



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



# The Voice

July  
2005  
Articles translated  
into six languages

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

## Groundbreaking for Greenbridge redevelopment takes the cake

By CLAUDE IOSSO  
King County Housing Authority

**WHITE CENTER** – As bulldozers rumbled across the actual construction site, elected officials and children from Park Lake Homes clustered around a cake decorated like the hilly terrain of the soon-to-be-redeveloped housing community.

As cameras clicked, they took little green trowels and dug in.

With this, the King County Housing Authority officially “broke ground” on its new mixed-income community Greenbridge last month.

The fanfare was part of a ceremony held in the parking lot of the Wiley Community Center.

Speakers included U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, Congressman Jim McDermott, King County Executive Ron Sims and a Park Lake resident who is a star student at White Center’s Evergreen High School.

A bridge with a green railing, built over a “river” of crushed blue and green glass, symbolized the great step KCHA is taking with the redevelopment.

“This project is more than building homes; it will revitalize a community,” said Sen. Murray, who has battled steadily for housing funding in Washington, D.C. “Greenbridge will ensure that White Center remains strong and vibrant for generations to come.”

County Councilman Dow Constantine said, “This is not just an opportunity to pat ourselves on the back. We’re here to publicly acknowledge that we are on the way to realizing our collective dreams for a new community.”

Guests were invited to share their vi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF KING COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Yordanos Fesehaye, a Park Lake resident who spoke at the Greenbridge groundbreaking, takes a moment to smile at the camera during the event.

sions for Greenbridge in notes cast into a whiskey barrel planter painted to look like a wishing pond.

“On behalf of the residents,” said Yordanos Fesehaye, the Evergreen High senior who will attend the University of Washington on a scholarship this fall, “I want to express gratitude to all those who are making Greenbridge possible.”

Greenbridge will replace Park Lake Homes I, the 569-unit sprawl of World War II-era duplexes that was KCHA’s largest and oldest development. Nearly half of the homes at Park Lake I are still standing, not due for demolition until late 2006.

The Wiley Center is also undergoing

renovation.

The development, including both the rental public housing and the array of services offered in the community, has been a boon to poor immigrants striving for a better life in their new country. The \$35 million federal HOPE VI grant KCHA received in 2001 ensured a new future for the community.

Greenbridge will feature 300 low-income rental units, at least 154 low- to moderate-income rental units and up to 475 for-sale units in an array of designs, complemented by parks and trails.

Greenbridge will offer many services  
**Please see “Greenbridge” on page 3**

## Chambers packed at city council forum on immigration

By JAMES OWENBY  
Seattle Housing Authority

Roughly 200 people gathered in late May for the Seattle City Council’s first forum on immigrant and refugee issues. The crowd, which included East African and Southeast Asian refugees and Latino immigrants, mirrored the changing demographics of Seattle neighborhoods.

The event, called “The Changing Face of Seattle’s Immigrant and Refugee Communities,” was organized by City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen in conjunction with Hate Free Zone Washington, an immigration and civil rights organization.

The nearly two-hour forum was translated live into five languages and was designed to illuminate issues immigrants face in the realms of education, justice, immigration, housing and access to services.

“The crowd here is a crowd we don’t often see in City Hall,” Pramila Jayapal, the founder of Hate Free Zone Washington, told a Seattle Post-Intelligencer reporter. “In Seattle, we pride ourselves in being liberal on issues like the environment. But on (immigration) we are behind.”

Jayapal set the stage by providing recent immigration statistics.

During the 1990s, she said, the U.S. foreign born population grew by 57.4 percent. Between 1990 and 2000, one in two new workers was foreign born and one in five children in the U.S. was the child of an immigrant. Immigration is shifting from European countries to Latin American, Asian, Caribbean and African countries.

“Seattle is no different,” she said, adding that 17 percent of Seattle’s population is made up of immigrants, up 40 percent from the previous decade. Seattle also saw a 320 percent increase in immigrants from Africa between 1990 and 2000, she said.

Members of the forum’s presentation panel, including Jasmit Singh, co-founder of Education for the Sikh Coalition Washington and Julio Sanchez, an advocate for

**Please see “Immigrants...” on page 2**

## Seattle museum hosts housing exhibit

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The need to design and build affordable housing in the United States remains urgent, or so demonstrates a traveling exhibit entitled “Affordable Housing: Designing an American Asset” which opened at Seattle’s Museum of History and Industry last month.

The exhibit, organized by the National

Building Museum in Washington, D.C., highlights more than a dozen housing projects from across the United States that embody good architectural and environmental design despite the tight budgets associated with low-cost housing. The exhibit will run through August 28.

MOHAI has also mounted a small exhibition alongside the traveling one that puts

affordable housing into a Seattle context. That exhibit will include photographs of Seattle’s earliest public housing at Yesler Terrace, recent mixed-income developments at New Holly and Rainier Vista, and King County Housing Authority’s new Redmond development, the Village at Overlake Station.

**Please see “Exhibit” on page 2**

### In this issue

<b>Health Notes</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
EARLY DENTAL CARE	
<b>One to grow on</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
GUARDING AGAINST APHIDS	
<b>Dig in to books</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
LIBRARY’S SUMMER READING PROGRAM CAN HELP	
<b>Translations</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
FARMERS MARKET SEASON IS BACK	

### Quotable

**“I really applaud the courage and tenacity of those who were willing to participate and try to change things for the better.”**

*Seattle Housing Authority Community Builder Kari-lynn Frank on the immigrants and refugees who took part in a City Council forum on immigrant issues.*

**See story on this page**

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## Health Notes

A column devoted to your well-being

### Start early with good dental care

By **MARTHA MORENO & GENE BECK DDS**  
*Special to the Voice*

Even before we see a baby's first tooth, it is important that we teach good dental care habits. Dental professionals are now urging parents to start caring for children's teeth from the time they are born.

This may be surprising to many parents who still believe that dental care starts at school age or when permanent teeth start to grow, but early care is essential to the development of healthy teeth and habits.

#### What kind of dental care do young children need?

It is important to start caring for your infant's teeth when they are born. Clean your baby's gums with a soft washcloth or soft infant toothbrush and water.

When their teeth grow in, teach your child that cleaning teeth is necessary, fun and easy. Parents should supervise and help children as they brush until the child reaches age 9 or 10. Before this age, children lack the coordination to properly brush their teeth, so parents really need to help out.

Brushing at least twice a day in a circular motion for two minutes provides the best results.

#### How does a baby bottle hurt my child's teeth?

Baby bottle tooth decay is a big concern for infants. Children run a higher risk of getting early childhood cavities from using the bottle at night, napping with a bottle or nursing for long periods of time.

Dentists recommend weaning children off the bottle by age one. A good alternative is to use a sippy cup, or cup with a small spout. Encourage your child to use it at meals or when thirsty.

Also, dentists recommend that you only serve your children juice and milk at meals. In between meals, give your children water to drink when they are thirsty.

#### When should I first take my child to the dentist?

First visit by first birthday is recommended. Your child should see the dentist at age 1 or when their first tooth comes in.

Establishing a "dental home" for your child allows for early intervention and prevention of future dental problems. This

will also teach children early on that the dentist office is not a place to fear.

Some parents wait until the child has severe decay before taking them to the dentist, which can be painful and traumatic for the child.

Establishing a good relationship with your dentist early can make all the difference for your child.

#### Why is oral health so important?

Poor oral health can lead to many other problems including missing school. More than 50 million school hours are lost every year because of dental disease and treatment. On school surveys, dental pain is a leading reason mentioned for why children miss school.

According to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, preventive dentistry means a healthy smile for your child. Children with healthy mouths chew more easily and gain more nutrients from the foods they eat. They learn to speak more clearly and quickly. They have a better chance of general health, because disease in the mouth can endanger the rest of the body. A healthy mouth is more attractive, giving children confidence in their appearance. Finally, preventive dentistry means less extensive treatment for your child.

#### What happens during a child's dental visit?

Preventative dentistry aims to protect your child's teeth. The initial visit usually involves a fluoride varnish for the child, dental education on what to expect in the months ahead and some tips to promote healthy habits. This begins a relationship between the dental team and the family.

The dental visit becomes more comprehensive as the child gets older to include x-rays, a more thorough cleaning and placement of sealants to protect against tooth decay.

After this, it's smooth sailing with a check-up and cleaning every six months.

Martha Moreno is the health services coordinator and Dr. Gene Beck is a dentist for High Point Medical and Dental Clinic. High Point Medical and Dental Clinic is part of Puget Sound Neighborhood Health Centers. PSNHC provides medical and dental services at 17 different locations in the Seattle area. You can visit PSNHC on the Internet at <http://www.psnhc.org>.

### Exhibit

Continued from front page

The housing communities featured in the exhibit demonstrate how the country's most gifted architects are designing attractive, efficient homes for low-income families in both urban and rural settings.

By providing facts about the state of affordable housing, the exhibition also provides a context in which viewers understand the importance of well-designed homes for the growing number of low-income Americans.

For example, one display points out that a household with only one member working at minimum wage can't afford a one bedroom apartment in any county in the United States. To afford the median fair-market price of a two-bedroom rental unit in the U.S., a worker would have to earn a wage of \$12.47 per hour, more than 240 percent of the current national minimum wage of \$5.15.

MOHAI is located in the Montlake neighborhood at 2700 24<sup>th</sup> Ave. E, just off the University exit of SR 520. It is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (206) 324-1126.

## Immigrants speak out



PHOTO BY JAMES OWENBY

Hundreds gathered to listen to a panel discussion on issues immigrants face in Seattle.

### Continued from front page

immigrants and minorities, spoke about efforts to organize new citizens and discussed the challenges faced by immigrant youth in public schools.

"No matter where you stand on the immigration issue, the children of today are going to be the workers of tomorrow," said Singh. "If we impart on them the right tools, they will be contributing members of society. If we fail to do that job, they will be dependent on the Social Security system and all the social systems that we have in place."

Some 25 percent of all students in Seattle's public schools are bilingual, he said, yet test scores for these students lag significantly behind the district average. He suggested the district consider recruiting teachers who reflect the changing student demographic and training them in cross-cultural awareness. He also spoke of the importance of offering parents easier access to interpreters.

Sanchez spoke about the barriers immigrants face to working in the United States.

He advocated for increased support for job training, more funding for ESL classes and the creation of a city department to address immigrant worker issues.

In fact, Sanchez also advocated for the creation of a larger city department of immigrant affairs that would seek to understand local immigration dynamics, increase culture and language sensitivity, create links to mainstream institutions, encourage civic engagement and provide workforce support.

After the presentations, the panel took questions from participants, including several from immigrants and refugees who spoke through translators.

"The active engagement of the community members in this forum sends a strong message about the need to examine how vital services are delivered in Seattle," said Kari-lynn Frank, a High Point community builder representing the Seattle Housing Authority at the forum. "I really applaud the courage and tenacity of those who were willing to participate to try to change things for the better."

## Vehicle thefts affect everyone's insurance rates

By **JEFFREY TAYLOR**  
*State Farm® agent*

Whether it's the work of elaborate theft rings or random individual crime, auto theft is big business. On average, a vehicle is stolen every 25 seconds in the United States at a cost of about \$8 billion a year. Insurance for theft is included in the comprehensive part of your auto insurance policy which also covers fire, vandalism and weather-related damage.

The number of insured cars stolen and their cost directly affect insurance premiums.

By taking a few precautions, you can reduce your chances of having your vehicle stolen. Always remove your keys from your parked vehicle. Park with your front wheels turned sharply to the right or left and apply the emergency brake, this will make it difficult for a thief to tow your car.

Consider installing an anti-theft de-

vice or buying a car with an immobilizer system that prevents a thief from driving off with the car. Park your car in a locked garage, patrolled or well-lit area whenever possible.

Unfortunately, carjacking has become a more common method of vehicle theft. Carjacking is the attempted or completed robbery of a vehicle by a stranger that includes the use of a threat or force. You can protect yourself from this crime by refusing to roll down your car window to a suspicious person and keeping your car doors locked and windows rolled up. If a suspicious person is near your parked car, don't approach it. Keep walking and contact area security or police.

Insurance companies work together with the National Insurance Crime Bureau to crack down on criminal operations. If you suspect vehicle theft activity, notify your local police, or call the NICB anonymously at 1-800-TEL-NICB.

### 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.

**NH** Neighborhood House

## Fresh vegetables still available at local gardens

By MICHELLE JONES  
*Special to the Voice*

The growing season is well underway, and the Cultivating Communities program is still looking for households interested in buying weekly bags of organic produce.

The produce is grown by Seattle Housing Authority residents who are participating in community supported agriculture enterprises in the Rainier Vista, NewHolly, and High Point communities.

### Who are the farmers?

The farmers are recent immigrants from Southeast Asia. Most have been involved with the garden for one to four years and have farming experience from their native country.

### What is community supported agriculture and what is the benefit of subscribing?

Community supported agriculture is a marketing technique where local farmers provide fresh produce to paying subscribers. The subscriber receives a bag of seasonal produce each week.

By purchasing a subscription, you get to see where and how your food is grown, and you are guaranteed fresh, organic produce. You help provide an income for local farmers and give them the opportunity to practice English-speaking skills with their customers. You also provide yourself the opportunity to sample unfamiliar produce and try new recipes.

### What kinds of produce do I receive and how much do I get?

Produce will include traditional vegetables and herbs of the American diet such as lettuce, onions, peas, basil and carrots, as well as Asian vegetables like bok choy, and mustard greens. Each week you will

receive one to two grocery bags of seasonal produce that feeds three to six adults. Many households find that they cannot consume all of the produce in a week and choose to share it with one or two other households. We also have half-shares available.

### What does it cost?

A full share costs \$450 for 22 weeks of produce, but some of those weeks have already passed. The program is offering a prorated rate to those who sign up now. Payment installment plans are available.

### Where do I pick it up?

Pick up is underway at the Rainier Vista Sunrise Garden at the intersection of 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South and South Oregon Street on Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m. until Oct. 20.

Subscriptions are also available at the NewHolly Most Abundant Garden, just north of the intersection of South Myrtle and 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, on Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m. until Oct. 20.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church at 111 N.E. 80<sup>th</sup> St. also has a program with pick up on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to dusk. It runs until Oct. 22.

St. Therese Catholic Church at 3416 E. Marion Street has pick ups on Sundays from 10 a.m. to noon until Oct. 23.

Finally, pickup is on at the High Point Market Garden on Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. until Oct. 19. The garden is located at the intersection of 32nd Avenue Southwest and Southwest Juneau Street.

### How do I subscribe?

Those interested can subscribe by contacting Michelle Jones at (206) 723-0678 or by e-mail at michellej58@hotmail.com.

*Michelle Jones is the CSA subscriber coordinator for Cultivating Communities, a collaboration of the Friends of P-Patch, City of Seattle and SHA.*

## Library makes summer reading fun, exciting



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Reading brings two friends together at the International District branch opening.

By VOICE STAFF

Encourage your children to read this summer by placing them in your nearest library's summer reading program.

Programs are free and geared toward children of all ages.

Reading books is at the center of the programs, which also include fun events for every member of the family.

Librarians help participants keep track of each book they've read, and those who read ten over the course of the summer can choose a brand new book to take home.

Parents are encouraged to enroll their youngest children in the program—reading a book to them counts toward the reward.

Seattle Public Library officials said the

program is important because research shows children who stop reading during the summer months often lag behind when they return to school in the fall.

To make sure families are drawn back to the library again and again, the summer reading program includes a number of fun events, including nature programs, puppet shows and musical performances.

Events for teenagers, including spoken word poetry events and movie nights, are also scheduled. To find out more about enrolling in the reading program or for a calendar of events, contact your local library branch. To locate the branch closest to you, call (206) 386-4636 in Seattle or 1-800-462-9600 in King County.



## One to grow on

Garden tips for community gardeners

### Keeping aphids out of your garden

By ANZA MUENCHOW  
*Special to the Voice*

Summer is here.

The days are long and the plants are loving the light. The warm temperatures are good for maximum plant growth. But the third element for plant growth is moisture and this is the problem.

The Pacific Northwest typically has a summer drought. For most plants, gardeners must add two to three inches of water per week to their soil. The best time to water is in the morning, which allows the plants to be fully hydrated before the heat of the day and allows the water to evaporate off the leaves before evening.

We have many plant pathogens that thrive on wet leaves at night so it's best to keep water off the leaves in the evening. If you cannot water during the morning, take care to water only the soil, not the plants. I recommend using drip irrigation. It uses less water and applies it at the root zone. Soaker hoses are easily purchased at the local hardware or lawn and garden store. They work for many years and are often made of recycled products.

After planting the vegetable bed, lay out your drip system around the base of the plants and check the soil regularly to see how often to run it. The soil must be damp but not soggy to about two inches down.

When plants are stressed for water, a common problem is aphid infestation.

Aphids are small, soft-bodied gray or green insects that suck the juices from your plants. Some have wings, but mostly they just cluster tightly on the growing tips of plants. They carry disease and exude a sticky substance that causes black sooty mold to grow on the plants.

The best organic method of controlling aphids is a good spray of water to knock

them off the leaves. Repeat this several days in a row.

For stronger control, add a few drops of mild soap in a spray bottle of water sprayed directly on the infected area. However some plants (especially fuchsia) are sensitive to soap so try with just water first.

A healthy population of natural predators is the best guard against aphids. The primary predator for aphids is lady bugs. Learn to recognize the lady bug larvae because it is at this stage that they eat the most aphids. The larva is a tiny black or gray alligator-looking bug that sometimes has irregular orange spots.

Other predators include spiders, syrphid fly and wasps. There's a tiny wasp, called trychagamna, that lays its eggs on the soft bodied "host" aphid where they hatch and eat out the inside of the aphid. The carcass is easily identified by its goldish brown color. Leave these empty aphid carcasses on your plant so all the baby wasps will emerge and protect your garden.

The Northwest berries are coming into the markets now. Raspberries and blueberries are simple to grow and best eaten fresh.

If you have a sunny site with adequate water, consider planting this perennial. You'll be happy next year when they start bearing fruit.

Berry cobblers and pies are traditional summer treats. If you have a surplus of fruit, making jams and jellies is fun and last for snacking all winter long. It is fast and easy to freeze a tray of berries and then pour them into a freezer bag to be used in the coming months.

Enjoy your summer harvest!

*Anza Muenchow is a P-Patch volunteer and an avid community gardener. If you have questions or comments, send her an e-mail at mahafarm@whidbey.net.*

### Greenbridge

Continued from front page

and shopping opportunities on Eighth Avenue Southwest, with a new elementary school and branch library near the village plaza.

Greenbridge will be designed to mesh better with the surrounding unincorporated White Center neighborhood, and several speakers mentioned the development's potential for improving the area beyond its borders.

"White Center has a storied history as

a first community for wave after wave of immigrants," Constantine said. "Greenbridge will make it better for all of White Center because those immigrants' sons and daughters who were raised in White Center will now have an opportunity to invest in Greenbridge and call White Center their home, not just for a decade but for generations."

As one person who scribbled a note for the wishing pond described this connection, "May Greenbridge be a source of pride and delight for the White Center locale!"

### Community notes

#### Disaster preparedness information now available in Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese

Russian-, Spanish-, and Vietnamese-speaking individuals can now access important disaster preparedness information in their native languages on the Internet at <http://www.metrokc.gov/prepare/preparerespond/prepared.aspx>.

The King County Office of Emergency Management has recognized the importance of reaching native speakers of three of the most frequently spoken languages in King County.

In response, the office is now providing translated safety tips and resources in hopes of reaching more members of our diverse regional community.

This material highlights practical tips on putting together an emergency

preparedness plan and a disaster supplies kit, and a how-to guide for sheltering-in-place.

Resources also include a selection on emergency preparedness and links to public health information currently available on the Internet in Russian, Vietnamese, and Spanish.

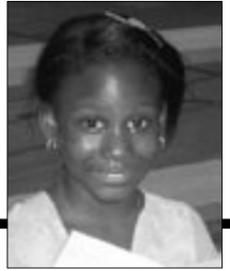
Teachers and contacts within the Russian, Vietnamese, and Spanish communities can also find the material in English, along with additional helpful preparedness tips, checklists, links and tools to teach safety information to children.

Additional links for other languages can also be found on the Personal Preparedness Multilingual page, which can be found on the Internet at <http://www.metrokc.gov/prepare/preparerespond/multilingual.aspx>.



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.

Voice of an angel  
TALENT SHOW WINNERS  
See page 5



# SHA NEWS

July  
2005

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

## Yesler celebrates Juneteenth with rhythm



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

Sumiya Diop, a Yesler Terrace Community Center dance teacher, provides the drum beat for her troupe as they perform a Nigerian welcoming dance. The Yesler Terrace community held its 12th-annual Juneteenth celebration last month with conversation, resource booths and a potluck feast. Juneteenth marks the end of slavery in Texas, which didn't happen until two years after the end of the Civil War. See story on page 7.

## New plan affirms service to extremely poor residents

### SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

In late May, the Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners approved the agency's strategic plan, which sets the Housing Authority's direction for the next five years.

The new plan, developed by agency staff in collaboration with the board, is entitled "Remaining committed in times of change." It addresses the challenge of continuing to serve those with the lowest incomes in the face of dwindling federal resources. The plan outlines strategies that will help SHA to become less dependent on federal subsidies.

Throughout the history of federal hous-

ing assistance, funding has fluctuated with the political tides. In recent years, annual cuts to housing assistance programs have become the norm and steep declines in federal funding are expected for at least the next several years.

To hold to its mission and honor its commitments to those who depend on SHA housing assistance, the agency intends to deal with impending shortfalls by lessening dependence on federal funding and becoming more efficient.

In order to achieve this, SHA plans to subsidize the lowest income residents by serving more people seeking workforce housing, including retail and administrative workers, teachers and police officers.

These working people are not at the lowest income levels, but they need rents that are more affordable than typically found in the private market. The revenue generated by this housing can provide cross-subsidies to serve SHA's traditional, very poor clientele.

Although this strategic direction broadens the range of housing needs that SHA addresses, it is consistent with its mission, authority and responsibilities under state law.

SHA can also address the need to be less dependent upon federal funding by becoming more entrepreneurial. This could include, for example, offering maintenance services to other low-income housing. Please see "Strategic plan" on page 2

## Board adopts new public housing rent policy

### Changes go into effect in October

By ANA MARIA KING  
Seattle Housing Authority

The Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners approved proposed changes to the public housing rent policy last month.

The changes will go into effect on Oct. 1 and will be implemented over a six to 12 month period.

After a month-long community feedback process and a public hearing in May, SHA staff drafted a recommendation for the board's vote. Most of the changes set forth in the original proposal are included, except for allowing student financial aid and income from caring for foster children to be available for rent.

In the next two months, SHA will tell residents how the changes will be implemented. Residents can also expect to find handouts and notices about the changes in their buildings' common rooms and management offices.

Employed residents will be most affected by the change, while disabled and elderly residents on a fixed income will see little impact.

Under the new rules, all households will be required to report increases in income of \$100 a month or more within 14 days of receiving the income. Rent may be increased

between annual reviews.

If a household fails to complete annual recertification, their housing subsidy will be removed and they will be charged the market rent for their unit as of the effective date of the household's annual recertification.

Employed households on a rent step (paying \$260 and \$390) will see their rent calculated as 30 percent of their income. These households will likely pay more rent. They will have six months notice of the change.

Households earning more than \$15,000 a year from employment will be eligible for a Tenant Trust Account, in which a portion of their rent is set aside in an account they can use for self-sufficiency purposes, such as education, starting a business or buying a home.

Families on TANF will most likely see a reduction because SHA will calculate rent on 30 percent of adjusted income, instead of 25 percent of gross income.

Households reporting zero income may have to pay rent based on TANF or unemployment benefits for which they appear to be eligible until they can show that they are not.

For questions about these changes, please contact Cindy Sribhibhadh, SHA property management administrator at (206) 615-3302.

## SHA passes budget for next fiscal year

### SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners passed a new budget last month.

Overall, the budget sets both revenues and expenses at lower levels than last year in response to changes in federal appropriations and the Housing Authority's efforts to become less dependent on federal funding.

Expenses will decrease by over a half million dollars.

"This is a pragmatic budget which positions the Seattle Housing Authority to operate responsibly in the face of continuing downward pressures on federal subsidy," said SHA Executive Director Tom Tierney. "Wherever possible we are trimming expenses and seeking to operate more efficiently with an eye to the future."

To that end, SHA will be cutting its staff by the equivalent of 24 employees.

Earlier this year a number of employees were laid off from the maintenance

department due to lack of work. With older communities in the process of being redeveloped, there is less need for extensive maintenance.

With the next cut, only some people will actually lose their jobs, others will be shifted to open positions within the agency.

With the 2006 fiscal year budget, the agency will begin a course toward renewing and increasing its asset base, through redevelopment and by leveraging all possible opportunities.

New communities at NewHolly, Rainier Vista and High Point are providing the most appropriate housing to low-income families while reducing operating expenses. New acquisitions, purchased largely with bond financing, help to serve a wider spectrum of residents.

With the new budget, SHA is also on a path to becoming more entrepreneurial. The organization will continue to seek ways to add to its revenue base, thus decreasing dependence on federal subsidy.

### In this section

SHA News	Page 2
RESIDENTS WIN SCHOLARSHIPS	
Point of View	Page 3
CAPITOL PARK CELEBRATES	
High Point Herald	Page 4
ASSOCIATION TO FORM	
Rainier Vista News	Page 5
WELCOME WAGON STARTS	
NewHolly Notes	Page 6
RENTAL COMPLETION CELEBRATED	
Yesler Happenings	Page 7
HARBORVIEW CONSTRUCTION EXPLAINED	
Translations	Page 8

## NewHolly redevelopment nears completion



PHOTO BY JAMES OWENBY

King County Executive Ron Sims addresses a crowd gathered at the Othello Station Market Garden to mark the completion of NewHolly's rental housing. For more information about the celebration, please see "Community celebrates NewHolly development" on page 6.

### SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Seattle Housing Authority received a planning grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1995 to study the possibility of replacing the distressed public housing project known as Holly Park with a new neighborhood.

Now, 12 years later, the work of countless staff members, residents and partners is nearing completion on NewHolly.

In June, the last of the 219 rental units in the final phase of the redevelopment, Othello Station, were completed and leased to their new residents. Also, all residents who had relocation rights at the site have been served.

"This is a significant milestone for all of Seattle," said SHA Executive Director Tom Tierney. "I am extremely proud of Holly Park's original residents, who have been our partners all the way along and have helped to make this new neighborhood a success. I am also proud of our SHA staff members, who have persevered through countless challenges to realize their vision of a highly functional new community."

By looking at NewHolly today, it may be hard to remember that the area was once an enclave of hopelessness and distressed housing.

Instead, the new neighborhood has been knitted back into the community with redrawn streets that match the area's street grid and with "New Urbanist" planning and design principles applied.

The housing was designed to knit together the people of the neighborhood. Narrow streets slow traffic and front porches give residents a good excuse to trade greetings and share experiences. Low fences around private back yards provide each household a sense of security and ownership of their own space, but still allow for visibility and conversation with neighbors.

A cornerstone of the redevelopment is the transition of the neighborhood to a mixed-income community. When fully complete, approximately one-third of the housing will be low-income rentals, one-third will be market-rate rentals and one-third will be privately-owned homes.

Construction of homes for sale by Polygon Northwest and Bennett/Sherman LLC at Othello Station will continue through the fall and into 2006. In addition, several Habitat for Humanity homes are still in progress toward the south end of Othello Station.

Eventually, NewHolly will have 425 homes owned by private individuals,

of which about 300 have already been purchased. Seattle Housing Authority's proceeds from the sale of land to the private home builders are helping finance the low-income housing at NewHolly and elsewhere.

In order to accomplish the redevelopment, each household in the old Holly Park had to be relocated at least once. Many residents of the original community have now returned to NewHolly. In fact, 89 percent of those whose first choice was to return were able to do so (227 out of 254 households).

Many households chose to move away from the neighborhood by accepting a Section 8 (now called Housing Choice) voucher—267 households opted for this housing solution. Of those living in Holly Park when redevelopment began, 52 households were able to buy their own homes, within NewHolly or elsewhere.

When the redevelopment began, there were 871 units of low-income housing on site. Of those units, 530 have been replaced at NewHolly. An additional 249 units have been replaced in other parts of Seattle, as units that have either been acquired by Seattle Housing or have been built with non-profit partners.

Currently, the NewHolly replacement housing effort is 89 percent complete. The remaining 92 units that are needed to meet this important commitment will be completed in the next year or so.

The largest parcel of land that remains to be developed in this new neighborhood is a 3.6-acre site at the corner of Othello and Martin Luther King, Jr. Way South.

This will be the site of mixed-use development that will help the neighborhood reach its potential as a transit-oriented urban village.

According to Al Levine, SHA's deputy director for development, SHA will wait to develop this site until the arrival of the LINK Light Rail System.

"We want to let Sound Transit construction move forward first, so that businesses interested in locating here will be able to benefit from the increased foot traffic that will result from the new transit system," he said.

Along with the new housing, new streets and parks are also complete, including the new Central Park in Othello Station.

The new park will serve as a neighborhood centerpiece and will be open for the community to enjoy as soon as the new grass has had more time to get established.

## Three scholarships awarded to residents

BY ELLEN ZIONTZ  
Seattle Housing Authority

Three students living in Seattle Housing Authority housing recently received SHA-sponsored scholarships to pursue higher education.

Maha Sharif, a resident of Jackson Park Village, received the Harry Thomas Scholarship, which will pay an entire year's tuition at Seattle Central Community College.

Samira Mawleed of Yesler Terrace and Margareth Tran, a resident of SHA's Scattered Sites in the Ballard area, were awarded "Dream Big" Scholarships of \$1,000 each.

Mawleed plans to attend Seattle Central Community College and Tran will be attending Cornell University in New York.

Funding for the scholarships came from private donors, SHA employees, and fundraising efforts on the part of the Yesler Terrace Higher Education Committee. Congratulations all around!

Mawleed comes from a family of five children who share a commitment to education and giving back to their community.

After living in the United States for only two years, Mawleed graduated from Chief Sealth High School with a 3.7 grade point average. Her teachers describe her as a joy who also excels in Calculus and writes beautiful poetry.

Besides her responsibilities at home, Mawleed serves her community in a number of ways, including volunteer work at

the Northwest Somaliland Society, the Northwest Folklife Festival, and as Student Helper at the Bilingual Orientation Center for immigrant students.

Mawleed was born in Somalia but due to the civil war in that country, her family fled to Yemen when she was 9 years old and finally came to the U.S.

Tran graduated from Franklin High School with a 3.97 grade point average.

She was raised by a single father who speaks only Mandarin and works in a restaurant.

Tran relishes challenging herself academically, enrolling in Advanced Placement, honors and even Community College classes while in high school. She was the president of her school's National Honor Society, ran varsity cross country and track and field.

She interned at the Pacific Science Center and won numerous awards including one for her artistic work.

Sharif graduated from Ingraham High School.

She is originally from Yemen, but also lived in Somalia and Kenya, where she was homeschooled. Sharif came to the U.S. with her family in 1996 when she was 9.

She received tutoring at the Youth Tutoring Program and worked as a student aid for the program for three years. She has also done volunteer work for the Lake City Food Bank.

After the tsunami in Southeast Asia, Sharif became inspired to pursue a career in medicine.

## Strategic planning for publication on the way

BY VOICE STAFF

In the coming months, staff of Neighborhood House and the Seattle Housing Authority will be examining the strength and effectiveness of The Voice newspaper and setting a course for its future.

"We're eager to engage the residents and service providers in a conversation about what's working and what changes could boost readership," said Voice Editor Stacy Schwandt. "We'll also be talking about what alternative communication tools, if any, might work for residents."

The process will kick off this month with a series of focus groups led by an outside consulting firm. The groups will be made up of Seattle Housing Authority residents who both read and don't read the publication.

Participants will be chosen randomly and led through a two-hour discussion where they'll share their perceptions of the publication. They will also read and discuss an issue, pointing out stories they

like and dislike and making suggestions for improvements.

In September, a retreat will be held with residents, service providers and other stakeholders, where the focus group results will be reviewed and a set of possible changes developed.

The Voice is published monthly and delivered free of charge to public housing residents in Seattle and King County, residents of SHA's mixed-income communities, service providers and elected officials. It features timely, relevant news and translations in six languages.

The publication is funded by Neighborhood House, Seattle Housing Authority and King County Housing Authority.

It has been published since 1981 and reaches 13,000 households.

For information on the planning process or to get involved, contact Stacy Schwandt at (206) 461-8430 ext. 227 or by e-mail at stacys@nhwa.org.

### Strategic plan Continued from front page

agencies or offering development services to other housing developers.

SHA has identified the following specific strategic directions:

**Remain committed to our mission in times of change.**

SHA remains committed to its traditional mission and clientele. Through this strategic direction, the agency makes clear its intention to continue housing at least as many extremely low-income households as it does currently, despite declining government support.

### Strive for financial independence.

SHA will make the best use of real estate assets, diversify its funding sources, develop partnerships and expand entrepreneurial capabilities while reducing dependence on federal funding.

SHA will also undertake revenue generating partnerships, programs and entrepreneurial activities.

### Improve process and performance.

SHA will strive to make work processes efficient, transparent, user-friendly, sensible and aligned with its mission.

A complete copy of the strategic plan in PDF format is available on the Internet at <http://www.seattlehousing.org>.

# POINT OF VIEW

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

## Ballard House steps out Health month gets residents moving



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

Members of the Ballard House walking team prepare for their morning outing.

By VOICE STAFF

After last month, most residents of Ballard House have a good idea how to improve their health.

Those who participated in health month learned techniques to boost their memory, ways to administer CPR and how to use a pedometer to gauge walking distances.

It was all a part of the building's "Health Lift," a resident-organized month of activities geared to build relationships between neighbors as the building transitions to a senior housing site.

Twice a week residents walked through their neighborhood under the auspices of Sound Steps, a Seattle Parks and Recreation senior adult program.

The walking group, which meets Monday and Friday mornings at 9 a.m. will continue their outings throughout the summer.

"Walking in a group is socially rewarding," said Sound Steps Walking Program Facilitator Anna Allen. "It's hard to get your own self out there, but if people know they're expected, they do better."

Ballard House resident Semen Fuks said he's found another advantage to the morning walk.

"When I'm walking in the morning before breakfast, it's very interesting," he said. "When I come back, I eat easier. I feel better throughout the day."

His neighbor Jerry Thorson participated in every Health Lift activity.

"I like quality stuff," he said. "I learned a lot of interesting information about things I hadn't thought about before. Retirement for me has been a whole succession of stuff that when I was working I didn't have time for."

## New job is a real pleasure Case manager reminds residents he can help

By ROGER EDDY  
Special to the Voice

Starting work in the Seattle Housing Authority high-rises has been a real joy for me. I've taken on mental health case management downtown and Capitol Hill buildings.

I've enjoyed meeting residents and hearing their stories. I've especially enjoyed attending the coffee gatherings at Capitol Park and Ross Manor, where I've been able to chat with residents about everything under the sun.

There's something about sitting down and having coffee with people that helps to quickly break down barriers.

I've been able to bring a reiki teacher to Capitol Park for health demonstrations, and I'm organizing an outing with Ross Manor residents this month.

Some residents are still wondering how to contact me. You can visit the counseling office in your building for information on when I'm there, or you can call the number on the flier to set up an appointment.

Perhaps you're not looking to enroll in a

mental health agency but just want to meet and talk about a particular issue. Feel free to call anytime.

With apartment inspections coming up this summer I've been busy setting several residents up with chore work services. The chore worker I've hired has been doing a fantastic job, and I've received several positive phone calls from residents grateful for the help.

Even though I work for Community Psychiatric Clinic, I can help you enroll with any agency that is suited to your needs.

I've brought people to Community House, Seattle Counseling Service, Bridge-way Chemical Dependency Center and Seattle Mental Health. Remember, if you're experiencing a crisis or know someone in your building in need of assistance, don't be afraid to call.

Reaching out is not a sign of weakness, it's a sign of strength.

Roger Eddy is the Community Psychiatric Clinic mental health case manager working in the high-rises. For more information on the program or to reach him, call (206) 369-5579.

## Notes from the RAC

By J M (JIM) BUSH  
Resident Action Council Secretary

The first day of June was a big day for the Resident Action Council. We had at least 40 people come together at Center Park for an afternoon of exchanging information about what's happening in our own communities.

We shared food provided by several hard-working residents and elected officers and three at-large members from our Board of Directors.

As chair of the Nominations Committee, I think we selected some very good people to serve for the next two years. I encourage everyone living in a Seattle Housing Authority high-rise community to let us know how we are doing.

Although our new Executive Committee may have made some decisions on what RAC will do over the next two years, we

still need to hear from you. This is your council, and it cannot function very well without you.

Now on to the information about who was elected this year. Denny Terrace resident Sybil Bailey was elected President. Capitol Park resident Lynn Sereda was elected Vice President. Center Park resident J M (Jim) Bush was elected Secretary and Olympic West resident Betty Fairley was elected Treasurer. Our ombudsperson will be Ross Manor resident Doug Morrison, and our at-large members will be Capitol Park resident Sally Hood, Cedarvale House resident Rick Harrison and Lake City House resident Lois Gruber.

For more information contact Sybil Bailey at (206) 328-8176 or by e-mail at sybil1941@juno.com.

The RAC offices are located at Center Park, which is served by METRO bus route numbers 4,7,8,9,42 and 48.

## Capitol Park events celebrate GLBTQ pride

By LYNN SEREDA  
Capitol Park resident

Capitol Park residents celebrated Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning pride week with gusto last month.

The week-long celebration was fitting for Capitol Park, which is located in the heart of Capitol Hill where the city's annual pride parade takes place.

The building is also home to a large number of residents who identify themselves as gay.

Residents formed a planning committee to choose activities and raise money. The idea was to have social activities that could help build a spirit of community.

Implicit in these recreational activities was the educational message that by celebrating our diversity, we move away from fear and intolerance.

Some 40 residents kicked off the activities with a "pink breakfast." They decorated the community room with colorful handmade kites, rainbows and streamers.

The tables were set with pink tablecloths and one resident created colorful floral displays for the tables and yard. Participants were encouraged to wear pink to the pancake and sausage breakfast, which was prepared by residents and finished off with strawberries and whipped cream.



PHOTO BY LYNN SEREDA

Capitol Park residents enjoy the gay pride barbecue.

Later in the week, residents gathered in the community room to watch videos related to gay culture including "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert," a somewhat campy film, and the serious documentary "Before Stonewall: The Making Of A Gay Community."

The week's finale was a post-parade barbecue in the Capitol Park yard, just a few blocks from where the parade ends.

It is hoped that the Capitol Park GLBTQ pride week enhanced gay residents' self esteem and went a long way towards overcoming prejudice by celebrating and embracing diversity.

As one resident, Steve Shuster exclaimed, "We're queer, we're here, deal with it. This is the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we don't need to feel ashamed anymore!"

### Community notes

#### Save the date

Residents of the senior buildings are invited to the annual SSHP Advocates II summer meeting and picnic on Aug. 16.

The picnic will be located on the upper level of Ravenna Park - just off 20th Avenue Northeast. See next month's Voice for more information.

#### Bell Tower anniversary celebration

Bell Tower residents will be celebrating the building's 35th anniversary on July 16.

Members of the surrounding community will join their Bell Tower neighbors for the celebration.

The theme is "Putting the Puzzle Together."

# HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY

## Roots, stems, seeds and flowers



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

Students at High Point Elementary School perform a rap at an early June assembly about the benefits of growing vegetables. The event celebrated their year of work in the school garden, which is run by Cultivating Youth, a program of the City of Seattle. "I liked learning about nutrients and growing things," said 9-year-old Abi Velazquez.

## Dream comes true for High Point resident

By JEFF THUNG  
Seattle Housing Authority

High Point resident Anh-Ngoc Tran has finally made her dream of owning a hair salon a reality.

Tran came to the United States from Vietnam in 1990. She is one of many refugees who fled communist persecution resulting from the Vietnam War.

Like these refugees, Tran came to America, not for a better life, but as a matter of absolute survival.

Lacking work history and English language skills, she began her career as a janitor. For ten years she worked hard to earn a living for her family, but her real dream was to own a salon.

Tran is an ambitious person who decided she would not settle while she saw many Vietnamese women opening salons around her. In 2003, she enrolled in beauty school with help from The Job Connection. She attended school during the day while working nights as a janitor. She graduated and received her license in 2004.

At that time, she was injured at work and could not return to her job. Lacking the work experience needed during a downturn in the economy, Tran was not able to get a job as a beautician. Desperate for jobs, she attended a training to become a cashier. Still, she was not able to find a job.

She asked The Job Connection counselors for help. We worked on several retail applications, but as we spoke, I sensed she was applying for these jobs as a means to survive. I asked her what career she would choose if money were not an issue.

"I want to own a hair salon. I have training and a license already," she said.

When I asked her why she hadn't achieved that dream, I heard the typical answer - "I can't" with many conditions. I told her that if she had a strong enough



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Jeff Thung has his hair trimmed by Anh-Ngoc Tran.

will, she could find a way to open a salon, and that I would help her. She thought hard about it and decided not to put out anymore applications for retail jobs.

A few days later we met again. A hair salon where she volunteered and worked part time was for sale. The owner wanted cash right away for the sale, so we analyzed the financial aspects of a potential sale.

Tran obtained the funds necessary to finance the business from members of her community. She was also able to remodel the building on the corner of South Graham Street and Rainier Avenue South. Tran's salon, called "Perfect Hair Cut Salon," has been open since April.

To demonstrate my bravery, I had Tran cut my hair. She did a fine job. Tran's affordable prices are also nice. On average, a hair cut for women costs about \$12 to \$15, and \$10 for men. This is very economical for the neighborhood she serves.

Tran's superior customer service and affordable prices have been keeping her busy. With her passion and persistence, I have no doubt that success is in her future.

Jeff Thung is a job placement specialist at The Job Connection. For more information on how to achieve your career goal, contact The Job Connection at (206) 937-3292.

## Neighborhood association planned for High Point

### Residents will set its scope, agenda next spring

By KARI-LYNN FRANK  
SHA Community Builder

What makes a neighborhood a neighborhood? What makes it more than buildings and streets?

It's the people who live there.

High Point's redevelopment has many different aspects, including new systems that will improve the environment, but its greatest contribution will be the unification of people across cultural, economic, and social lines.

The development of relations between people of differing backgrounds is the foundation for a rich and healthy community. The Seattle Housing Authority is committed to this goal.

One key to bringing people together at High Point is to ensure there are forums that support an equal voice for all members of the community. Whether you're brand new to the community or a long-time resident, whether you rent or own your home, neighbors will meet on equal footing and work together.

The High Point Redevelopment Team has been working very hard to create the foundation for a neighborhood association that will be a collaboration of neighbors working towards making High Point a great place to live.

Next spring, all interested persons will be invited to collectively develop a vision

for the association and to identify the issues and needs it will focus on.

The association will be a forum for all people, regardless of race or income. It will be funded through membership dues and fees paid by property management companies, homeowners and retail entities at High Point. Renters will not be required to pay individual dues to participate.

The association will have office space at the new neighborhood center. It will be up to community members to define the priorities for this organization and make it a success.

Low Income Public Housing residents may still choose to organize as a HUD-recognized Duly Elected Council. Unfortunately, this council would need to exclude more than half of High Point community members, such as those renters who are not receiving public housing subsidy and homeowners.

SHA will support a LIPH-only organization at the level stipulated under HUD regulations. However, resources will also be directed to a community-wide organization.

SHA's first priority is to support the general neighborhood association and its goal of unifying the community.

With the support of SHA and the community, High Point will be one of the most vital and engaged neighborhoods in Seattle.

## Festival dollars to go toward summer event, resident fund

By VOICE STAFF

About \$1,000 left over from last year's Diversity Festival will help fund this year's Night Out Against Crime, members of the organizing committee decided last month.

Night Out Against Crime will take place at Holly Hall and the adjacent park on August 9.

The remaining \$600 will go into a fund for residents to draw from for community

activities, such as quilting or cooking clubs. Groups of five residents or more will be eligible to apply for up to \$150 a year.

The \$1,600 became available when community leaders decided not to hold a Diversity Festival this year.

For more information on Night Out Against Crime or to apply for a grant from the community fund, contact Kelly McKinney at [kelly@sngi.org](mailto:kelly@sngi.org).

### Community notes

#### Council elections this month

High Point residents are invited to take a leadership role in the High Point Community Council.

All of the current council members will be stepping down from their positions, and nominations for new members will be taken from the floor.

The elections will take place on Monday, July 11 at 6 p.m. at Holly Hall, 3204 S.W. Holly St.

#### Snake Experience

Come see some of the coolest snakes around at a Snake Experience presentation at the High Point branch of the Seattle Public Library.

This program combines science and fun. All featured snakes are non-venomous and are kept under control by professional snake handler Nick Sutton, who is also a zookeeper at the Woodland Park Zoo.

Each program includes a basic overview of snakes, their natural history, behavior, habits in the wild and teaches a general respect for all wildlife.

The program, which takes place on Wednesday, July 27 at 2 p.m., is appropriate for children ages 6 and up.

The High Point library is located at 3411 S.W. Raymond St.

#### Get to know your neighbor

Many ongoing opportunities exist for community members to get engaged and work with their neighbors.

Community members can organize block parties, topic-specific community meetings or form a group of neighbors with similar interests such as gardening or safety.

For more information on how to make these things happen, contact Community Builder Kari-lynn Frank at 937-3292 x12.

# RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

## New welcome wagon program underway



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

Neighborhood House Family Support Worker Annie Edwards (on right) welcomes Rainier Vista residents Anab Haybe and Mohamed Jilo to their new neighborhood.

By VOICE STAFF

East African immigrants Anab Haybe and Mohamed Jilo were surprised when Neighborhood House Family Support Worker Annie Edwards greeted them outside their home with a basket full of goodies, information and resources.

"Now we really feel welcome," Haybe said with a smile. "Thank you."

Although the couple has lived in Rainier Vista for 11 years, they said they were still getting oriented to their new apartment on the redeveloped west side.

They asked Edwards some questions about neighborhood rules and said they would make good use of the bus schedules inside the basket.

The visit was part of the Neighborhood House Welcome Wagon program, which aims to connect families moving into Seattle Housing Authority communities to their neighbors and other resources.

The program began in the Rainier Vista and NewHolly communities in June and should begin in the High Point community very soon.

"I really think it's a great idea," Edwards said. "When someone really comes along and says welcome, it makes you feel good. It helps to see a friendly face."

Welcome visits are conducted by trained volunteers. If you're interested in joining the team, please contact Kathy Nguyen at (206) 461-8430 ext. 258.

## Resident thrilled with new job

By LONG "JIMMIE" NGO  
Special to the Voice

My name is Long Ngo, but everyone likes to call me Jimmie.

My family and I came to the United States in April 1993 with refugee status.

When we first came to Seattle, we did not speak English and did not know how to manage in this new country and new culture. After a few years, we worked hard with the language and my parents could speak English, but just a little.

My sister graduated from high school and college and she is currently employed in the health care field. I also graduated from college with a Renton Technical College drafting certificate and Seattle Central Community College carpenter AAS degree.

I live with my family in NewHolly while we wait for our new unit in Rainier Vista.

Besides college training courses, I worked part time for Royal's Dry Cleaning. After I finished my training programs, I started in a new position as design assistant and drafter for McLeod Corp.

With my experience, after two years, I continuously advanced my career as a junior designer with two companies that made sprinkler systems. Actually, I worked in a carpenter position, but could not keep



Long "Jimmie" Ngo

this job as long as I wanted because an accident happened while I worked for this company.

After my injury healed, I contacted Rainier Vista's The Job Connection and worked with Larry Hill and Van Vo and they helped me find a job.

Now, I'm very happy that I got a job in Seattle Housing Authority as a Capital Project Coordinator Aide. I'm very happy to start this career that will give me a chance to learn more and expand my life in new ways.

## "Night Out" cancelled

By VOICE STAFF

In response to HOPE VI redevelopment, Rainier Vista community leaders have opted not to organize a Night Out Against Crime this year.

Sandra Borders, chair of the Rainier Vista Leadership Team, asked members of the team in late May to back her decision to postpone the event, which usually takes place the first week in August.

"I have asked the board members to support the Neighborhood House opening (instead)," she said. "There are events around us where people can get together and join in their community."

Neighborhood House will be hosting a grand opening celebration for its new

Rainier Vista Center on August 11 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

The Rainier Vista community is in the midst of many changes.

Neighbors are coming and going as homes on the community's east side are torn down and new apartments open up on the west side.

Also contributing to the decision are budget constraints which have led the Seattle Housing Authority to cut back on funding for community events.

Last year's event included appearances by Seattle police officers and attracted over 100 people. It was part of the larger National Night Out held in more than 10,000 communities across the country.

## Young singers and dancers compete in talent show

By ALYSSA MARTIN  
Voice reporter

The talent show at the Rainier Vista Boys and Girls Club began with a stunning solo a cappella performance by the young singer Philana Williams.

Three sections of bleachers in the club's small gym were overflowing with family and friends last month, as 25 brave youth performed for the community.

Williams's sweet rendition of "All Day Long" ignited the crowd's energy, their rhythmic clapping reverberated between brick walls.

The entertainment continued for two hours, until Myrakl Harding wrapped up the night with "Meet Me on the Moon."

She showed an impressive amount of persistence by singing the song for a second time after her first attempt was cut short due to technical difficulties.

The crowd burst into applause when the judges awarded Harding's gutsy performance with first place in the teen competition.

Williams' brief and charming performance at the beginning of the night wasn't forgotten, and she walked away with first place in the K-5 competition.

For over a decade, the talent show has served as an opportunity for kids to gain confidence through the performing arts.

Boys and Girls Club Program Director Denise Lewis said she is inspired by the creativity and hard work cultivated in the youth as they prepare for the big day.

"Especially with all the talent competitions on T.V., these kids are eager for a chance to perform," she said.

Of course, there is also the lure of prize money. Harding said she plans to spend her \$50 prize on video games and nose rings. Williams wasn't sure where her prize money was going, but she was positive about her future as a singer.

"When I grow up I want to be a singer, an artist and a meteorologist," she said. With one talent competition under her belt, she is closer to accomplishing those goals.

Participants also had the chance to show off their dance moves. Rianna Judan, Eternity Trotter, Shenale Kennebrew, Ghuda Kennebrew, Phyleshia Locke, Nana Spect, Whitney Wilson and Mikela Wade crammed into the bathroom before their performance to change into coordinating



PHOTO BY ALYSSA MARTIN

Philana Williams sang an a cappella version of "All Day Long" and walked away with a win in her age category at the annual Rainier Vista Boys and Girls Club talent show.

skirts, t-shirts and bandanas.

Wade described the hard work that went into choreographing their routine. "We've been practicing forever," she said. It took two weeks at one another's houses after school to create the sequence of steps.

As part of the program "Percussion for Kids," volunteer Paul Taylor practiced for two months with his group "Little Ray and the Rayettes." Jamari Lewis, dressed like a young Ray Charles, sang back-up vocals and shook tambourines while "Rayettes" Monique Foxx and Jasmine Miller performed "I Got a Woman" to win second prize in the K-5 category.

Brandon Adam, Justin Adams and Kaylynn Andrews showed true multi-tasking talent as they sang and danced with their cell phones as interactive props.

Tyra Gipson and Imaj Royster performed an energetic hip hop number, obviously inspired by the teenage team of Jaquiline and Dominique.

Tiara Keaton's inspired reading of the Maya Angelo poem "Phenomenal Woman" added diversity to the line-up.

After the performance, Gran Gran, a long-time hero to children in the Rainier Valley community, lamented about the difficulty of being a judge.

"There is so much talent here," she said. "I always enjoy being involved in my community."

# NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

## Community celebrates NewHolly development

### SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

After about 12 years of hard work, the transformation of Holly Park into NewHolly is nearly finished.

Public officials, community members, residents and Seattle Housing staff marked the completion of NewHolly's public housing at a dedication in late June at the north end of the new Central Park in Othello Station.

"This is a great day in Southeast Seattle, as well as all of Seattle," said Mayor Greg Nickels. "NewHolly is now truly a whole community."

All of NewHolly's units dedicated to low-income residents have been built and leased at this point. The only construction still taking place at NewHolly is by private home builders and Habitat for Humanity.

Guests and speakers at the event reminisced about their experiences helping redevelop the once crime-ridden and distressed housing area.

"Now, this is not just a place to live," said Doris Morgan, who lived in Holly Park and helped drive the redevelopment. "It is a community."

With seed money from a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant and help from various partners and community members, the area has now become a community that residents can take pride in.

Residents enjoy a variety of new amenities, from parks to the Neighborhood Campus.

Speakers at the event included Mayor Greg Nickels, County Executive Ron Sims,



Former president of the Holly Park Community Council Doris Morgan celebrates with SHA Redevelopment Property Manager Willard Brown.

former Mayor Norm Rice, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regional Director John Meyers and SHA Executive Director Tom Tierney.

Former resident Doris Morgan, New Holly homeowner Joseph Pope, former resident and current homeowner Neguse Naizghi, former SHA Development Director Doris Koo and Anne Torney from Solomon ETC Architecture and Urban Design also spoke.

The event was sponsored by Wachovia Affordable Housing Community Development Corporation and Walsh Construction Company.

## Family Fun Fest satisfies all



PHOTO BY JOY BRYNGELSON

Members of the NewHolly Men to Men group and their assistants made sure all who participated in the annual NewHolly Family Fun Fest left with full stomachs. Hundreds gathered for the event, which featured fun activities for kids and entertainment.

## Martial arts group soars

By LORA CROPPER  
Voice reporter

What a sight to see.

Late on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday nights, the Vo Vi Nam group at NewHolly displays their martial arts talent, with 20 or more students dressed in bright blue filling the campus Gathering Hall.

The color alone can catch the eye of any passersby. Yet, the students' kicking, jumping, punching and sheer energy is the real reason many choose to stop and watch, amazed by the vigor and strength of this blue swarm of scholars.

Vo Vi Nam, a Vietnamese martial art, was founded in 1938 by Master Nguyen Loc. The students of Vo Vi Nam at NewHolly have been directed for the past several years by a very devoted and well-respected leader, Thuan Nguyen.

Nguyen came to NewHolly when he heard the chief instructor was planning to leave. Classes at NewHolly would end unless someone stepped up to continue the program. Nguyen decided to investigate the program, and found six very talented young people: Long, Khoi, Vi, Trong, Ngoc, and Tung.

He decided their talent could not be left behind. Nguyen now volunteers his time three hours a day, three days a week. He has given at least 1,000 hours to the students over the past year. His passion for and dedication to their success was evident from the beginning and continues today.

However, like all humble teachers, he refuses to take credit.

"It's because the kids are all amazing," he says of his generosity.

True, the Vo Vi Nam students are amazing. Over the years, they have ranged in age from six to 60, as students of all ages are welcome.

Students do not need to speak Vietnamese or even be in good shape to join the



PHOTO BY LORA CROPPER

Members of NewHolly's Vo Vi Nam group practice their art.

group.

Nguyen says he found it invigorating to learn Aikido and Judo in Japanese. It made him feel like he was capable of learning more, and he feels non-Vietnamese students of Vo Vi Nam would experience the same.

He said the discipline teaches an appreciation of culture and the importance of education and planning for the future.

The latter is embodied in the class objective that students have "active participation with education." This objective is expressed in many ways, including asking students to sit out of class until their homework is complete.

Another principle of the group is to serve the community and humankind. Vo Vi Nam has upheld this principle quite well through raising an astounding \$80,000 for the victims of the last year's tsunami in Southeast Asia. The students worked very hard and held several performances in Seattle to raise this money.

But hard work is nothing new to the students of Vo Vi Nam—to simply watch their workouts may make you weary.

Both Nguyen and the students of Vo Vi Nam have discovered hard work that can lead to the best rewards one can imagine.

As Nguyen put it, "It is better to seek and find a treasure than have the treasure brought to you."

## Students bring faraway world to life in play



PHOTO BY LORA CROPPER

Members of the NewHolly Youth Tutoring Program perform the play "Momotaro, the Peach Boy." Momotaro is the Japanese tale of a young boy found inside a peach. In the story, an old woman saw the giant peach floating down the river while she was washing her clothes. She took it home to eat and found her dream inside—a child of her own. The young boy grew up to be a strong samurai, and he fought and defeated a band of ogres who had been stealing from the town for years. The kids involved in the Youth Tutoring Program made all of their props and costumes for this end-of-year event. "They did a really great job," said Lora Cropper, the group's educational coordinator. For more information on the program call (206) 725-7942.

# YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

## Yelser volunteers honored in publication



PHOTO BY KATHY NGUYEN

Neighborhood House volunteer Sandra Loberg reads the recognition booklet. Loberg has lived in Yesler Terrace for many years and has been volunteering for six.

By VOICE STAFF

Page after page of smiling faces and rich stories greet readers of a booklet honoring Yesler Terrace residents who volunteer at Neighborhood House.

Readers discover that Jose Gonzales was declared the number one dancer in a Yakima contest a few years ago, that Audry Breaux has had the strength to survive three bouts of cancer and that Jerry Marchea loves both gardening and crabbing.

"It was nice to listen to someone in the community talk about their experiences," said Jillian Nelson, one of the Seattle University nursing students who prepared the booklet. "It's important to show the volunteers how their involvement has helped the community as a whole."

Nelson's interview of Yesler Terrace

volunteer Myrtle Greenwood appears in the booklet, which also contains the stories of 12 other Neighborhood House volunteers. Collectively, the 13 have served their community for more than a century.

"I thought it was very nice of them, the time they put into it," Greenwood said of the nursing students. "I hope the young people can get it known in the community that kids can get in touch with different resources (through volunteering). It's nice if you have the right attitude. Attitude is everything."

Greenwood said she turned to volunteering after her mother passed away.

"That empty void was getting to me," she said. "I needed to fill that void. It was getting out of the house, meeting different people and never having a dull moment."

## Notes from the manager

By JUDI CARTER

Community Manager

Juneteenth was a terrific event as usual, wasn't it?

We were so lucky, not a drop of rain until the event was all over. What a nice day. It was great seeing so many people enjoying themselves.

By the time you are reading this, the Fourth of July Block Party will have happened. Hopefully, many Yesler Terrace residents will have met and made friends with neighbors living in apartments to the north of the community, while munching on a hot dog or listening to the jazz band.

I hope families will not have to receive Ten Day Notices to Comply or Vacate for using fireworks, which are illegal within the city limits of Seattle.

Hopefully, the weather, which was very strange at the end of June, will have turned to sunny days.

Many people will notice Seattle Police officers walking around in the evening or early in the morning. The officers are here to make the community safe. They may knock on a few doors to ask how things are going, especially the doors of individuals who have had problems in the past. The of-

ficers will also be inviting individuals who are trespassing and committing illegal acts to leave the area.

If you are troubled by people making noise late at night, or hanging around making you feel uncomfortable, please phone 911. No one needs to know that it was you who made the call if you tell the 911 operator not to have police come to your house, but just to take care of the problem.

You may not see the officers as fast as you would like, but every call to 911 about problems in Yesler Terrace increases the number of police who will be in the area.

More police in the area will make it feel unsafe to people who have no business being here.

With all of the rain, the grass sure has been growing. This year, the tool shop is in the management office. You can borrow a weed eater and rake for a day or a weekend for free, and get your yard in tip top shape.

And speaking of tip top shape, have you seen Laura Filarca's yard? Wow! Her flowers are spectacular. The grass looks like she cut it with manicure scissors. It is perfect. If you haven't seen it, walk just to the east of the management office going toward Boren. It is a treat you will not want to miss.

## Demolition at Harborview Medical Center underway

By KIRA THOMSEN-CHEEK

Special to the Voice

Crews are already tearing down the old mental health building at the center of the Harborview Medical Center campus to make way for new construction.

An April 25 groundbreaking ceremony signaled the beginning of construction on the project that will seismically improve existing hospital facilities and add two new buildings to the campus.

Elise Chayet, Harborview's director of planning and regulatory affairs and Chris Heger, the project superintendent for general contractor Turner Construction met with the Yesler Community Council last month to discuss pedestrian safety as trucks haul debris and dirt away.

They've also been meeting with other residents, community groups and local schools.

Heger estimated that at the project's height more than 100 trucks a day will be hauling dirt from the site. He said they plan to have at least four flaggers to direct traffic and have already posted signs that say "caution children at play."

"Truck drivers will drive below the speed limit and all trucking will stay on arterials," he added, although the trucks may use neighborhood streets directly adjacent to the construction site.

The project is supported by a bond measure passed by King County voters in 2000. It will enable the hospital to meet new seismic standards, expand patient capacity and respond to natural disasters.

Two new buildings will be built on the Harborview campus. One, on the corner of 9th Avenue and Jefferson Street, will house a center for infectious disease control

including HIV/AIDS and STDs, specialized services such as the King County Medical Examiner, laboratories, the Involuntary Treatment Act Courtroom, retail space and underground parking.

An in-patient expansion building on the site of the mental health building will be connected to the main hospital wing by a six-story bridge building crossing 9th Avenue.

Other plans include making seismic improvements to the north wing of the existing trauma center tower, increasing operating rooms and in-patient bed capacity, and expanding the Emergency Department. Work is scheduled to continue through 2009.

"The Harborview Bond Project represents a unique partnership between our Board of Trustees, King County, the University of Washington and the citizens of King County," says Harborview Executive Director David Jaffe. "As the region's only Level I trauma and burn center and the disaster control center for King County, Harborview plays a critical role in coordinating emergency response and medical care. This seismic upgrade and expansion will continue to insure we are ready in the event of a disaster."

Harborview's Planning Department will be issuing periodic flyers to update the community about sidewalk closures, weekend work, bus stop changes, and other project information. More information is also available by calling the project's Hotline, at (206) 341-3900, or visiting the Web site at <http://www.uwmedicine.org/Facilities/Harborview/>

Kira Thomsen-Cheek is the bond program coordinator with Harborview Medical Center. Voice staff also contributed to this report.

## Juneteenth a great success

By VOICE STAFF

Hundreds gathered behind the Yesler Terrace Community Center last month to chat, play games, watch dancing and share a potluck feast at the 12th-annual Juneteenth celebration.

"It wouldn't be this gathering if it wasn't for you. We welcome you, we welcome you, we welcome you," event emcee LaBarbara Brooks said to the afternoon crowd.

She went on to describe the history of Juneteenth, which originally marked the day word reached Texas that slavery had ended. Today, it is a commemoration of freedom and a celebration of African American achievement.

The event was made possible with cash and in-kind donations from the Pepsi Bottling Corporation, Hate Free Zone Washington and private individuals. Food was donated by a number of community members and service providers.

Tita Begashaw, a member of the event



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWARTZ

15-year-old Gizachew Wonde (near right) takes on a friend in a serious game of chess at Juneteenth.

planning committee, said she stayed up until midnight three days in a row cooking the Ethiopian food she shared with the guests. Those who tasted her food were thankful.

Yesler Terrace resident Gizache Wondie said he loved the multicultural aspect of the event, which he has been attending for many years.

"It's fun," he added. "It's just basically hanging out with your friends and having a good time."

