



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



The Voice

August
2005
Articles translated
into six languages

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

Park Lake students speak out on hunger, African aid



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

Students from the Neighborhood House youth tutoring program at Park Lake Homes wrote letters to the President last month in support of increasing aid to Africa.

By STACY SCHWANDT
Voice editor

The students in Neighborhood House's Park Lake youth tutoring program are waiting for mail from the White House.

They're hoping for a response from President Bush to the nearly 20 letters they sent to Washington D.C in early July.

"For Africa," 7-year-old Tewolde Tekle said of the reason he wrote to the President. "Every three seconds a child in Africa dies because they have no food."

"Because he has millions of money and he could help them," added 10-year-old Maika Bui.

"You forgot power," said 8-year-old Senait Tekle. "The power to decide if we should help kids in Africa."

"Yeah, and it isn't just one president it's a whole group of governments," Bui added.

As the Group of Eight industrial nations met in Scotland, the Park Lake students joined thousands in expressing their support for increased aid to African nations.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair had placed that discussion high on the G-8 summit's agenda. By the time the conference was over, G-8 leaders had committed to doubling aid to Africa to \$50 billion by 2010 and reducing the debt owed by 14 African nations.

Because of the class activity, 9-year-old Rahmo Ali watched news reports with interest.

"I saw one, and it was in front of a big gray building, there were lots of people with signs," she said. "One sign said, 'Support Africa.'"

It was this type of engagement that Neighborhood House Youth Tutoring Coordinator Nina Burgess hoped to inspire in her students when she started the project, which she undertook as part of a broader campaign called "ONE."

The ONE campaign was started in April by a coalition of anti-poverty organizations and celebrities to rally Americans to fight global poverty. Nearly a million Americans have signed their names to the ONE declaration, which calls for the U.S. to dedicate one percent of its budget to alleviating poverty.

Burgess said she was moved by the idea that she and her students could do something to help Africa, the continent from where many of her young students still have family members.

"I hope that they understand the power of their voice, and the right we have in this country to use it," she said. "I hope it also develops a sense of compassion, a sense of brotherhood and the idea that every person in this world is from one family."

Yesler residents want say in redevelopment

City council meeting sets the stage

By STACY SCHWANDT
Voice editor

Yesler Terrace residents had their first chance to share their perspective on the possible redevelopment of their community with Seattle City Council members last month.

"We used to be happy living in Seattle Housing, but now we are worried," Yesler Terrace resident Ruqiyo Abdi said during a forum in the crowded Council chambers. "We don't want to move anywhere else."

The Seattle Housing Authority has stated its intention to eventually redevelop the 561-unit community that was built in 1939 as the city's first public-housing development.

"That housing is at risk," said SHA Commissioner David Bley. "It was not built to last for 60 years, it is difficult to maintain it and we can no longer count on federal dollars to subsidize it."

Housing authority officials said they will work with residents for at least a year to plan redevelopment. Physical changes will not take place before 2009, they added.

Yesler Terrace residents told council members they want to make sure they're at the table to represent their own issues as the process unfolds.

"I'm here to start to talk about what it means to be real partners with poor people," said Yesler Terrace Community Council President Naomi Finkelstein. "I think people are used to giving lip-service to partnering and then patting us on the head and saying, 'There, there, don't worry, we'll take care of you.'"

Both Yesler Terrace residents and their advocates expressed the desire to see the same number of low-income units on site after redevelopment.

During other SHA redevelopment projects at Holly Park (now NewHolly), Rainier Vista and High Point, some low-income dwellings were replaced with units in other areas of town.

Two of the four council members present at the forum said that they support the residents' demand.

"If we can do projects that work, we should not have any displacement, you should not have any displacement, you should not have any displacement,"

Please see "Forum" on page 2

Immigration reform featured at local forum

By HATE FREE ZONE WASHINGTON

U.S. Senator Patty Murray met with immigrants from across Washington in late July as part of the first-ever immigrant rights hearing in the state.

The forum, which took place in Seattle, was sponsored by Hate Free Zone Washington, along with a number of other community organizations.

The all-day event featured testimony from immigrants from Africa, Asia and Latin America who have suffered under the current immigration system.

Their powerful stories centered on family reunification and the path to citizenship, justice on the job, human rights and civil liberties.

In his testimony, Somali immigrant

Abdinasir Ali Nur explained that he is still waiting for his citizenship papers three years after passing the test.

"I have visited the offices of the Immigration Services more than six times since I took my examination," he said. "Each time, I have been told that my case was still pending, and no reason for the delay was given."

In 2001, Nur's shop was raided and temporarily shut down by federal agents. They never provided him with an explanation, nor charged him with a crime.

Luis Lopez, a naturalized citizen, described the difficulty his family has faced since his wife was denied residency.

When Claudia Lopez first came to the

See "Immigrants speak..." on page 2

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"We can't have a safety net for citizens in trouble if the net has holes in it."

Seattle City Council member Jim Compton on the need for the new energy assistance program offered by Seattle Public Utilities.

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Health Notes

A column devoted to your well-being

Stay healthy at beaches and pools this summer

BY PUBLIC HEALTH - SEATTLE & KING COUNTY

As the weather warms up and children and adults head to area beaches and pools to enjoy fun in the sun and physical activity, Public Health - Seattle & King County reminds swimmers to take special steps to remain safe and healthy.

"We have abundant and beautiful beaches and pools throughout King County, which I encourage all of our residents to enjoy safely," said Dr. Alonzo Plough, director of Public Health - Seattle & King County. "Paying attention to water safety and good personal hygiene is essential for the health and well being of the whole community."

Recreational water illnesses

Recreational water illnesses are caused by germs that have the potential to infect a person who accidentally swallows or has contact with contaminated water.

Public Health recommends that swimmers do not swallow the water and that parents cover their baby's diapers with tight plastic pants or use diapers designed for swimming.

Do not swim in a pool or lake if you've had a fever, diarrhea, or nausea within the past 24 hours. Remember to take a shower before swimming and take your children on bathroom breaks often.

Public pool operators are required to chemically treat pools to kill harmful germs.

It is the patron's responsibility to follow all posted rules at pools, including showering before use, wearing tight-fitting

plastic pants over diapers and avoiding use when sick.

Swimmers' itch

While the water quality of King County beaches is generally good, many ducks and geese share lakes with people.

Swimmers' itch is an itchy skin condition caused when parasites from water fowl burrow into a swimmer's skin and die. While not contagious or long lasting, the parasite may cause itchy red bumps for about a week, and can become infected with excessive scratching.

To avoid swimmers' itch, all lake swimmers and waders should apply a waterproof sunscreen prior to swimming, which may provide some protection.

Briskly dry off with a towel as soon as you come out of the water, including skin under swimsuits. Shower immediately if facilities are available.

Water safety

Stay safe this summer at pools, beaches, and rivers by learning how to protect yourself and your family from preventable drowning or near drowning. Drowning is the second leading cause of death for children under the age of 14, so follow these rules and suggestions.

Always provide supervision for children when they are in or near water. Ensure sober adults are present and able to provide immediate rescue to children in need, choose swimming areas where lifeguards are present. Make sure your whole family knows how to swim. Wear a life jacket when swimming or boating in open water where a lifeguard is not present.

Free swim lessons offered

BY VOICE STAFF

Enjoy the summer weather with free swimming lessons at nine local beaches.

Seattle Parks and Recreation offers free lessons for youth ages 6 and older. Classes are held daily on Monday through Friday from 11:15 to 11:45 a.m.

There are two August sessions, the first runs from Aug. 1 to 12 and the second runs from Aug. 15 to 26.

The classes will take place at the East Green Lake Beach, 7201 W. Green Lake Dr. N., Madison Beach, 1900 43rd Ave.

E., Madrona Beach, 800 Lake Washington Blvd. S., Magnuson Beach, 9300 51st Ave. N.E., Mt. Baker Beach, 2301 Lake Washington Blvd. S., Pritchard Beach, 8400 56th Ave. S., Seward Beach, 8400 Lake Washington Blvd. S., and West Green Lake Beach at 7312 W. Green Lake Dr. N.

Parents can register their children in person at each location between the hours of 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. No telephone registrations will be accepted.

For more information, contact the Parks Department at (206) 684-4075.

Forum

Continued from front page

have my commitment to fight for that," said Council member Nick Licata.

Council member Peter Steinbrueck was the other to make that promise.

"It's great to hear from you the residents, yourselves," he said, noting that his father was the project architect for the Yesler Terrace development in the 1930s.

Just as Steinbrueck took pride in his

family's contribution, Yesler residents took the time to point out that they have made a great contribution to their neighborhood.

"We, as the residents of Yesler Terrace, have built beautiful landscapes in our yards and strong relationships in our community," said resident Penny Mills.

"People here are working low-wage jobs and some people here are working two jobs...I beg anybody that's involved with this redevelopment to think about family, to think about children."

Immigrants speak at forum



PHOTO COURTESY OF HATE FREE ZONE WASHINGTON

Senator Patty Murray speaks with forum participants.

U.S. from Mexico in 2000, an immigration official incorrectly reported that she falsely claimed U.S. citizenship.

"(A) lawyer also told me that, even though the officer misunderstood what Claudia told him, there is no way to appeal the officer's decision in the United States courts," he said.

Falsely claiming U.S. citizenship makes a person ineligible for permanent residency.

The afternoon included a series of workshops for those working to reform the immigration system, including round table lunches, a plenary session and workshops on workers' rights, legislative and immigration issues.

In addition to Senator Murray, Seattle

Mayor Greg Nickels, State Representative Phyllis Gutierrez-Kinney, and U.S. Representative Jim McDermott also spoke.

The hearing also featured a public comment period.

During the public comment period, Pramila Jayapal, executive director of Hate Free Zone, presented a set of principles for Just and Fair Comprehensive Immigration Reform. Representative Gutierrez-Kinney's speech closed the session.

Seattle's communities of color and their allies turned out heavily for the forum, with attendance at the morning hearing estimated at around 800 people.

More than 200 people were present for the afternoon workshops, bringing total attendance to more than 1,000.

Free class for Seattle-area seniors offers 'a taste of healthy living'

BY JESSICA ADAMS

Healthy Aging Partnership

Low-carb or high-fiber?

Atkins or Weight Watchers? Eat meat or go vegetarian? Heart health, diabetes control, weight loss...who can make heads or tails of what it takes to eat right and still enjoy your meals?

The Healthy Aging Partnership has the answers in a free class on nutrition for adults ages 60 and older.

"A Taste of Healthy Living" is a half-day session to help older adults make wise food choices that will help them live healthier and longer lives.

The session, open to all King County seniors, is scheduled to run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, August 17, at Yesler Community Center, 917 E. Yesler Way in Seattle.

As we age, the effects of nutrition on our bodies, minds and lifestyles change, too. The workshop will cover the basics of nutrition and a healthy diet, while focusing on how to choose easy-to-prepare and tasty meals and snacks.

A cooking demonstration and some information on moving for fun and fitness will round out class activities.

A light breakfast and full lunch are included, along with recipes, door prizes, gifts and health information.

The class will be led by three health professionals, who bring a wealth of experience to their work.

Janet Kapp is a registered dietician who has worked in clinics, schools and com-

munity settings.

Kapp currently works as a nutrition consultant with Public Health - Seattle & King County in the Chronic Disease Prevention and Healthy Aging Division.

She works primarily with older adults who are at risk for or have a chronic disease, and she specializes in diabetes.

Mary Podrabsky has served as the associate director of nutrition projects for Senior Services of Seattle/King County since 1980.

Programs she helps to run include a nutrition program that serves approximately 125,000 people annually and operates in 30 locations, Meals on Wheels which delivers 500,000 meals to 3,000 homebound seniors annually and a mobile market, which is a home-delivered grocery program.

Eva Montee has more than 30 years of experience in the fitness industry. She holds a BA from Washington State University and is currently employed by Mountain View Hospital in Madras, Oregon coordinating wellness and community education programs.

There is no charge for the class, but space is limited. Participants must sign up for the event in advance. The deadline for registration is Aug. 10. For more information or to make a reservation, call (206) 721-9540 ext. 2.

For information on transportation options, call the Healthy Aging Partnership at 1-888-4ELDERS (1-888-435-3377). The organization is a coalition of more than 40 Puget Sound organizations dedicated to the health and well-being of older adults.

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.

Seattle Public Utilities starts assistance program

Pilot program will assist eligible customers with their water bill

By CITY OF SEATTLE

Low-income people who face an immediate water service shut-off may qualify for an emergency assistance pilot project that could cover half of their utility bill.

At the direction of Mayor Greg Nickels and the City Council, Seattle Public Utilities will run the pilot program through December 2005. The program's aim is to help citizens in need and gather data to shape a long-term strategy for helping SPU customers who are at risk of having their water shut off.

"This pilot program will allow us to start helping people with their water bill immediately, and will help us build a strong program for the future," Mayor Nickels said.

The program is available to residential customers who have incomes at 125 percent of the poverty level and who live within city limits.

For example, a family of three with an income of \$1,676 per month, or \$20,115 per year, is at 125 percent of the poverty level. Households accepted into the program may receive an emergency credit of up to half of their delinquent bill, with a maximum credit of \$200.

"Until this fund was created, people have had no place to turn for help to pay for the most basic requirement of life," said Council member Tom Rasmussen, who initiated a review of SPU assistance programs last fall as part of the Council's budget process. "Now, Seattle will be able to help disabled people, senior citizens and families who have fallen on hard times and

who are struggling to make ends meet."

"We can't have a safety net for citizens in trouble if the net has holes in it. This measure shows we are willing to make sure that both of Seattle's large utilities can help those in economic distress," said Council member Jim Compton.

SPU's Residential Services Team will review each applicant's eligibility, and applications for this program will require income verification.

Interested individuals may call SPU at (206) 684-5800. Households that already qualify for low-income energy assistance programs may also qualify for this pilot program.

"Most of these families struggle each month to make a mortgage or rental payment and are already tapping into other public benefit programs in order to survive," said Patricia McInturff, director of the Seattle Human Services Department. "Seattle Public Utilities' pilot project will provide tremendous help to many families who are facing the loss of services due to financial crises."

Customers in financial crisis must currently rely on friends, families and non-profit agencies for help with their water and sewage bills.

The fund for the pilot totals \$50,000. Once funding for this pilot program is exhausted, no additional funds are available until decisions are made for a long-term solution.

SPU anticipates the implementation of a permanent financial assistance program in 2006.

Kids pitch in to add art and life to Yesler Terrace basketball court



PHOTO BY LINDSAY ANDERSON

Students involved in The Nature Consortium program at the Yesler Terrace Community Center have been painting murals that will be hung on the fence surrounding the community's outdoor basketball court. The court is being renovated by AmeriCorps volunteer Lindsay Anderson. In May, Anderson led a team of residents and volunteers as they painted lines on the court and distributed flyers to residents to inform them of the project. The Nature Consortium is a nonprofit organization that aims to teach children environmental lessons through creative arts projects.



One to grow on

Garden tips for community gardeners

Savoring squash and zucchini

By ANZA MUENCHOW
Special to the Voice

Now that you've harvested all your peas and spring lettuce, you'll have lots of space in your garden for your fall and winter crops.

A fall planting of spinach is especially nice because it doesn't have as many pests, like leaf miners, as spring spinach does.

Salad greens like lettuce, mizuna and mache (corn salad) can be replanted in August since they also do well in the cool fall temperatures.

Plant some cilantro now to go with your late September tomato and pepper salsas. It is less likely to bolt as the days are shorter and cooler.

My favorite over-wintering crop is purple sprouting broccoli. Plant it in July or August and it will stay a compact plant all through the fall and early winter.

In the late winter and early spring the broccoli plant will get much larger and shoot up the most beautiful little florets. A well cared for plant will offer pounds of product. Cook these purple stocks and they will turn a rich green for serving.

I hope you're enjoying your summer squash. Be sure to pick the fruit often, and don't let them get too large on the vine. This will encourage the plant to continue producing all season.

Zucchini is wonderful in a stir-fry or just sliced lengthwise, coated in olive oil and salt, and roasted in a hot oven (400 degrees

for 15 minutes).

For those larger zucchini, consider a stuffed zucchini recipe. My favorite method is to slice my large zucchinis in half and microwave them for several minutes. Then scoop out the inside of the squash and sauté with onions, garlic, tomatoes, pine nuts and your favorite herbs.

Mix the sauté with breadcrumbs and then spoon it back into the zucchini shells. Sprinkle some parmesan cheese on the top and bake it until tender (at 375 degrees for about 20 minutes).

When the nights become cool and damp, your zucchini leaves may show signs of powdery mildew. Cut out and remove this diseased material from your garden to slow further infection. However, by the end of the season all your squash will eventually die of powdery mildew.

During the hot dry month of August your plants would love deep, rich mulch over their roots to keep them cool and moist. Cedar Grove compost is a good mulch, or make your own by using grass clippings and dried leaves. This mulch will also reduce weeds and supply the nutrient rich organic matter your plants need to grow next year.

Keep watering regularly and harvesting from your plants. Eat well and enjoy the fruits of your labor!

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

Community notes

Theater to present "sweet" musical

The Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center will bring Roald Dahl's beloved children's novel "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" from page to stage this month in a fun-filled musical production.

As the final production of the center's Summer Youth Theater Program, "Uncle Willy's Chocolate Factory" will be performed from Aug. 23 to 28.

Matinee performances are Tuesday through Saturday at 1 p.m., and evening shows are Tuesday through Saturday at 7 p.m. The production closes on Sunday with a 3 p.m. performance.

All performances take place at the Seattle Repertory Theater, located on the Seattle Center campus at 155 Mercer St.

Admission is only \$2 for the 1 p.m. matinee performances and \$5 for the 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. evening performances. Tickets are available at the theater box office Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., by calling the box office at (206) 443-2222 or online at <http://www.seattlerep.org>.

Now in its ninth year, the popular Summer Youth Theater provides Seattle teens with professional training in theater, music and dance. The performing arts center has served as a primary artistic and cultural gathering place for Seattle's Central District.

Job fair for older workers

Are you a mature worker looking for a job? Do you want to network?

Please come to the Hire Experience: 50+ Job Fair on Wednesday, September 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Seattle Center's Center House.

Many local employers will be there to discuss job opportunities. Join the 1,500 to 2,000 other job seekers who will be on hand to gather information. Several workshops are scheduled at this free event.

Don't miss this chance to move your job search forward to success. Bring your resume and dress for success.

For questions or accommodations, please call National Asian Pacific Center on Aging at (206) 838-8163.

Resource fair planned

The Church and Community Building Initiative resource fair will take place on Saturday, August 13 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on 24th Avenue between East Spruce Street and Yesler Way.

The fair will be a multicultural celebration of children, youth and families.

Books, parenting tools, school supplies, backpacks and clothing will be distributed.

Learn about remarkable organizations and enjoy an afternoon of food, arts and crafts, farmers market booths and children's activities.

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.

Leaders say goodbye
TWO OF HIGH POINT'S BEST STEP DOWN
See page 4



SHA NEWS

August
2005

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

Mayor appoints Katie Hong to SHA board

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
Mayor Greg Nickels nominated Katie Hong last month to a post on the Seattle Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners.

The Seattle City Council approved the nomination.

Hong will serve a four-year term. She will replace Peter Moy, who was first appointed to the board by Mayor Norm Rice in 1997. Moy served two terms.

The Board of Commissioners is a seven-member board that includes two SHA residents. The board is responsible for approving the agency's annual budget and for setting its policy.

Hong currently works for a large Seattle-based foundation as the deputy director for its Pacific Northwest giving program, which focuses on vulnerable children and families.

She worked previously as the director of the City's Office of Housing and also served as the mayor's senior policy advisor on community and economic development.

"Katie will bring a wealth of experience in housing and community development to SHA's board that I believe will represent the needs of our residents," said Tom Tierney, SHA executive director.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
Katie Hong (right) smiles with board chair Bettylou Valentine.

Prior to joining the Nickels Administration, Hong was a White House Fellow, working in the White House Chief of Staff's Office. She also spent time as an executive policy advisor to Gov. Gary Locke and a program examiner in the Office of Management and Budget in Washington D.C.

Hong holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley and a master's degree in public policy from the University of Chicago.

She is active in the community, serving as an adjunct professor at Seattle University's Institute of Public Service and as a board member of the Asian Community Leadership Foundation.

Several Section 8 voucher rules changed

Program changes will help reduce costs and serve more low-income families

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Seattle Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners recently approved changes to Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program in order to lower costs and issue more vouchers.

"In addition to allowing SHA to serve more families, reducing costs will help to ensure long-term stability of the Section 8 program in the face of reduced government funding," said Barbara Strayer, acting director or rental assistance programs at the Housing Authority.

Earlier this spring, Seattle Housing Authority officials proposed the cost-savings measures. They were later modified in response to community feedback and other considerations.

The Board of Commissioners approved the final changes in late June. Current participants have been notified by mail of the new rules.

Starting October 1, SHA will increase rent between annual reviews for households that receive a significant increase in

income.

Voucher holders have always been required to report changes in income, but they previously would not see their rent increase until their next annual review.

Voucher holders will still be able to request a decrease in rent right away for lost income. If the decreased income is due to loss of employment, SHA will now ask to see a statement of unemployment benefits.

SHA has also lowered the voucher payment standard—the maximum amount for rent and utilities—for one, two and three-bedroom vouchers. That is because the payment standard for these unit sizes previously exceeded the Department of Housing and Urban Development's maximum of 110 percent of fair market rent.

Households will be notified at their next annual review if they will have to pay more rent because of the change. If so, the new rent will go into effect one year later.

Starting August 1, the payment standard will be lowered. **Please see "Section 8" on page 2**

New standards set for occupancy

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Seattle Housing Authority recently revised its policy for minimum occupancy standards in low-income public housing units.

Occupancy standards establish the minimum number of people that SHA will assign to a given unit size.

The new policy, effective August 1, will apply to all applicants, new residents and

residents transferring between units. Residents who stay in their current units will not be affected, unless a decrease in their household size affects their eligibility for their current unit.

Copies of the policy are available to residents at the management offices at all SHA public housing properties.

For new residents and residents transferring to new units, the Housing Authority will no longer consider gender of household members when assigning units.

However, SHA will offer a unit large enough so that an adult head of household will not have to share a bedroom with a minor. Otherwise, the sleeping arrangements of the family will be left to the head of household.

For example, a family with one parent and two children (one boy and one girl), would be offered a two-bedroom unit instead of a three-bedroom unit as the old policy allowed.

"The revised occupancy standards will maximize our limited public housing resources," said Cindy Sribhibhadh, senior property administrator at SHA. "Our goal is to serve more low-income people in need of affordable housing."

New utility allowances proposed

By STACY SCHWANDT
Voice editor

Seattle Housing Authority officials presented a new standard for calculating utility allowances to the Board of Commissioners last month, calling for a shift from using a federal standard to a local standard.

SHA hired a consultant to review utility allowances during its annual Section 8 review. The consultant used a software program designed to meet requirements set by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"It appears that the utility allowances we've been using for Section 8 are slightly higher than they should be," said Andrew Lofton, one of the housing authority's deputy directors.

The board did not take action on the proposal, but they are expected to do so this month or next.

Utility allowances cover both the Section 8 and Low Income Public Housing programs. Within these programs, tenants are expected to pay 30 percent of their incomes in rent and utilities.

A utility allowance is calculated based on the number of bedrooms and the type of energy source used in a unit. The utility

allowance is deducted from the amount a tenant owes to the housing authority in rent. Tenants are then expected to pay their utility bills out of pocket.

The new allowances are based on the rate structures of Seattle's three utility companies, 30 years of local climate data and HUD-approved assumptions about consumption. Previously, the housing authority used national rates and climate data.

Monthly utility allowance decreases will range from \$4 for an individual in a studio with all electric utilities to \$176 for a family in a five-bedroom duplex with oil heat and electric hot water and stoves.

In a few instances, utility allowances will increase, such as the \$30 boost proposed for those living in two-bedroom townhouses with electric heat and gas stoves and hot water. Combined water, sewer and garbage allowances will drop by between \$1 and \$25.

"We believe that the new recommendations still accommodate a typical family," Lofton said. "To the extent that there are large families (in an apartment), the allowance might not accommodate them."

Lofton said the housing authority will be looking into ways to remedy that problem.

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Yesler Terrace resident has many stories in print

By STACY SCHWANDT
Voice editor

Bui Hoang Thu may not have seen his name in lights, but he has seen it in print.

Before he moved to the United States from Vietnam in 1992, he published four full-length novels.

Since living in the U.S. he has self-published two more books in the Vietnamese language.

Bui, 75, is currently working with translators to develop an English version of his most recent book. Once the translation is complete, he will try to find a publisher to print the book.

His first book "Nang," or "Woman" in English, was made into a movie in 1964 and stars the famous Vietnamese actress Tham Thuy Hang.

The movie tells the story of a young orphaned girl trying to build a life against the odds. It is still available today on DVD.

Bui worked as a government official in Saigon in the 1960s, and he wrote as a hobby.

"Usually I would write at night and during the day at work in the down times," he said through an interpreter. "Sometimes I would write all the way into the middle of the night and wake up early in the morning to start again."

Bui said he was a part of a writer's association in Saigon that included many very famous authors. All writers in the association had published at least two books, and they shared their work with one another, providing editing and suggestions.

Bui also wrote for a number of weekly and monthly newspapers.

When war broke out in Vietnam, Bui was named a dissenter and all of his books were destroyed. His personal copies were also lost when his house was ransacked.

Bui spent nine years in a re-education camp, after which he applied for a humani-

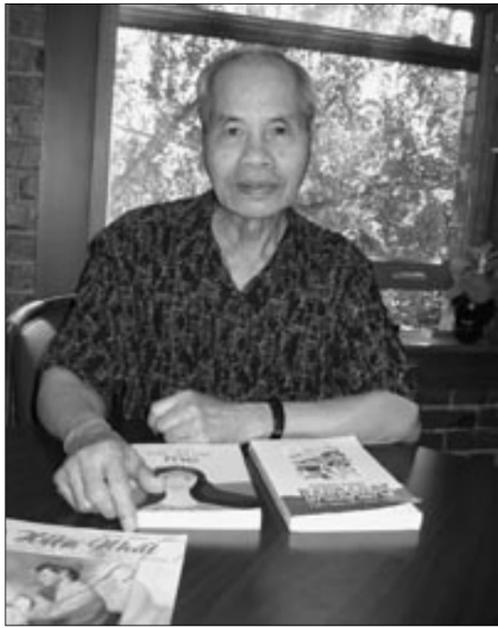


PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

Yesler Terrace resident Bui Hoang Thu has published five books in Vietnamese. Here he shows off two of them.

tarian visa to the United States. He has been married for 50 years and has nine children, five of whom are still in Vietnam.

Bui said he offered a friend who was visiting Vietnam \$200 if he could bring back a copy of "Nang." His friend said there were none to be found.

Bui's latest work "The Life of a Mother" is based on the true story of a woman with 13 children who put her life on the line to ensure they made a safe journey from Vietnam to the United States.

He has also written a book about Barabas, a criminal in the Christian Gospels who was to be hung alongside Jesus. But Barabas was spared by the crowd instead.

Bui's book imagines what Barabas' life was like after he was spared and became a follower of Jesus.

"All in all, after a person reads the book, I want them to be a better person," Bui said. "I wanted to write to do a service to humanity, to tell great stories so people can learn from them."

Determined student wins scholarship

By NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE STAFF

By the time she started high school, Margareth Tran had nearly circled the globe - from her native France to Pennsylvania to California to Seattle. Now, with the help of a Neighborhood House scholarship, she'll see still more of the world - Cornell University in New York.

After moving to the United States at the age of 11, without speaking English and a lack of resources to help her acclimate to the new culture, the Section 8 resident counted on sheer determination to grow into an accomplished student.

"We moved to Seattle from California my freshmen year," the 19-year-old says. "It was really hard to get adjusted to an inner-city school, but I knew what I had to do if I wanted to go to college."

Coming from an immigrant family and single-father home, a college education was going to be a challenge. Tran says it was a combination of her father's hard work and an inspirational relative that stimulated her drive for high school success.

Tran graduated from Franklin High School on the High Honor Roll and as an Advanced Placement Scholar. She ran varsity cross-country and participated and volunteered in numerous activities such as youth tutoring.

She plans to attend Cornell in the fall with a major in fine arts. She also is con-



Margareth Tran

sidering turning her love for animals into a career and going to veterinary school.

The Heart of Oak scholarship fund was established in 1999 to help pay for tuition and other hard costs of higher education. Recipients are selected by Neighborhood House staff, Board members and residents of public housing. Tran says her advice to other students struggling to go to college is to never let money stop you from your dream.

"There are so many resources available," Tran urges. "As long as you have perseverance and work hard, there will always be people willing to help."

Housing communities host new Web sites

By JAMES OWENBY
Seattle Housing Authority

Have you ever needed to get information about a service provider in your neighborhood?

Do you just want a place to find out about the community events taking place nearby? Have you ever read an article in The Voice, recycled the paper but then wanted to refer back to the article?

Your dilemma is solved.

The Seattle Housing Authority provides community Web sites for each of its garden communities to help residents and service providers share information.

The sites are home to a host of information including community history, service directories, photos galleries of community events and events calendars. Now, there are also links to the online version of The Voice.

The sites can be found at <http://www.newholly.org>, <http://www.highpointneighborhood.org>, <http://www.rainiervista.org>, and <http://www.yeslerterrace.org>. All have information about their respective communities and are available 24 hours a day

and seven days a week.

If you are looking for The Voice online, just click on the "News" button on any of the sites' navigation bars. You'll be able to read The Voice on your computer screen or print it out.

"The (addition of) the electronic format of The Voice makes this newspaper more useful to the community and increases access to valuable information," said Kari-lynn Frank, community builder at High Point.

NewHolly Community Builder Joy Bryngelson noted that www.newholly.org is a great way for community members to learn about events and local resources.

"My favorite parts about our Web site are the newsletter and the photos of our special events," she said. "Here in NewHolly we have a very diverse community and we're using several different methods to communicate with each other and invite people to participate."

"We use the Web site, flyers, newsletters, sidewalk signs, word of mouth, and community meetings. There are so many ways to get involved in this community, there's really something for everyone."

Commissioners adopt annual plan

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Seattle Housing Authority is one of about 30 housing authorities across the country participating in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Moving To new Ways demonstration program.

This program allows SHA to test innovative methods to improve housing services to better meet local needs.

SHA's Board of Commissioners adopted this coming fiscal year's plan last month.

Several actions outlined in the plan will affect current and future SHA residents and community members.

These include building new workforce and public housing at High Point and Rainier Vista, and working with nonprofit partners to develop new housing for low-income seniors and people with disabilities in these communities.

SHA will continue to reconfigure the Scattered-Sites portfolio by selling some units and replacing them with others that are more efficient to manage and maintain.

The plan also calls for beginning "home-Works," a five-year capital program involving bond- and tax credit-financed renovations of 22 of SHA's public housing high-rises. Each renovation will include a comprehensive rehabilitation of building

systems and common areas, and the high-rises will still be affordable to existing residents and future residents with similar low incomes when complete.

SHA will also be tailoring the Housing Choice Voucher Tenant-Based Assistance Program to meet local needs, continuing to strengthen programs that give residents access to computers and the Internet, and planning for the redevelopment of key mixed-use sites at NewHolly, Rainier Vista and High Point.

Finally, SHA has committed to continuing the successful high-rise mental health crisis intervention and case management program that was recently expanded.

About 40 people, including residents and members of the general public, attended a public hearing about the plan in early June. Comments from this meeting were taken into consideration when preparing the final proposed plan.

Every July, SHA's Board adopts an annual plan that describes activities planned for the following fiscal year and highlights MTW initiatives. SHA prepares an annual report every December that describes the previous fiscal year's accomplishments.

To read the full plan visit <http://www.seattlehousing.org> and click on the "Development" section.

Section 8

Continued from front page

ards will apply to all new participants or those who decide to move to another unit.

New occupancy standards will increase the number of household members needed to qualify for a given number of bedrooms. For example, a household must have at least three people to receive a voucher for a two-bedroom apartment.

Current participants will not experience any changes in occupancy standards unless they decide to move.

New families issued vouchers, and current participants who move to another unit,

will be subject to the new standards starting August 1.

All new policies will apply immediately to new participants accepted into the program.

SHA staff expects to begin inviting households from the waiting list to interview for vouchers this month. Due to the long waiting list, SHA has no current plans to accept new applications for the Section 8 program.

More information on the new policies is available on SHA's Web site at <http://www.seattlehousing.org>. Click on the box that reads "Policy changes for housing programs."

POINT OF VIEW

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

SSHP Advocates host annual picnic August 16



PHOTO COURTESY OF SSHP ADVOCATES II

Residents enjoyed the wonderful weather at last year's picnic.

By LINDA CROWN
SSHP Advocates II

Summer is here and that means it's time for food, fun and information sharing.

Residents of Seattle Senior Housing Program buildings are invited to the annual SSHP Advocates II summer meeting and picnic on Tuesday, August 16 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Again this year, the picnic will be located at the upper level of Ravenna Park, just off 20th Avenue N.E. Maps and directions will be sent to each building as well as a survey of transportation needs.

The Advocates II is an organization of senior building residents that aims to preserve residents' interests, particularly on issues pertaining to Seattle Housing

Authority rules and policy.

Organization members will provide fried chicken and beverages.

Residents with last names starting with A through L are welcome to contribute salads and those with last names starting with M through Z are welcome to bring desserts, if they choose.

Food contributions are optional.

Games, prizes and historical trivia about our city in general and our senior buildings in particular will be available.

Last year's picnic drew residents from 17 of our 23 buildings, and planners hope to see representatives from every building this year.

For more information contact Bette Reed at (206) 523-8685 or Edie Koch at (206) 217-9451.

First Tri-Court council events are successful

By ANTHONY CAMERON
Tri-Court Council Vice President

The Tri-Court Resident Council, which was newly reconstituted this year, sponsored its first events last month.

The Fourth of July yard sale and potluck were held to raise money for future events, which will be chosen by residents at the council's next potluck dinner meeting at 6 p.m. on August 13.

The activities started with seed money from Betty McMillan and an afghan from Mary Smith which sold for \$50 at a council meeting.

We purchased an ad, materials for signs and balloons. The council's executive committee raised money by asking sellers to donate \$5, by sponsoring its own table and by selling soda and coffee.

The yard sale was a great success, with no complaints heard from anyone. At first, everyone thought it would rain, but I kept telling them it was going to be good weather because I had put in an order for it.

We had great weather, and as to be expected, some of us bought almost as much as we sold. Who can resist a good yard sale?

We all made new friends, and our laughter on the first day brought out residents who usually don't participate in the building's goings-on.

The executive committee's uphill strug-

gle has been to create a feeling of community among the residents who moved in after renovations ended a year ago.

Nearly 85 percent of all residents are newcomers. I'm still meeting everyone!

The potluck picnic was well-attended and the food was the best ever. I won't tell you what we had because you'll get hungry, and your mouth will water. Just let me say that it was our best effort so far, and we'll have to work hard to improve on it.

The executive committee thanks everyone who contributed to the event's success, including everyone who sponsored tables, all those who made donations and the Seattle Housing Authority for bringing more tables (thanks Brett) and allowing us to have access to the basements for even more tables and chairs.

By the way, some residents have mentioned wanting to do it all over again on Labor Day.

I wonder if I'll be camping for a couple of weeks at the beginning of September.

For more information on the Tri-Court resident council, contact Cameron at (206) 915-9370.

LIPH Resident Action Council meeting on Aug. 10 at 1 p.m.
Center Park community building
2121 26th Ave. S.
For more information call JM Bush at (206) 860-7275.

Upgrades on the way for unusual computer lab

By JAMES OWENBY
Seattle Housing Authority

Across the breezeway at Center Park is a beacon of learning, connection and hope called the STAR Center. The center will soon offer better technology and service to residents and the general public.

The Seattle Housing Authority opened the Special Technology Access Resource Center in 1998.

It has six computers equipped with specialized hardware and software to help people with disabilities use technology and the Internet. It is open from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The lab is run by Digital Promise, a nonprofit that focuses on supporting technology centers in low-income housing communities.

Digital Promise was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from the City of Seattle to outfit the center with new machines. The lab may soon have expanded hours as well, thanks to a \$300,000 grant SHA received for computer labs like the STAR Center.

Lab Coordinator Jacquie Cook says the new computers are only the starting point for the many services the center offers.

"People with physical challenges need hardware or software assistance, so we have many toys here to meet them whatever their physical capabilities are," Cook says. "Each computer has to have some very specialized software that can cost up to \$1,000 per license per machine."

Most of the machines have the Naturally Speaking speech recognition software which allows users to create computer documents by talking and JAWS screen reading software that reads information on computer screens for its users.

Other machines have specialized equipment such as Sip and Puff, which is a headset apparatus that helps people with little



PHOTO BY JAMES OWENBY

Lisa Maurer demonstrates the software she uses to listen to the contents of her Web site. Some of the crafts that she sells on the site sit in front of the keyboard.

hand dexterity, such as quadriplegics, move the mouse. To click on a hyperlink or select text the user gently blows into a tube.

Lisa Maurer, an 11 year resident of Center Park, has been using the computers at the STAR Center since 1998. Maurer has been blind since birth and, with the help of some friends, she recently built her own Web site to sell her handmade crafts.

"I need very serious dental work and I've got to earn some money to get my teeth fixed," she said while using the JAWS software to read back the site's content.

"I have links on my homepage to my eBay store too," she said. "I haven't sold anything yet, and we are still upgrading images."

Maurer also attends JAWS continuing education classes that are open to anyone interested every Monday night from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Maurer's Web site can be found at <http://lisasblindcrafts.friendpages.com>.

Ross Manor residents take a road trip to diner

By ROGER EDDY
Special to the Voice

Last month, I took a group of Ross Manor residents to the XXX in Issaquah, a 1950s-style diner serving its own secret-recipe root beer and hamburgers the size of your head.

The XXX used to be a nation-wide burger chain but the Issaquah restaurant is the last one remaining. In 1903, when the first XXX opened in Renton, the three Xs stood for excellence.

From the big crowd at lunch it seems they could go national again if they wanted.

The diner's walls are covered in 1950's memorabilia including records from Elvis and Chubby Checker, old car parts and menus charging 10 cents for a milkshake.

This is not the place you want to go to if you're trying to lose weight. We had plans to tour Boehm's chocolate factory afterwards, but we were too full to do much walking. We decided to go through the Krispy Kreme drive-thru instead. We got some extra donuts for the residents back at

Ross Manor who couldn't make the trip.

Everyone who went showed courage in making the trip despite their disabilities.

A special congratulations goes out to "B" who used her backside maneuver to get in and out of the van.

We wish we had remembered to bring a camera. Maybe next time. At any rate, we enjoyed an old-fashioned treat, some exercise and fresh air. Most importantly, we had fun as a group. This is so important for both mental and physical health.

Spending time with friends, good conversation and a new environment can make a big difference.

Roger Eddy is a case manager for Community Psychiatric Clinic. To reach him or for more information about the program, call (206) 369-5579.

Rummage and bake sale
Aug. 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Lake City House
12546 33rd Ave. NE
All proceeds will benefit the residents of Lake City House.

HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY

Council says goodbye to longtime leaders

Council future uncertain



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWARTZ

Goldie Holmes (left) and Bonita Blake lead their last High Point Community Council meeting last month. Both are relocating to other SHA communities.

By VOICE STAFF

Two pivotal resident leaders in the High Point community said goodbye last month, stepping down from the Community Council after more than a decade of service.

Council President Bonita Blake has sat on the council since 1994.

"I just want to thank God first of all to have been able to be a part of this," she said. "I will still have this community in my heart."

Both Blake and Council member Goldie Holmes have moved to other Seattle Housing Authority communities.

"I appreciate the teamwork that we were a part of," said Holmes, who has served since 1999. "It is teamwork that keeps a community strong."

Seattle Housing Authority Community Builder Kari-lynn Frank presented both women with certificates honoring their service at the council meeting last month.

She noted that over the years Blake and Holmes were instrumental in making High Point a safer place to live and preparing for the HOPE VI redevelopment now

underway.

"I really appreciate the efforts you've put into the community," she said.

With the departure of Holmes and Blake, the future of the Community Council remains unclear.

An election of new officers did not take place at the July meeting because there weren't enough community members present. To date, only one person volunteered to serve.

Frank said that it will be up to the Low Income Public Housing residents to step forward and organize another council meeting.

The Housing Authority has stated its interest in the development of a Neighborhood Association that would represent all High Point residents, regardless of whether they are renters or home owners.

The Department of Housing and Urban development encourages the formation of resident councils in low-income housing communities to facilitate communication between a housing authority and residents.

Community notes

Join neighbors at Crime Night Out

High Point's Crime Night Out event will take place this year on August 9.

The celebration will begin with a walk to highlight neighborhood unity that starts at 5 p.m. on block 10 on the newly redeveloped side of the community.

A barbecue, resource fair and speeches on safety in the community will take place at the High Point Community Center, 6920 34th Ave. SW, following the march.

For more information, contact Kelly McKinney at kelly@sngi.org.

Puppet show for kids and adults

"Annie and the Enchanted Whale," an original puppet show will be performed at the High Point library at 6 p.m. on Aug. 8. Created and performed by Bill Jarcho of Zambini Brothers Puppet Co., it is a fun and poignant ecological adventure about a little girl who

befriends a lost baby orca whale and helps it find its way home.

Set in the Pacific Northwest, this modern day myth is filled with wondrous sea creature puppets, humor, and a magical surprise ending. Jarcho will do a short puppet demonstration after each show.

This program is suitable for ages 5 and up. The High Point library is located at 3411 S.W. Raymond St.

Block party planned

Neighbors on Block 10 in the new development will be getting together on Friday, August 5 from 5 to 7 p.m. for the first block party in the new community.

The event will be in the pocket park on the east side of the block. Come meet your new neighbors, eat some barbecue and have fun.

Residents of all ages are welcome.

First move into new units at High Point

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Families moved into the first 46 rental units at the redeveloped High Point last month and more units will be offered soon.

The next 49 units will be available by the end of this month and will mostly have two and three bedrooms.

"The units also include modern appliances, like washers, dryers and dishwashers," said DeVonn Chambliss, property manager for the Seattle Housing Authority. "They are also attractive to residents since they are convenient to parks, shopping areas, a public library and healthcare facilities."

The apartments will also offer a variety of state-of-the-art features including cost-saving, gas-operated hydronic heating systems, which have an on-demand hot water supply.

Whole house fans with two-speed timing switches will remove moisture in the units, and airtight drywall will be used to reduce moisture penetration and inhibit mold growth.

Also contributing to the units' environmental features are vinyl flooring with recycled content and energy-efficient windows that will block UV rays.

Many residents who were living in the original High Point housing will be moving



PHOTO BY GEORGE NEMETH

Residents have already moved into these apartments.

into these new units. Some of the units will also serve as replacements for the original low-income units that were torn down to make way for the redevelopment.

The entire first phase of rentals at High Point will provide 344 homes built by the Housing Authority. The project will be complete in the spring of 2006. Over 140 of these units are workforce-level rental units and 200 are designated for public housing residents.

When fully complete, the 120-acre redevelopment will be home to about 1,600 households in rental, market-rate, for-sale and senior housing.

If you would like more information about renting a new unit at High Point, please call the High Point Property Management Office at 1-800-932-2736.

High Point 'steps up' to excellence

All are invited to pitch in on staircase project

By VOICE STAFF

High Point youth call the staircase that runs between the redeveloped and soon-to-be-redeveloped sides of the community, "100 stairs," "a lot of exercise," and "a long way up."

The set of more than 130 steps that cuts down from High Point to the Delridge neighborhood below may not have a proper name, but it will soon have a new, revitalized look.

The High Point Healthy Homes Community Action team is sponsoring a volunteer project to make the staircase a healthier connection between High Point, Delridge and the Longfellow Creek.

The project is funded in part by the National Institute of Environmental Sciences and the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.

Community members are invited to help by tagging plants, picking up trash and installing a temporary sign on the staircase, which is located on Southwest Graham Street, now known as Bataan Street.

A work party will take place on Tuesday, August 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. before High Point Crime Night Out. Neighbors can meet on the staircase.

On Thursday, August 11 at 6 p.m., neighbors walk down the stairs and along



PHOTO BY VOICE STAFF

Neighborhood kids climb the Bataan Street/Graham Street staircase, which will soon undergo a face lift.

the Longfellow Creek Legacy trail to Greg Davis Park where the action team will sponsor a barbecue. The barbecue is expected to start at 7 p.m.

"This program is very good," said former High Point resident and team member Marissa Gonzales. "It's good that the community be in unity with the surroundings."

For more information please contact Rose Long at (206) 923-3266.

RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

New community builder joins Housing Authority

By JAMES OWENBY
Seattle Housing Authority

Naomi Chang is new to working for the Seattle Housing Authority, but she's not new to working in SHA neighborhoods.

Chang, who started work as the Rainier Vista community builder last month, came to SHA from Puget Sound Neighborhood Health Centers, a nonprofit healthcare organization that provides medical and dental services to low-income and culturally diverse patients.

With PSNHC, Chang worked with residents in the garden communities organizing health support groups, giving presentations, facilitating senior gatherings and enrolling people in health programs.

She is familiar with the residents and service providers at Rainier Vista as she has worked with many of them in the past. She says she left PSNHC looking for new challenges and the opportunity to learn some new skills.

Chang speaks English, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Vietnamese. She was born in Vietnam, but her family is Chinese. Her grandparents emigrated from China to Vietnam, and the family lived in a section of town where Chinese was spoken. Chang's family follows Chinese cultures and traditions and speaks Mandarin Chinese.

When Chang was a teenager, her family left Vietnam. Chang said she learned a lot of the Vietnamese language during the four years she spent in a refugee camp in the Philippines before coming to the United States.

Chang's family settled in Salt Lake City, Utah. She lived there for 13 years, graduating from the University of Utah



PHOTO BY JAMES OWENBY
Naomi Chang joined SHA last month.

with a Bachelors of Science in Health Education.

After college, Chang worked as a refugee resettlement case worker and at an adult day treatment program in Salt Lake City.

She has lived in Seattle for eight years.

In her spare time she likes to bake traditional Chinese cakes and pastries and spend time with her husband and two sons. She lives in the Renton area and is thrilled to be so close to her job as well.

"I really hope to use health education to help Rainier Vista become a stronger and healthier neighborhood," she said. "I want to help people with their health habits to increase their life expectancy as well. I also am looking forward to working with the different residents to help the neighborhood become more integrated culturally."

Chang can be reached at (206) 722-4010 or by e-mail at nchang@seattlehousing.org.

Job, computer services move to new building

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

This month The Job Connection staff, the Rainier Vista community builder and the Rainier Vista Leadership Team will be moving to new offices at Neighborhood House's Rainier Vista Center.

The Rainier Vista Technology Center will also make the journey across the street.

"The move will make collaboration with our partner agencies faster, easier and much more streamlined," said Laura Lakings-Becvar, SHA employment services coordinator. "Our program participants will have their service needs under one roof."

Computer Center Coordinator Tsegaye Gebru said he is eager to meet all of the new Rainier Vista residents.

He encourages everyone to use the lab for resume writing, basic computer training,

health information, access to the Internet and one-on-one ESL tutorial classes.

The lab is a partnership between Neighborhood House, the Seattle Housing Authority and the Rainier Vista Leadership Team. It has 14 computers and is open to all members of the community at no cost.

"The Center helps us bridge the digital divide, ensuring everyone has access to technology," said Amy Kickliter, Neighborhood House's employment and adult education manager. "It is a great resource for all members of the community."

Please feel free to stop by and see the new offices at 4410 29th Ave. S. The Job Connection staff, Larry Hill, Van Vo and Jenny Goto, and Naomi Chang, SHA Community Builder, can also be reached at (206) 722-4010. The Technology Center can be reached at (206) 461-4568.

Kroc Center not in Rainier Vista's future Chance at \$30 million center awarded to Idaho

By VOICE STAFF

The Rainier Vista community has not been chosen as a finalist for a community center that would have included a swimming pool, gym, and space for art, music and drama.

Instead, the Salvation Army's western territory office has chosen Coeur d'Alene, Idaho to advance to the next step of securing a Kroc Center, made possible by a \$1.5 billion bequest from the estate of Joan B. Kroc, wife of the founder of McDonalds.

"We were very disappointed by the decision," said Andrew Lofton, one of the Seattle Housing Authority's deputy directors. "We felt we had a very strong proposal and we felt it would have been a wonderful addition to the community."

The center would have occupied a six-to-seven acre site on the east side of the Rainier Vista community, which is currently being redeveloped.

Lofton said the Housing Authority will return to its original plan for the site, which was to build a mixture of low-income public housing, tax credit apartments and some commercial sites.

The Boys and Girls Club, which would have been incorporated into the Kroc Center, will go forward with its plans for rebuilding on a site just north of its current location, Lofton added.

"We will ultimately be focused on ensuring that the Rainier Vista community gets transformed into a first-rate community," he said.

Community invited to ribbon cutting celebration

By NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE STAFF

Neighborhood House, in cooperation with Seattle Housing Authority, invites all members of the Rainier Vista community to celebrate the completion of the Rainier Vista Center and the new rental housing at 4 p.m. on Thursday, August 11.

The new 10,000-square foot Center will allow the agency to expand programs for low-income children, adults, families and seniors, all under one roof.

Among those scheduled to participate in the August event are Mayor Greg Nickels, King County Executive Ron Sims, King County Councilmember Larry Gossett, State Representative Adam Kline and SHA Executive Director Tom Tierney.

The event also will include a lively Chinese lion dance.

The building incorporates multicultural influences in everything from the varying rooflines to paint colors to playground structures.

A "green philosophy" conserves energy and recycles materials in paint, lighting, carpet and landscaping.

A unique and colorful 200-square-foot tile mural, inspired by children's artwork, greets visitors as they walk through the door.

Two large sun-filled classrooms will be the learning space for Head Start students, who also will enjoy state-of-the-art outdoor play space.

The technology center - made possible in part by a \$250,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - will offer computer skills, vocational training, English as a Second Language classes, citizenship classes and financial literacy education.

Five private offices will allow multilin-



PHOTO BY MIKE MOORE

Help us celebrate the Rainier Vista center grand opening.

qual family support workers and employment specialists to meet with their clients, while several social service and housing service providers will lease space in the Center.

Families like Dong and Lanh Ho and their four children, who live literally steps away from the new Center, will have access to training, education and support to become self-sufficient.

"My dream is to have a building close to my home where my kids can go to school and where I can learn, too," says Lanh, who is disabled and cannot travel too far from home.

Her daughter, Amanda, hopes to enroll in Head Start when classes begin this fall, while baby Dillon may follow next year in Early Head Start.

Teenager David and 11-year-old Douglas are looking forward to the opening of the computer lab, while mom and dad already plan to enroll in English as a Second Language classes.

"Rainier Vista Center is so much more than a century-long dream come true for all of us at Neighborhood House," says Executive Director Mark Okazaki. "It's a place to help change lives and build a community of families who support and nurture one another."

NH
Neighborhood
House



NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

City of Seattle adds new languages to Web sites

By JAMES OWENBY
Seattle Housing Authority

Seattle took a major step towards reaching its diverse populations last month when Mayor Greg Nickels joined an ESL class to announce that the City's Web site is now partly translated into 26 languages.

An audience packed the classroom at the NewHolly South Seattle Community College campus to listen to the Mayor describe the site's new foreign language services.

"We're going to use the Internet to better serve all of Seattle's citizens," he said. "With the new home page, language portal and other services, we can help people get the services they need."

Visitors can use a new portal to select their language, which provides a list of all the information available in that language. The portal is available at <http://www.seattle.gov/html/citizen/language.htm> or by clicking on the links that are located in the bottom right corner of the City's site at <http://www.seattle.gov>.

After the mayor's demonstration, Seattle City Light Superintendent Jorge Corrasco introduced his agency's new Spanish Web site. Visitors to this site, which is part of the overall city site, will be able to sign up for new utility service, get information about bill payment and learn about electrical safety and conservation.

Spanish speakers make up about 5.3 percent of Seattle's citizens, so Corrasco said Spanish was a natural choice for the translation. Vietnamese will likely be the



PHOTO BY JAMES OWENBY
Dignitaries watched a demonstration of the new translated Web sites.

next, he said.

"The Hispanic community in the Seattle area is one of the fastest growing populations within Washington state," said Chris Guillen, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce president. "Hispanics are also very active Internet users. This Web site will provide another avenue for them to connect to their excellent public utility."

Jacque Larrainzar from the Office of Civil Rights also demonstrated her office's new Spanish Web site at <http://www.seattle.gov/civilrights/Spanish/Portal.htm>. This site explains the laws that protect people from illegal discrimination in housing, employment, public places and contracting.

The event wrapped up with a brief question and answer session with the mayor.

"This is just the beginning," Nickels said. "We're going to continue to add services and information in a variety of languages, so that all communities have real-time, practical access to city government."

Community theater takes center stage at NewHolly

By LORA CROPPER
Voice reporter

Deus X Machina is a community-based theater group preparing to do something quite amazing in NewHolly.

Although the group's name originates from a Greek theatrical term, its goal is to depict life right here in NewHolly in an adaptation of the Shakespearean play *The Tempest*.

Ready...and...action!

Deus X Machina, or DXM, was founded by several people who once worked together in the professional theater. The group formed in January with the mission to "make plays with and about local communities in Washington state," said Jack Bentz, the artistic director of the group.

Group member Patrick Sexton is a NewHolly resident, and DXM has identified the community as the ideal location for their first production.

"There is something really interesting going on here and DXM wants to do something to showcase it," Bentz said.

DXM is a *community-based* theater group, which means community participation is key to the group's success. Community members will be asked to act, sing, play instruments, help to write and direct the production.

Bentz said his dream is "to have every

single member of NewHolly involved."

DXM recently held a story circle where community members shared their experiences and talked about the goings on in the NewHolly community. Throughout the upcoming months, the group will continue to hold story circles and participate in other community-wide celebrations where they can get to know the NewHolly residents.

By doing this, DXM eliminates the possibility of creating a play based on assumptions and is able to develop an accurate portrayal of NewHolly based on the voices of the community.

DXM is also searching for the musical voices in NewHolly. Group members plan to tap local musicians for the production's music. Again, DXM encourages the help of all community members and would like as many local musicians to participate as possible.

DXM's work will end in May 2006, when those involved will present an adaptation of the Shakespearean play *The Tempest*.

DXM holds a high professional standard for what they do, yet they emphasize the importance of having as many community members participate as possible. Even those interested in acting who are first-time performers are welcome to join.

Those who would like to participate can contact Jack Bentz at (206) 296-2313.

Fire destroys home on Willow Street

Housing Authority rallies to help family

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

On the morning of July 13, a fire occurred in a home on Willow Street in NewHolly. Fortunately, the family escaped the fire without any harm, but their home and all of their belongings were destroyed.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, but officials said they have ruled out arson.

The family is now living with other family members outside of NewHolly, and

the Seattle Housing Authority is working to locate a new permanent home for the mother and her two daughters.

If you would like to help the family, donations of clothing, money, housewares and other items can be made at the NewHolly management office.

Monetary donations can be made to the family at any Bank of America banking center under the "Housing Authority of the City of Seattle" account.

Program helps parents learn the rules of school



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

Meaza Gilay (left) looks on as the children in the program create A-B-C booklets.

By VOICE STAFF

It didn't take long for the preschoolers in the Neighborhood House kindergarten readiness program to assemble their A-B-C booklets last month.

Each one confidently collected the letters they needed. Then, one by one they looked over their shoulders for a nod from their parents as they decided how to glue the letters to face the right way.

That kind of interaction over school work was one goal of the four-week program at NewHolly, which aimed to prepare families for the beginning of kindergarten.

"You're already starting to support your children as they do their homework," said Danielle Eidenburg-Noppe, the Neighborhood House family connections coordinator who is overseeing the workshops.

This year's program was modeled after a summer-long kindergarten readiness program Neighborhood House ran last year at Bailey Gatzert Elementary School, reaching out to immigrant parents who have little experience with the American school system.

Funded by a grant from the BEA Foundation, the program included shorter sessions at Bailey Gatzert and the NewHolly campus, which drew families with children who will attend a variety of neighborhood

schools this fall.

After the family literacy activity, the children played outside while the parents took part in a meeting geared toward asking questions and sharing information.

During one meeting, parents talked about the differences between school in their home countries and school in the United States.

Another meeting touched on the need for parents to reinforce their children's native cultures and to prepare them for difficult moments like explaining to classmates why their family doesn't celebrate Christmas.

Throughout the workshops, Eidenburg-Noppe said she stressed that parents need to start building relationships with their children's teachers in kindergarten, so that they can keep track of their progress and behavior throughout their school career.

"By the time they're in middle school when it's harder (for parents) to make those connections, they'll know how to because they've already had experiences," she said.

Meaza Gilay, a NewHolly resident, said she was thankful for the program, which she said would prove valuable to her in the future.

"At least I know something for my kids before they go into kindergarten."



YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

Family grieves loss of young marine

Daniel Chavez, dedicated student, loving son and brother, killed in Iraq

By ALYSSA MARTIN
Voice reporter

In 1990, Lidia Cortedano moved from Texas to raise her six children by herself in a small Yesler Terrace apartment.

While juggling two jobs in janitorial and housekeeping work, she was rarely home long enough to get a good night's sleep, let alone to nag her children.

But her beloved son Danny didn't require much nagging.

Daniel Chavez was determined to make life easier for his mother and family. He was a dedicated student, keeping his grades high and winning a perfect attendance award for not missing a single class during his four years at Ballard High School.

Even though dyslexia made reading difficult for him, Chavez excelled in the ESL program and tutored other students in math.

"Danny was always willing to help people," said his older sister Lydia. "He was never 'too good' for someone. He saw everyone as equal and treated them that way."

Chavez, a lance corporal in the Marines, was one of five soldiers killed in June by an explosion in Iraq.

Fourteen-year-old Jeffrey remembers his older brother as the one who turned him on to sports. "Danny was a good outfielder and pitcher," he said. "We'd play baseball together all the time in the backyard. Baseball was his favorite sport."

When Chavez wasn't playing sports sometimes he'd just come home and take a nap on the couch. "We'd tease him for being such a homebody" remembers Lydia. "Then he'd get all shy and hide behind a pillow."

When he slowly moved the pillow away from his face he'd be wearing his signature half-smile that his family adored.

At the large military funeral held for Chavez on June 18, mourners couldn't stop talking about his smile.

"It was so true and sincere," said Lydia, "his smile charmed everyone."

Chavez joined the Marines when he was 17, and left for boot camp immediately after graduation. His enjoyed the discipline and camaraderie of Marine life and quickly started to refer to his new friends as brothers.

His mother remembers being shocked when he came home for a visit and woke



Daniel Chavez

up at 6 a.m. to go on a run around the neighborhood.

"But he came home and took a nap afterwards," she said smiling.

Chavez was proud of being a Marine, and it was the most obvious to his family when he put on his uniform.

"Once we went to Picture Perfect to get photos of him with his new medals," Lydia remembers. "When he came out of the dressing room in his uniform his posture got straighter and he became all serious and professional. Then when the uniform came off he was back to being goofy and crazy again."

The news of Chavez's death came as a shock to his family who had just spoken to him on the telephone the day before.

In his frequent phone calls he always sounded confident, happy and worry-free. Cortedano would tell her son at the end of every phone call, "remember your creator."

A photograph of Chavez praying next to his tank and the family's strong Christian faith brings her comfort. The photograph was mailed to her from another mother with a son in Iraq.

When three Marines knocked on the family's door on June 9, Lydia rushed home to grieve with her mother, daughter and four siblings.

"At first I was angry because he promised me he'd come home in one piece" she said through choked-back tears. "But after seeing him in the casket at the funeral, I talked with my best friend and we realized he kept his promise. He still came home in one piece."

Notes from the manager

By JUDI CARTER
Community manager

Only one more month until the children go back to school.

It has been a good summer so far. Last month, most families obeyed the law and did not use fireworks here.

Most households have also been keeping their yards up nicely.

Many children are now looking forward to getting back to school and seeing their

friends from other neighborhoods.

In order to get your children back into the swing of things, here are a few suggestions from Lisa Kenworthy, A.S.III and a great mom.

Start getting the children ready to go back to school in August by having them read a book for a half hour a day, or work on some math word problems.

Get them into bed early. If they are well rested it will be easier to get up on the first few days of school.

Visions from the Yesler council president

By NAOMI FINKELSTEIN
Community Council President

I was elected with the promise that I would do whatever I could to build unity between the different groups of residents who live here so that we can build a strong coalition to advocate for Yesler Terrace and against redevelopment that would displace very low-income people who live here.

Nothing about us without us... For a long time poor people have had *other* people advocate for us.

But our voices and our perspectives get lost in this process. Our visions get lost. Sometimes we even lose sight of those visions ourselves. It is hard to dream when you are so busy trying to survive.

It is hard to believe that we can go to City Hall and ask politicians to listen to us. Social workers and SHA officials all too often give lip service to involving us in decision making but then don't invite us to the table early enough in the process to make a real impact.

There are a variety of funding sources to improve the involvement of Yesler residents in the civic life of Seattle.

One funding source is the resident participation funds. The Department of Housing and Urban Development provides these funds (at the rate of \$25 for each occupied unit) for resident training on issues such as community redevelopment, how to plan housing density, building effective coalitions with community organizations,

power analysis, neighborhood mapping, how to build an effective media campaign and how to lobby the City Council.

These training dollars are essential as we develop our own leadership capacity to prepare us to negotiate with SHA and ask the City Council for what we envision for the future of Yesler Terrace.

Our community council is determined to sit down with SHA officials and have them take us seriously as partners instead of patronizing us.

That takes education and it takes unity. It doesn't mean we all have to agree about tactics or style or exactly about what we want, but it does mean we have to have vision and we have to know what you, our neighbors, want for our neighborhood.

What is your vision for Yesler Terrace? What would make you very happy to live here? What project do you want the community council to take on? What fun, creative thing would you like to do?

How about we have a series of breakfasts where we get together and talk about what is right about Yesler and what we want for it, a chance to get to know one another and laugh together?

Because coming together to talk about crises all the time will only get us so far. Focusing on what we don't want is draining.

Let's focus on what we want and start to build it together. We are all creative, resourceful survivors - I know we can build it together.

I just know we can.

Yesler celebrates Fourth of July with neighbors

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Hot dogs, ice cream, a Dixieland jazz band, sidewalk art, face-painting, making pinwheels and getting to know neighbors was what the Fourth of July at Yesler Terrace was about this year.

A block party at the intersection of Terry and Alder streets brought Yesler Terrace residents together with their neighbors at Hilltop House Retirement Home and Broadmore Apartments.

The celebration was a jointly-planned effort to make this Fourth of July safer and more family-friendly.

Last year staff at the retirement residence described the neighborhood as a "war zone" on the Fourth.

In an effort to reach out and get to know the neighbors they suggested making the Fourth into a true neighborhood event.

With support from Seattle Housing Authority, Harborview Hospital and the Seattle



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
Face painting and fun were part of the celebration.

Department of Neighborhoods, the event was a great success.

According to Ann Hagen, Hilltop House Resident Council President, residents are saying, "I didn't think that it would work, but it was really fun!"

Now they're considering future events with Yesler Terrace including a neighborhood art walk and Halloween event.

Make sure your children eat a nutritious breakfast every day. They need fuel to run and stay sharp at school.

Remind your children not to talk to strangers and to tell you if anyone makes them feel uncomfortable or tries to touch them inappropriately.

Also, no matter what their age, make sure

your children know their home telephone number and address.

On a totally different topic, have you walked up Broadway Avenue to the north of Spruce Street lately? Wow!

The flowers that are growing in pots on several patios up that way are spectacular. It's worth the stroll to see them!

