plus

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Jobs-Plus programs actually increased the earnings of public housing residents by 14 percent over four years, a study by a nonpartisan social policy research organization showed recently.

Jobs-Plus was a six-year employment program run in the Seattle Housing Authority's Rainier Vista and six other public housing developments across the nation. It came to a close last year.

The demonstration initiative was sponsored by a consortium of public and private funders led by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Jobs-Plus delivered employment-related services, offered rent breaks as incentives and promoted social ties among residents to create support for work.

At the close of its six years, the program increased residents' earnings overall, the MDRC study said. The average four-year total earnings of participants were

boosted by 14 percent, or \$4,563 over what they would have been without the program. The program's effects grew larger over time, increasing to a 20 percent gain in the final year.

"Several of the people who enrolled in Jobs-Plus at Rainier Vista and took full advantage of rent incentives and employment services are now enjoying a mainstream middle-class lifestyle," said Larry Hill, SHA's Jobs-Plus coordinator. "Several residents have also purchased beautiful homes, started their own successful businesses or are working in competitive jobs that have a real future."

The program's positive effects were large, sustained and grew throughout the initiative's life, the study said. They were particularly striking for men, a group for whom past employment programs had mixed success.

The gains occurred in good times and bad, at the tail-end of a booming economy and in the midst of a national recession.

"Residents realized that homeownership or business ownership could be a reality," said Laura Lakings-Becvar, SHA employment services coordinator. "Although the program has come to an end, the Jobs-Plus program left a legacy that with hard work and determination anyone can achieve their dreams."

SHA and the old JobsPlus staff members are still committed to providing first-rate employment services at Rainier Vista.

At the beginning of this year, they merged with other SHA employment programs to create The Job Connection.

For more information about The Job Connection and its services, call or visit one of its five offices in Rainier Vista, High Point, Yesler Terrace, Lake City and NewHolly.

SHA to upgrade 22 high-rise buildings

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Seattle Housing Authority will soon begin a large-scale renovation of 22 of its high-rise apartment buildings.

The project will have a budget of over \$30 million and SHA will use its annual capital projects allocation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to pay back loans used to finance the work.

Focus is on improving building systems

According to Project Manager Stephanie Van Dyke, the five-year project will improve the living environment for residents in SHA's low-income public housing high-rise buildings.

"We are planning to extend the life of the major building systems for at least 15 years," she said.

A second major goal of the project is to improve the appeal of the buildings for prospective residents, Van Dyke added.

As part of the project, major building systems and common areas will be renovated.

Work will include the replacement of waterlines and boilers, refurbishment of ventilation fans, intercom systems and elevators, exterior painting and sealing and new finishes and furnishing for the common areas.

Some buildings may require more extensive exterior repairs, and the apartment interiors of others will be remodeled. Electrical system improvements are also being considered.

Goal is to minimize tenant impacts

"We want to be very careful to plan these projects so that the impact on residents will be considered and minimized at every step," Van Dyke said. "We know that the project will cause some significant inconveniences, but we will work hard to limit disruptions."

"SHA has learned some important lessons about working in occupied buildings

over the past few years, and we will apply all of those lessons learned to the greatest extent possible."

According to Executive Director Tom Tierney, Van Dyke is the perfect person for the job of managing this project.

"Stephanie is very skilled at managing complex construction projects," he said. "I know that she will manage this project with the residents' needs firmly in mind."

Prior to beginning work with the Housing Authority last year, Van Dyke spent 12 years working on the redevelopment of Seattle Center, including the 1995 renovation of the Center House and the transformation of the Opera House into a brand new McCaw Hall.

The Seattle Center projects took place in a busy environment of 18 hour-a-day activity and required careful planning and coordination, she said.

Center House continued to provide free public activities and food service while the Children's Museum, the third floor and the food court itself were renovated.

Planning for the SHA project has been underway for about six months.

Ongoing planning will finalize the scope, complete the project budgeting and secure the financing.

The project is currently expected to be executed in three phases. Each phase will include seven to eight buildings and will have a construction schedule of 18 to 24 months.

The first phase will begin around October 2005.

Specific buildings to be included

While plans have not yet been finalized, a list of buildings most likely to be included in the project has been released.

Work in the first phase is expected to include Ballard House, Beacon Tower, Capitol Park, Green Lake Plaza, Harvard Court, International Terrace, Lictonwood

Please see "Renovation" on page 2

In this section

SHA News	Page 2
YESLER SHELTER WRAPS UP	
Point of View	Page 3
ELDERHEALTH NOW IN RAVENNA	
High Point Herald	Page 4
BUILDER ON BOARD	
Rainier Vista News	Page 5
NEW HOME FOR DILIGENT RESIDENT	
NewHolly Notes	Page 6
SOMBER HOMECOMING	
Yesler Happenings	Page 7
COUNCIL ELECTION PENDING	
Translations	Page 8

Employment fair for youth to take place this month

VOICE STAFF

Youth between the ages 16 to 21 who are seeking summer and permanent employment are invited to the annual Youth Employment Fair on Wednesday, April 13.

More than fifty groups, including schools and employers, are expected to attend the event, which usually draws more than 350 students. The fair will take place at the Rainier Community Center, 4600 38th Ave. S., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A light lunch will be provided.

Those who participate will have the opportunity to complete job applications, interview, develop resumes and participate in training. Seattle Housing Authority residents interested in taking part must register at one of The Job Connection offices in Rainier Vista, NewHolly, Yesler Terrace, High Point and Lake City Way.

The event has an enforced dress code. Boys will be required to wear slacks or khakis and a button-down shirt. Girls will be required to wear dresses, skirts and blouses or dress slacks and blouses. Please observe the dress code.

Yesler Terrace emergency shelter wraps up



PHOTO BY JAMES OWENBY

Beds are lined up in the old Yesler Terrace Community Center gym to keep the homeless warm on a cold December night.

By JAMES OWENBY
Seattle Housing Authority

The last days of March marked the closure of the severe weather emergency shelter at the old Yesler Terrace Community Center gymnasium.

The shelter was open on 50 nights from November 4 to February 24. It was not used in March due to unseasonably warm and dry weather. The shelter averaged 40 people a night and housed mostly male visitors.

While the hosting of the shelter was a contentious issue for some Yesler Terrace residents, others involved said the overall effect was positive.

"Having the shelter at Yesler Terrace meant we received more police emphasis patrols," said Judi Carter, senior property manager at Yesler Terrace. "I view that as a positive thing."

Yesler Terrace Community Council Secretary Kristin O'Donnell agreed with Carter's view of the emphasis patrols, which were funded by the neighborhood's Weed and Seed dollars. Still, she was not completely enthusiastic about the shelter.

"It worked as well as it could," she said. "Shelters and residential neighborhoods are not a good mix."

O'Donnell gave credit to members of the East Precinct for their diligence in keeping the area safe and also thanked her neighbors for their involvement in the process.

"If the neighborhood had not resisted putting the shelter here we probably would not have gotten the mitigation we got," she said.

Al Poole, a manager in the City of Seattle's Human Services Department, said controversy regarding homeless shelters

is nothing new.

"Homelessness gets more complicated every year," he said, adding that his department is often asked to serve a growing homeless population with stagnant resources.

The Human Services Department is responsible for overseeing 30 different shelters and transitional housing programs in Seattle. Poole said the department's overall goal is to move people from homelessness to stability and long-term housing.

The emergency shelter is a key piece in that puzzle, but it will not likely return to Yesler Terrace next year.

"We don't have permanent places for the severe weather shelters," he said.

During the 2004-2005 winter season at Yesler Terrace there were no incidents related to the severe weather shelter.

According to Poole, there were some complaints about the shelter patrons showing up early, falling asleep as they waited in the corridor at the community center, and disrupting tutoring classes.

One complaint was received from a youth who felt intimidated by a homeless person during an early morning bus ride. Another Yesler Terrace resident claimed her newspaper went missing every night the shelter was open.

On the positive side, Poole said participation in homelessness planning at the March "Undoing Racism Workshop" was higher. The theme was "why so many poor people and people of color are locked up and locked out."

Members of Horn of Africa Services got involved in the workshop and have indicated they would like to continue to be involved in future homelessness forums as well, Poole said.

SHA begins sale of Scattered-Site homes

STAFF REPORT

The Seattle Housing Authority has begun the process of selling single-family homes in its Scattered-Sites portfolio.

Over the next several years, the Housing Authority plans to adjust its mix of housing so the program runs more cost-effectively and provides housing better-suited to resident needs, officials said.

By 2006, SHA plans to sell as many as 200 units across the city, including more than 80 single-family homes.

In some cases, SHA will replace the sold houses with apartment complexes of around 20 units in the same neighborhood. All housing bought will be suitable for families and will preserve the low-density, "scattered" nature of the program.

SHA is contracting with a group of real estate agents to handle these sales.

Properties are not being sold at auction, and the Housing Authority expects to receive full-price offers that reflect market conditions in the neighborhoods where the housing is sold.

In February, *The Seattle Times* reported that one of the realtors listing Housing Au-

thority properties said offers poured in soon after the housing went on the market. One house had 20 offers, and all of the properties appeared to be selling above list price.

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

Because multi-family housing is cheaper to manage and maintain than single-family homes, SHA expects to make about \$20 million on the sale of the properties. The agency will plug the profits into the costs of replacing low-income housing in the NewHolly, Rainier Vista and High Point redevelopments.

SHA will help the residents who live in the for-sale homes with their move to other Scattered-Sites or SHA housing.

Every effort will be made to house families in their current neighborhoods if that is what they want. If possible, moves will be scheduled at a time least disruptive to the tenant.

Renovation

Continued from front page

and Olive Ridge.

In the second phase, work will be done on Barton Place, Center Park, Center West, Olympic West, Queen Anne Heights, Ross Manor and West Town View.

In the third phase, renovation will be done on Cal-Mor Circle, Cedarvale House and Village, Jackson Park House and Village, Lake City House, Stewart Manor, University House and University West.

Not all of SHA's high-rises will be included in this project. For example, Jefferson Terrace and Denny Terrace are not on the list, however SHA officials said they will still receive important maintenance work and capital improvements, but the work will be managed outside this project.

Before work begins on any of these buildings, Van Dyke will meet with building residents to outline exactly what work will be done and how the project will unfold.

Community notes

Homeownership classes offered

You may qualify for \$45,000 or more in downpayment assistance to buy a home.

Attend one of the following classes to find out if you could qualify to buy a home now or how you can prepare to buy one in the future.

All classes are at the Seattle Housing Authority's central office at 120 6th Ave. N. in downtown Seattle.

A class on homeownership basics will take place on Tuesday, April 5 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and on Saturday, April 30 from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

A class called "Let's talk about your credit and predatory lending" will meet twice, once on Saturday, April 16 and again on April 23 from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

A five-hour homebuyer seminar meets on Saturday, April 23 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This class is required to obtain downpayment assistance.

A home maintenance basics class takes place on Thursday, April 28, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

To register for any of the classes contact Billie Martin, SHA resident homeownership counselor, at (206) 615-3498 or by e-mail at bmartin@seattlehousing.org.

Please leave a message with your name, address and phone number.

SHA policies now posted on Internet

A variety of the Seattle Housing Authority's policies are now posted online at <http://www.seattlehousing.org>.

Some of the posted policies address wait lists, fraud, transfers, occupancy standards and adding people to a lease.

To view these policies, log on to the Web site, click on "About Us" and follow the "Policies" link.

The policies provided on the Web site are for informational purposes only. Although SHA periodically updates them, there may occasionally be inconsistencies between a posted policy and the policy currently in effect. In such cases the actual policy currently in effect is the policy that will be applied by SHA.

Come to the arts and crafts fair

Seattle Housing Authority residents and employees will be selling culturally diverse, handmade goods at the Spring Arts and Crafts Fair on May 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the NewHolly Neighborhood Campus.

Items include photography, jewelry, purses, wreaths, baby blankets, ceramics, crocheted teddy bears, photo albums, egg rolls and more.

The craft fair is sponsored by Seattle Housing's C.A.R.E. committee.

The NewHolly Neighborhood Campus is located at 7054 32nd Ave. S. Metro Bus #106 stops at the campus every 30 minutes. If you're driving from I-5 north or south, take the Albright/Swift exit, turn right on Albright and turn left onto Swift, which becomes S. Myrtle St. Take a left onto 32nd Ave. S. and follow to the campus.

Easy ways to help the Earth

KING COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

On April 22, we celebrate Earth Day – an event dedicated to keeping our one and only planet as healthy as we can.

You can do the environment good by not littering and making an effort to recycle. Washington is in a drought right now, so conserving water is crucial. Take quick showers and don't water your lawn.

Here are five other easy ways, from the Environmental Defense group, to do the Earth a favor. Many of these practices will save you money too.

Eat fish caught in a manner that keeps the marine ecosystem healthy. It's good to buy halibut from Alaska, farmed catfish, most clams and Atlantic herring and mackerel. It's bad to buy Atlantic cod, salmon or halibut, Pacific rockfish and snapper.

When you're next in the market for a car, choose the one with the highest fuel efficiency rating. You'll save money each time you fill up.

Check your tires once a month – properly inflating your tires improves gas mileage. According to the Department of Energy, under-inflated tires waste more than two million gallons of gasoline a day.

Using fluorescent light bulbs in your home can help cut greenhouse gas emissions. The Environmental Protection Agency says, a compact fluorescent bulb uses 75 percent less energy than a standard bulb and lasts about 10 times longer.

Prevent waste and save money by cutting your purchases of disposable and over-packaged items. Reuse more of what you already have.

POINT OF VIEW

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

ElderHealth moves to Ravenna neighborhood

By DOUG HARKNESS
Special to the Voice

Last month, ElderHealth Northwest moved its North Seattle adult day health center to the Ravenna neighborhood.

The center was once located on the Northgate campus of Group Health Cooperative, but Group Health expanded its operations in January into space previously leased to ElderHealth. The center then moved into temporary space at Sand Point Magnuson Park during renovation of its new Ravenna location.

"All of us—staff and participants in the day program—are excited to move into Ravenna," said Joanne McMahon, site manager for the North Seattle location. "We'll strive to be a real asset to the community."

The center is located just north of the Ravenna-Eckstein Community Center and the Ravenna School Apartments, at 6555 Ravenna Ave. N.E. The entrance is on Northeast 68th Street.

"This is a wonderful facility," said ElderHealth client Gary Hailey. "It's a grand building, I'm so glad to be in it."

ElderHealth Northwest is a non-profit provider of health and social services for frail elders and people with disabilities.

Its adult day programs help participants maintain their health, avoid isolation and remain in a stable living situation.

It also provides respite for caregivers while fostering the well-being and independence of its participants, helping prevent premature or unnecessary placement in a nursing home.

At the centers, located throughout King and Snohomish Counties, ElderHealth offers on-site nursing, rehabilitative therapies, nutritious meals and social activities.

About 50 percent of ElderHealth's participants have Alzheimer's disease and other forms of cognitive loss—special programs are tailored to their needs.



ElderHealth client Monica Hahn enjoys the Ravenna grand opening with Anna Linsenmeyer.

To ensure door-to-door transportation for its participants, ElderHealth works with transportation providers such as Access and Transia.

Sometimes adult children and other relatives escort elders to the centers.

ElderHealth was founded in 1976 and is now recognized by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation—the largest U.S. foundation devoted to health care—as a National Model Adult Day Center.

In addition to its day centers, ElderHealth has two "supported living" homes for people with chronic conditions (such as memory loss) who need significant personalized attention and access to intensive services.

ElderHealth also provides in-home services, geriatric consultation and volunteer companionship.

To find out about enrolling at ElderHealth Northwest, call (206) 528-5315, or visit <http://www.elderhealth.org>.

Doug Harkness is the Outreach Coordinator for ElderHealth Northwest.

Learn to breathe easy

By ROGER EDDY
Special to the Voice

Do you know that health practitioners have determined that most people stop breathing correctly by high school due to stress and pollution?

Watch a young child or baby breathe, and you will see the way we're all meant to breathe—deeply, all the way down into the bottom of our diaphragm.

What are the effects of improper breathing?

Increased stress, asthma, weight gain and other related health problems result from breathing incorrectly. When we were young, we didn't have to think about it, breathing came naturally, but most adults cannot breathe down into their diaphragms, getting stuck high up in the chest.

Fortunately, there are exercises that can be undertaken to start breathing correctly

again. Everyone is familiar with yoga, and that is an excellent discipline to try. If you can't afford going to classes, pick up a video from the library to get started.

There are also meditation and relaxation tapes available for those who are more disabled and need to stay in one place.

If you have a hard time sticking to these exercises on your own, start a weekly group in your building for extra support.

Proper breathing is key to a multitude of health benefits.

You could lose weight, handle stress better, feel calmer and have a better general sense of well-being just by putting in a few minutes a week. It's one of the best things you can do for yourself. Go for it!

Roger Eddy is a mental health case manager for Seattle Housing Authority's high-rise communities. He is available at (206) 441-4074 to answer questions or to help with mental health issues.

News from the Resident Action Council

By J. M. (JIM) BUSH
Resident Action Council Secretary

We hope everyone is having a wonderful spring. Here at your Resident Action Council, we are starting to get things going after the winter season, and we would like to have you help us.

We are accepting nominations for the positions of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and ombudsperson on our Board of Directors.

To be a candidate for any of these positions, a person must be a RAC representative from any of the 28 Seattle Housing Authority high-rises. If you are not sure if your building has a RAC representative, please contact me by phone at (206) 860-7275 or by e-mail at jmbsea@aol.com.

We are still recruiting people to serve as RAC representatives, and we are interested in scheduling a meeting in your community to talk about RAC and help you choose a representative for our board.

We are also soliciting nominations for the three "at-large" member positions. To be considered, you need to be listed on the lease of a unit in any of the 28 high-rises.

To submit nominations, please call or write me as noted above or send your nominations via USPS to Nominations Commit-

tee, Resident Action Council, 2600 South Walker, Suite B-1, Seattle, WA 98144-4711.

Written and phoned-in nominations are due by Friday, April 22. After that date, nominations must be made at the next board meeting.

After all nominations are received, we send the official announcement of the election date to all buildings.

High-rise residents are also invited to attend the RAC's next meeting on Wednesday, April 27 at 11 a.m. in the Center Park community building, 2121 26th Ave. S.

Both Tom Tierney, SHA's executive director, and Andrew Lofton, deputy executive director, will attend, providing information on the proposed federal budget and its impact on the Housing Authority.

They will also talk about statewide funding cuts for mental health services and other programs for low-income people.

We're sure people will have a few questions to ask, especially on the topics listed above. To give our guests time to find the appropriate answers, we would like you to submit your questions in advance.

You may send questions to us in writing or by phone, using the contact information noted above. We would like to receive them by Wednesday, April 20.

Reader's Viewpoint

Letters to the editor

Article on lunch program troubling

Dear Editor,

I was terribly offended by the article "Leschi residents question lunch program," which appeared in February's SHA News.

I would like to comment on behalf of the Native Americans about a quote in the article which said there was hostility between residents and visitors at the lunch time.

During this gathering planned by the Native Americans, I have never observed disruptive behavior, and I have attended many lunches there.

It is our intent to integrate Native Americans with other cultures seeking common ground. We Native Americans are with honorable intentions and do not wish to participate in ill-will or hostility.

We want to continue our lunches and respect the rules of the building. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at (206) 767-7057.

-- Shania Belgarde, Native American elder and SHA resident.

Editors note: The Voice welcomes responses from readers.

Feel free to send your comments to Letters to the Editor, The Voice, Neighborhood House, 905 Spruce St. #200, Seattle, WA 98104. You may also e-mail letters to stacys@nhwa.org.

Please include your full name and contact information. All letters will be verified, and we reserve the right to edit for space, content and accuracy. Authors will be asked to approve edited letters.

Community notes

Advocates meet

The board of the SSHP Advocates II meets on the third Wednesday of each month at alternate buildings.

These meetings are open to any interested resident. If you wish to attend, please feel free to call for the latest location and time.

Call Edie Koch at (206) 217-9451 or Bette Reed at (206) 523-8685.

Discount cards for disabled adults

FLASH cards, which qualify disabled Seattle residents for discounts, services and programs, are available for free from the city.

Users can get discounts at restaurants and businesses, theaters and recreational facilities. The card also works at the Seattle Public Library and enables users to get pet licenses at half price.

Those with temporary disabilities may qualify for temporary discount cards.

FLASH cards are available from the Seattle Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens in the Alaska Building, at 618 Second Ave., and from other locations.

Call (206) 684-0500 for information.

HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY

Saltaire plans townhomes at High Point

By KARI SHERRODD
Seattle Housing Authority

Redevelopment at High Point took a significant step forward last month with the sale of lots to a private home builder.

Saltaire Homes of Seattle is the first to close on the sale of a large building site at High Point. The company plans to build 14 new townhomes, designed by Mithun Ar-



DRAWING COURTESY OF SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Proposed design for townhomes

chitects. Construction is expected to begin soon and models will open in the winter.

"We are pleased to announce the affiliation with Saltaire," said Tom Phillips, senior development manager for the Seattle Housing Authority. "Saltaire understands the in-city homebuyer and has made a strong commitment to helping us realize our vision of knitting High Point into the fabric of West Seattle's wonderful neighborhoods."

The project will help meet the growing demand for in-city homes between a range of prices from \$200,000 to \$500,000.

It will also create an effective partnership between SHA and private home builders. This partnership will allow the neighborhood and homebuyers to benefit from the expertise of commercial builders, while preserving revenue for SHA.

Proceeds from these land sales will help SHA finance new low-income housing at High Point and elsewhere in Seattle.

In the coming months, Seattle Housing will announce other homebuilders who will join Saltaire in creating a wide variety of homes, condominiums and townhomes for sale at High Point.

"Neighbors and homebuyers alike can expect to see a wide variety of outstanding home designs," said Phillips.

The builders are required to build new homes according to very strict design guidelines developed by SHA with help from the neighborhood. They are also required to build in a variety of price ranges so that some of the new housing will be affordable to first-time home buyers.

Mithun Architects is also preparing design ideas for Habitat for Humanity homes at High Point. Habitat will build eight homes at High Point during the next year.

For more information about Saltaire and homes for sale at High Point, visit <http://www.thehighpoint.com>.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity, visit <http://www.seattle-habitat.org>.

Town Hall well-attended

By KARI-LYNN FRANK
Seattle Housing Authority

Last month, over 140 residents gathered at the old High Point YMCA building for a town hall meeting.

It was the last large-scale gathering to address community members' questions about redevelopment prior to the first families moving into their new homes.

Tom Phillips, Seattle Housing Authority senior development manager gave an overview of construction progress and announced that the first block of houses would be completed by the end of April or early May. He said he expected all of the first phase to be built by April.

SHA Property Management Administrator Willard Brown spoke next, emphasizing "move-in and move-out know-how."

Brown described orientation meetings the relocation team will be coordinating to allow residents to come together with new neighbors prior to moving in. They will include information about the processes and rules pertinent to residents' moves.

A representative from Mayflower Moving Company spoke about the packing process. He told those gathered that small items should be boxed and ready to go, while large items can be left and will be moved.

Items like washers and dryers, if left behind, will be considered abandoned and residents would be charged a fee for their removal, SHA officials said.

One participant asked what would hap-

pen if property damage occurred during the move. The Mayflower representative said the owner would be encouraged to file a claim with the company.

Diane Groeschell from St. Elizabeth's House also spoke, saying she anticipated the 74-unit senior housing building to open in January or February.

Apartments will be for those aged 62 or older, she said, and High Point seniors will have priority.

Groeschell said the four-story building will have two elevators, a coin-operated laundry, a community room and small raised beds for gardening.

Participants asked Groeschell questions about apartment size. She assured those gathered that a queen-sized bed would fit in the bedroom, though it will be tight.

Groeschell added that Providence Health Systems manages the building. It is a Catholic organization, but not exclusive. She stressed that universal values are more important than religious denomination, and all are welcome.

Milenko Matanovic of the Pomegranate Center presented last. The organization helped the community add art to the Market Garden this fall.

The center will also be working on projects in the amphitheatre, the Pond Park and other pocket parks planned for the neighborhood. Those interested in participating can contact the center.

Moderators also answered questions about the heating system, community rules and utilities.

Bound for Ivy League



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

High Point resident Darius Dale will be hitting the books at one of the nation's most prestigious colleges this fall.

By REBEKAH SCHILPEROORT
Special to the Voice

As senior Darius Dale strolls through the halls of West Seattle High, he is greeted with high-fives and friendly smiles from his fellow classmates.

The High Point resident flashes back a wide grin and says a few quick hellos.

He displays a positive attitude, and it is apparent he is well-liked by his peers.

Dale may seem like your average teenager, but unlike many typical students he keeps a hectic schedule between varsity football, maintaining a 3.9 grade point average and extracurricular activities.

At age 17, Dale's drive to succeed, combined with his academic and athletic excellence, have led to a full athletic scholarship to Yale University beginning this fall. The scholarship is based on need and merit and will cover all expenses.

As well as being an accomplished student and athlete, Dale is very active within his community. He works with SafeFutures Youth Center, where he organized community enrichment projects for local youth.

Despite all of this, Dale still finds time to do well in school and earned the All-Metro Lineman of the Year award for his achievements on the football field, where he plays offense.

His commitment to academics has also earned him the SENSE Scholarship, which is awarded to minority students who show great promise in math and science.

As one might expect, Dale comes from a family whose respect for values such as education and determination have been instilled in him since he was a young boy.

"My parents always encouraged me to focus on my education and my future," he said. "They wanted me to stay out of the streets and have what they never did."

Dale will be the first in his family to attend college. In his free time, Dale enjoys playing all kinds of sports.

"I am an 'outdoorsy' kind of guy," he said. "If it has a ball, I'll play it."

When asked what he loves about football, he responds enthusiastically. "You have to rely on your teammates and that creates camaraderie. There are no individuals in football."

Although football is significant to him, Dale stresses his education is his priority.

"My education is much more important than football. I mean realistically I could break my leg tomorrow."

Dale said he recognizes many instances where he could have chosen the wrong path.

"People I knew accepted drugs, alcohol and a lot of negative things as normal," he said. "I could have done that, but it just didn't feel right. I have to say that I feel blessed that I saw something better for myself."

Dale said he feels fortunate to have substantial figures in his life who have inspired him to make good choices.

One person in particular, Marcus Stubblefield, a case manager at SafeFutures, has been a mentor to him since he was 12.

"He's like a second dad or an older brother to me," Dale says. "His work isn't work to him. You can tell he genuinely cares about the kids he works with."

This story originally appeared in the West Seattle Herald.

Community notes

Voice mail available

High Point residents, if you do not have a phone you can still have a phone number.

Laser voice mail is your way of keeping in contact with family, friends and employers. You can check your messages any time of day or hour.

Call the High Point Community Council at (206) 938-4667 to set up an appointment to set up your Laser voice mail box.

Community Council meeting

The High Point Community Council

meets at 6 p.m. on the second Monday of every month at Holly Hall.

For more information call (206) 938-4667.

Sunday service and dinner

Every Sunday, Pastor Deborah Dinkins offers Sunday school and worship services for High Point residents.

Afterward, a free dinner is offered. Sunday school starts at noon and the service begins at 1 p.m.

The services and the dinner are held in the old YMCA building at 300 S.W. Graham St.

RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

SHA seeks city funds for Central Park

By JAMES OWENBY
Seattle Housing Authority

To promote recreation and provide residents with some fun places to relax, the Seattle Housing Authority is building six parks in the redeveloped Rainier Vista. The largest, Central Park, will be nearly an acre large and is about 50 percent complete.

The Housing Authority recently submitted a request to the Seattle Parks and Recreation's Opportunity Fund for over \$200,000 to finish building the park.

The agency hopes to draw from the fund, which was created by a \$198.2 million tax approved by Seattle voters in November 2000.

The levy was designed to pay for more than 100 projects across the city, implementing park and open space priorities, improving athletic fields, building pedestrian and bike trails and expanding recreation programs for youth and seniors.

The Opportunity Fund was created to pay for projects that were unforeseen at the time levy dollars were allocated. That fund currently has \$3 million to invest in community projects.

The Housing Authority has already spent

over \$200,000 to build Central Park, completing grading, utility work, irrigation and the construction of paths, steps and railings on the site.

Central Park is located in the west half of Rainier Vista and will be surrounded by single-family homes, townhouses and cottages.

It is expected to be an outdoor recreational resource for residents of Rainier Vista and the surrounding neighborhood.

When finished, neighbors will enjoy lawns with benches, lighted walking paths, two half basketball courts, a tetherball court, a playground and a stage pavilion positioned at the highest point in the park. The stage will boast views of Mt Rainier.

SHA officials said they expect to have a good idea whether or not they will receive funds this spring.

If granted, the funds will pay for the installation of the landscaping, lighting, play equipment, play surfacing and the construction of the stage.

If SHA is not chosen, the agency will look for other avenues to raise the money. The Parks department's official announcement of Opportunity Fund projects will be made this summer.

Dedication earns resident great career, new home



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Su Nguyen has been providing child care in Rainier Vista for many years.

By LARRY HILL AND VAN VO
Seattle Housing Authority

Su Nguyen is a sterling example of what the positive power of perseverance, goal setting and dedication can accomplish.

Nguyen moved to the United States from Vietnam in 1991, speaking very little English and without work to support herself and her family.

In 1995, she and her family moved to Rainier Vista. Three years later, when she found out child care training was available to interested Rainier Vista residents, Nguyen took action.

She said she saw this type of career as an excellent choice. Working from her own home meant she could continue to provide the excellent parental guidance that is making her children successful today.

One of her sons will graduate from the University of Washington this summer.

Nguyen diligently attended all the trainings, received all the necessary certifications and soon got a license from the state to provide childcare from her home.

With the help of Jobs-Plus, now The Job Connection, Nguyen was able to leverage assistance to build a fence around her home – a required feature of in-home day care

businesses – and to buy some needed supplies and toys.

Business has been good ever since.

Nguyen is a talented, caring and very capable provider of child care services in Southeast Seattle. Local parents, several from Rainier Vista, have come to rely upon her services as they enter the local workforce. This has made Nguyen a valuable asset to her neighborhood.

After a great business start and three good years of operation, Nguyen was able to buy a lovely house of her own on Columbian Way, just a few blocks from Rainier Vista.

This has been great. Her customers all live very close by, and she has been able to continue her much sought-after service to them without interruption.

Nguyen remains in touch with The Job Connection staff. Her new home is beautifully landscaped and is a happy place with smiling kids and lots of flowers in the yard.

Nguyen's child care remains at its limit of six children, but she can be contacted at (206) 725-1357.

Larry Hill and Van Vo are job placement specialists with The Job Connection. They can be reached at (206) 722-4010.

Two new Rainier Vista buildings take shape

By VOICE STAFF

Tucked among the new apartments and homes on the west side of Rainier Vista, two larger structures are taking shape.

Directly on Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Providence Health System is building a four-story apartment complex that will provide homes for low-income seniors.

Set back a bit from the street, Neighborhood House is building a service center to house Head Start classrooms, a computer lab and other community programs.

The Providence building, called Gamelin House, will have three floors of 516 square foot apartments for adults aged 62 and over.

The building's first floor will be home to three retail spaces and Providence ElderPlace, a program that provides health care and social services for older adults.

The building will also have a large community room for residents, a computer room, fitness room and a smaller, more intimate lounge. Outside, there will be a deck with raised flower beds and a nearby P-Patch for avid gardeners.

"Community will be strongly emphasized at Gamelin House," said Mary Anne Grafton, housing director for the new building. "It will be a great place to live."

Grafton expects the building to open by the end of April. Most of the units are already filled, but those who qualify can be placed on the waiting list. To find out more about the Gamelin House waiting list, call Kate Loeb at (206) 464-3030.

Nearby, Neighborhood House's Rainier Vista Center is in its home stretch, with construction expected to be completed in June.

The building will have two 1,000 square foot Head Start classrooms and an indoor



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

Contractors plant a Katsura tree that will soon be big enough for climbing.

play area. In a few years, the center's outside playground will have a living tree big enough to climb.

"The atmosphere will be perfect for children's growth and learning," said Carol Walter, capital campaign manager for Neighborhood House.

The center will also be home to the agency's family service case managers and the Rainier Vista Technology Center, a computer lab and learning center that will be open to the public. A conference room will also be available for use by any community group, free of charge.

The International District Housing Alliance, Horn of Africa and Seattle Housing Authority will also have offices in the building.

"This center will be a great resource to the Rainier Vista community," Walter said.

Community notes

Explore the Pacific

The Rainier Valley Youth Theater, Seattle's only multicultural arts camp will be diving into the Pacific this summer.

Kids aged 7 to 11 can participate in four week-long camp sessions focusing on the arts and culture of Hawaii, Samoa and greater Polynesia.

Morning sessions will feature performing arts, including acting, hula, chanting and storytelling.

Afternoon sessions focus on visual arts such as lei-making and ceremonial dress. All sessions are led by professional artist educators from Seattle and Hawaii.

Each week culminates with a performance and visual art display that is open to all participating families, friends and the community.

The camp begins July 5 and runs through July 29, taking place Monday

through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., except for the first week which runs from Tuesday through Saturday. Kids are welcome to register for one, two, three or four weeks.

One-week scholarships are available for low-income families. Work-trade opportunities are also available for parents who are able to help out during the camp.

Rainier Valley Youth Theater is a program of SouthEast Effective Development.

For more information or to register call (206) 725-7169 or send an e-mail to rvyt@seedseattle.org.

Leadership team meets

The Rainier Vista Leadership Team meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call the Leadership Team at (206) 721-1284.

NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

Somber homecoming

NewHolly resident returns to Indonesia, witnesses tsunami destruction, plans help



PHOTO BY ADRON YUSUF

Adron Yusuf witnessed extreme destruction in his native land.

By LORA CROPPER
Voice reporter

It's 9 a.m. on a Sunday morning in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

A group of men are sipping coffee while enjoying the Sunday breakfast special at a favorite local restaurant. The streets of the nearby market are filled with people from the city and the surrounding areas.

Many came in early, hoping to do their weekly shopping quickly and return to their families to enjoy the rest of the day.

On this particular Sunday, however, these typical rituals would be interrupted by one of the worst natural disasters mankind has seen.

On this day, a tsunami hit Southeast Asia and parts of India and Africa. A 9.0 earthquake rocked Banda Aceh shortly before tremendous waves toppled the entire town and its surrounding areas.

To many, it was a terrible disaster that happened in a far away place. But this tragedy wasn't so far away to one NewHolly resident, Adron Yusuf.



Adron Yusuf

Banda Aceh, one of the worst devastated areas, was his home. Upon hearing of the tsunami, Yusuf took the first flight back to Indonesia.

"I just thought, 'I'm going to go over and find my family,'" he said. "I didn't realize that it would be impossible."

With debris blanketing the area – up to 4 to 10 feet in some places – it was impossible to search for loved ones.

Although Yusuf grew up in Banda Aceh, he said that, upon arriving, he could not find his relatives' homes. There were no street signs, no landmarks, absolutely nothing left. Where a neighborhood home to thousands once stood, there was only the battered structure of a nearby mosque.

"Everything's gone," Yusuf said. "It was hard to see such destruction. I can't find any words that can explain that. It was horrible."

Yusuf lost cousins, neices and nephews in the tragedy.

During the month following the tsunami, as Banda Aceh moved from prime time

news, to secondary news, to yesterday's news, Yusuf documented his experience with photographs.

He took pictures of what little remained and listened to the stories of the survivors.

One of the coffee drinkers, a survivor Yusuf met during his trip, said he is still numb from the experience. He survived that morning, while the friends with whom he shared breakfast did not.

Yusuf's photos highlight similar unimaginable images. There is a highway whose asphalt foundation has been ripped off by the force of the waves, leaving only a dirt path. There are several ships left to rest on top of a two-story building.

There are trucks and cars so mangled it is hard to discern what these large pieces of metal once were. And there is a woman doing laundry, refusing to leave the place where her family and home once stood.

Yusuf said he realized that the world may be quick to forget this region, but those who are there cannot forget.

He was able to donate several supplies to the community he visited, including tarps, building tools and school supplies. He says his current goal is to focus on rebuilding schools.

"There is still a spirit of learning," he said, even though an estimated 2,000 schools and 2,500 skilled, foreign-trained teachers were lost. Attendance has now tripled, Yusuf said, and the kids continue to come.

They may not have shoes, they may not have a place to call home and they may have lost all of their family, but Yusuf says that they are motivated to learn.

Yusuf is also looking for Seattle-based schools or communities that would like to adopt a school in Indonesia.

These individuals would help raise money and write letters, reminding the children that the world is still thinking of them. In raising money to rebuild the schools, he also would like to help awareness about the need that still exists in Banda Aceh.

If you are interested in seeing Yusuf's videos and photos, or if you would like to become involved in the relief effort, contact Lora Cropper at the NewHolly Youth Tutoring Program (206) 725-7942 or by e-mail at holly@ytpseattle.org. Cropper will be collecting donations from those in the NewHolly area.

Support helps historic house stay in community

By KARI SHERRODD
Seattle Housing Authority

By the end of this summer, the historic Lee House will be restored and returned to NewHolly as a community meeting space and office space for nonprofits.

The pre-World War II home was moved in 2003 to protect it from construction. It was recently returned to a new foundation on its original location, directly behind the Othello Building. The building is now called the Harry Thomas Community Center at Lee House.

Thanks to Habitat for Humanity and Polygon Northwest, one of Othello Station's homebuilders, the historic house will be restored to its original character. Polygon offered to install new roofing and do all of the exterior finishing work. Habitat for Humanity will provide the labor for the interior finish and trim.

"I am so grateful to both Polygon and Habitat for this help," said Carter Hart, development project coordinator with the Seattle Housing Authority. "I am very happy that Lee House will remain a historic bridge across the entire neighborhood history from before Holly Park existed, through all of the years of Holly Park, and now into the new era of Othello Station."

The house was originally home to Se-



PHOTO BY KARI SHERRODD

Lee House is being relocated and preserved.

attle police officer Charles Lee and his family for more than 20 years.

When World War II efforts expanded, the city needed the land to build housing for defense workers, and Lee's family had to leave their home. Although the Lee property was used for defense worker housing, the house itself remained intact as a community hall.

In the 1950s, SHA took over Holly Park and used the Lee House to serve the low-income residents.

Donations are still needed to help fully complete the Harry Thomas Community Center at Lee House. To make a donation, or for more information, contact Carter Hart at (206) 615-3525 or by e-mail at chart@seattlehousing.org.

Welcoming friends



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

NewHolly resident Soriya Ton paints a batik banner that reads "welcome" in Khmer. A group gathered last month in the NewHolly teen center to finish work on a series of batik banners. The project was funded by a City of Seattle Small Sparks grant secured last summer by Lisa Wilson. "I wanted to do it because there's not many opportunities for us to get together and do something creative," she said.

Community notes

A chance for spring and summer fun

Now is the time to start planning for your spring or summer block party.

Block parties can be a potluck picnic or barbecue and include organized family games or art activities. Each block party is different, but all help neighbors form relationships and promote safe and friendly communities.

If you'd like to close down your street for the party, we need to obtain

a street closure permit at least 90 days in advance. We also have a small fund to help pay for your permit and event supplies. You can also reserve small tents and a limited supply of outdoor tables and chairs for your function.

If anyone is interested in planning a block party, please contact Joy Bryngelson, NewHolly community builder at (206) 723-1725 or by e-mail at jrbryngelson@seattlehousing.org.

YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

Artwork creates whirlwind at new community center

By VOICE STAFF

A stainless steel, gazebo-like sculpture stands whimsically in front of the new Yesler Terrace Community Center.

Artist Ela Lamblin said he hopes the piece draws attention to the passage of time and the sounds of place.

As the wind blows, ball-bearings twist the top of the structure, causing chimes to ring.

The sounds are more than just tones, but a recognizable melody based on classical Indian compositions.

Lamblin calls the artwork Whirl Piece.

"I was looking for a name that was all-inclusive off the different communities that live here," he said. "It was both whimsical and had an idea that everyone could get behind."

The piece was made possible by the Art in Public Places program, a state program that requires that one percent of funds spent to build new public buildings be set aside for artwork on the site.

The new community center was built with money from a levy approved by Seattle voters in 1999.

The Parks and Recreation Department decided to ask artists to create three-dimensional artworks that would add an interactive presense to the entry way of each



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELA LAMBLIN

Artist Ela Lamblin says he hopes his sculpture creates a feeling of joy in the community.

building and serve to welcome people as they come and go from the building.

Lamblin said his piece has already received a lot of attention from the kids who use the center.

"The kids come up to me and say, 'What's that?' I say, 'It's a sculpture,' and they say, 'A sculpture of what?'" he said. "I tell them, 'It's something unique, like nothing else anywhere.'"

Basketball court to be renovated

By VOICE STAFF

Neighborhood House will be working with volunteers from Temple Beth Am to begin renovating a Yesler Terrace basketball court on Sunday, April 3.

The day will be a Mitzvah Day for Temple volunteers, which is a day about doing, repairing, sharing and giving – each person taking responsibility to help, heal and enhance the community.

The project is being led by Lindsay Anderson, who is both an AmeriCorps volunteer and the Neighborhood House volunteer coordinator.

Temple Beth Am volunteers will work with Anderson to measure and paint lines on the court, create a temporary banner to mark the site and distribute flyers to resi-

dents to inform them of the project.

The court is tucked between the Yesler Terrace homes on Broadway Avenue, Yesler Way and Eighth Avenue.

Neighborhood House was founded in 1906 as settlement house by the National Council of Jewish Women.

More than 99 years later, community partnerships remain an integral part of the organization's mission to help diverse communities of people with limited resources attain their goals for self-sufficiency.

To learn more about the court renovation or volunteering at Neighborhood House, contact Anderson at (206) 461-8430 ext. 228 or by e-mail at lindsaya@nhwa.org.

Play group welcomes you

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The pitter patter of little feet could be heard on a recent Friday afternoon in the Yesler Community Room, just next door to Neighborhood House.

That's because the Cascade People's Center has started a "Play and Learn" group that meets every Friday afternoon from 1 to 3 p.m.

Children up to the age of 5 are invited,

along with their caregiver, to the sessions which are led by trained facilitators in English and Vietnamese.

The play group is intended to help children be ready for school, provide support for parents and caregivers and help everyone have a little bit of fun.

It also give parents a little bit of a break.

For more information about the program call Myla or Ngoc at (206) 587-0320.

Council election approaching

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Are you interested in getting involved in your community? Do you want to make sure your neighbors' voices are heard as decisions are made affecting housing?

If you or someone you know is interested serving on the Yesler Terrace Community Council Board, nomination forms are available at the Yesler Terrace Management Office and the lobby at Yesler Neighborhood House.

In order to run for office, residents must have attended at least one community council meeting in the past six months and be over the age of 16.

The election will take place on May 10. It was delayed from the normal April date in order to allow more time to seek interested residents.

For more information, contact Community Builder Ellen Ziontz at (206) 343-7484.

Notes from the manager

By JUDI CARTER

Community Manager

The winter was very warm and mild, which caused the grass and plants to start growing earlier than they would normally.

Many people have been asking when the tool shop will open, so that they can cut the grass.

Good news!

On or about April 4, the tool shop will open again. The hours of operation will be from 1 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The address remains at 117 Broadway, on the side of unit 631.

We will have push mowers, rakes, electric weed eaters with cords and goggles for Yesler Terrace residents to check out for 24 hours. If you check out the tools on Friday afternoon you can keep them for the whole weekend.

Wouldn't it be great if we could make every yard look as nice as the grounds around the new community center?

The Mayor of the City of Seattle has declared that Seattle residents need to do a better job of recycling. I know that I often see recycle bins out on the curb which have things in them that should not be there.

Just as a reminder, here is what should go into your recycle bins: clean paper and mail (if you shred your mail or papers, the shreds need to be put in a tied clear plastic

bag), flattened cardboard (but no pizza boxes or boxes with grease or food on them), rinsed out milk and juice boxes, clean frozen food boxes, plastic bottles and jugs that have been rinsed out and the lids thrown away, clean plastic dairy tubs from margarine or yogurt, plastic shopping bags stuffed into one bag and tied off and aluminum or tin cans.

To get your recycling ready, you should empty recyclables into the bin. Put them in loosely so they can be easily sorted. Place clean empty paper bags and flattened boxes into the bin.

If you have too much recycling to fit into your bin, come to the management office to get a clear plastic recycle bag.

Never leave your bin out after recycle pick up day, and don't put it out until the evening before the every-other-Wednesday pick up.

Also, as a reminder, if you have not paid the deposit for having a garden in your yard, now would be a good time to make arrangements to pay it. Soon, the deposit for a garden will be going up to \$250. It is only \$50 now.

We will be enforcing this deposit this spring, so it would be a fine idea to take care of that right now.

Speaking of yards and gardens, watch this column for mention of a fabulous yard in next month's issue.

Community notes

Tutoring at Yesler Terrace

Yesler Terrace Tutoring Center sessions are held Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. for elementary and middle school students.

On Wednesday, sessions are held from 5 to 7 p.m. for high school students. The tutoring center is located in the Yesler Community Center's community room.

Any student who lives in Yesler Terrace and is between the first and twelfth grades can enroll in the program. There may be a waiting list.

For more information call (206) 682-5590.

Vietnamese Tea time

Bring your friends, have fun and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and cookies.

Join us for Vietnamese Tea Time on the second Thursday of each month from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Yesler Terrace Community Room.

This is a chance to spend time with your neighbors and discuss whatever topics may be on your mind. Translators are available.

The event is sponsored by the Seattle Housing Authority and Neighborhood House

For more information contact Kathy Nguyen at (206) 461-8430 ext. 258.

Getting started with computers

The Seattle Parks and Recreation department is sponsoring a basic class for anyone interested in learning more about computers.

Topics include introduction to Windows and the Internet and basic skills using software for word processing, spreadsheets and typing.

The class meets at the Yesler Terrace Community Center twice a week for four weeks. Registration is ongoing.

For more information call Computer Lab Coordinator Asfaha Lemlem at (206) 386-1245.

