



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



# The Voice

September  
2005

Articles translated  
into six languages

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

## Boat race roars at Asian American water festival



PHOTO BY STEVE HURD

Cambodian dance groups took the stage at the second annual Asian Water Festival.

By **WAR YA POTHAN AND SOKUNTHEA OK**  
*Special to the Voice*

Fifteen Dragon Boat teams convened at Thea Park in Tacoma last month to race in the second annual Asian American Water Festival, or Bon Om Tuk.

More than 1,000 spectators watched the race and enjoyed the event's international food and community resources booths.

The festival was sponsored by the Cambodian American Support Network, and aimed to unite Asian-American communities and Washingtonians to promote diversity and tolerance and to share culture, tradition and resources.

The water festival is an ancient community event that took place annually in Cambodia, Thailand and Laos.

Tacoma's modern version started with a march of the 15 Dragon Boat teams, welcoming speeches by the President of the Cambodian American Support Network and the Mayor of Tacoma and a ribbon cutting ceremony. The festival continued throughout the day with cultural dances, youth performances and live music.

Neighborhood House's Project HANDLE (HIV/AIDS Network Development and Life-skills Experience) has been involved in activities to promote the awareness and prevention of HIV infection and

substance abuse at the event since its first year.

Project HANDLE is funded by two grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Substance Abuse Mental Health Service, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention and the Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy.

As part of the project, more than 20 youth were trained at the University of Washington to be HIV and substance abuse prevention peer educators. The youth wrote a skit for the water festival, working hard entertain both youth and adults while sending out a clear message about the relationship between risky behaviors, substance abuse, HIV infection and the spread of AIDS.

For the next three to four years, the youth will continue to work with their peers, family members and other community members.

The Asian Water Festival was a community event that united Asian-Americans and other community members and promoted tolerance and acceptance. Resources such as HIV and substance abuse prevention materials were also shared.

*Warya Pothan is the Project HANDLE Director and Sokunthea Ok is a community health project manager for the initiative.*

## Edwards visits Seattle, speaks on poverty

By **JAMES OWENBY**  
*Seattle Housing Authority*

Complex issues like affordable housing and poverty are not solved overnight by one person with one strategy or tactic.

Former Sen. John Edwards was in Seattle last month and spoke on the issues of poverty in America at the NewHolly Gathering Hall.

The event, hosted by the Seattle based nonprofit Housing Development Consortium, was the first of three talks designed to inspire the development of new strategies for addressing poverty and the challenges of building and funding affordable housing projects.

"We have to make a commitment in the United States to end poverty," Edwards said, reminding the audience of former President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty.

Edwards recently formed a Political Action Committee that contends there are two different Americas in our country today—one for those at the top who get everything they want and another for everybody else who struggles just to get by.

Edwards spoke for about 20 minutes and veered from a prepared speech in order to talk about the morality of poverty in the United States, challenging the audience to think about the country's budget as a moral document.

"What does it say about America" when the budget fails to address the needs of the 36 million people who live in poverty, he asked. "If America wants to lead we have to do it with more than muscle, we need to



PHOTO BY JAMES OWENBY

Former Sen. John Edwards speaks at NewHolly.

do it with moral clarity."

Edwards serves as the Director of the Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity, an academic think tank at the University of North Carolina, School of Law.

The Housing Development Consortium will host two more public forums on the topic of the rising need for affordable housing, the decline in such housing's availability and the shrinking resources for sustaining it.

The next discussion is scheduled to take place in the fall and the final discussion will take place in February 2006.

For more information on these upcoming events visit the consortium's Web site at <http://www.housingconsortium.org>.

## Tenants Union rallies against gentrification

By **LORA CROPPER**  
*Voice reporter*

Seattle resident Jeri Gates has watched new businesses move into two of the neighborhoods she once called home.

"I wanted to go into the new stores, but I couldn't afford it," she said.

Instead, she found herself shopping at more affordable stores farther away, and

she eventually moved away from both neighborhoods.

Gates joined about 70 others at a rally at the Rainier Valley Community Center last month, expressing concern that such gentrification could be the future of the Rainier Valley.

Those who spoke at the rally, organized by the Tenants Union of Washington,

**Please see "Rally" on page 2**

### In this issue

Health Notes	Page 2
SCHOOL-BASED CLINICS	
One to grow on	Page 3
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOUR	
FALL HARVEST	
School's in session	Page 3
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS OPEN	
Translations	Page 4
FISH ADVISORY	

### Quotable

**"The more low-income voices that are heard, the more they take our views into consideration."**

*Tiffany Owens, daughter of SHA resident Regina Owens, on the importance of low-income organizing.*

See story on page 3

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

Non-profit org.  
U.S. postage PAID  
Seattle, WA  
Permit #8887



## Health Notes

*A column devoted to your well-being*

### Teens speak out about school-based clinics

A school-based health center is a health clinic *in* the school. It is a place where students can go for physical and mental health services and to learn how to lead healthy lives.

**"When we walk into the clinic, people smile at us. That doesn't always happen in middle school."**

**Sang, a middle school student**

There are 14 school-based health centers in the Seattle School District. They are open to all students and provide acute, preventative and reproductive health care and mental health counseling services.

**"I like the mental health counseling. Otherwise, where would we find it?"**

**Cindi, a high school student**

Mental health problems have surpassed injuries as the single most common reason for child hospitalizations among Washington children aged 5 to 19 years old.

Mental health counseling is available for concerns such as depression, stress, sexual and physical abuse, sexuality, drug and alcohol abuse.

**"Our family doesn't have enough money for all of us to go to the doctor for even one sports physical, let alone three of them!"**

**Zhivon, a high school student**

In addition to sports physicals, school-based health centers provide treatment for illnesses such as flu and colds, injuries, stomach pains, acne and headaches.

They also provide dental screening and referral along with confidential services, including sexuality and reproductive health services.

Best of all, the nurse practitioners at many high school clinics are available three weeks prior to school for sports physicals. If your son or daughter needs one, just call the school to find out the clinic hours.

Each health center is staffed with a nurse practitioner, one or two mental health counselors and a clinic coordinator who all work closely with the school nurse, guidance counselors and other staff.

All staff are available to talk with students, parents, and families about a variety of topics, including nutrition, smoking cessation, weight management, sexuality and reproductive health.

Registration forms for school-based health centers are available at each school. Students are encouraged to register for services at the start of the school year.

For more information, contact the school-based health center at your middle school or high school.

*Puget Sound Neighborhood Health Centers operates school-based health clinics at Roosevelt High School, West Seattle High School, Sealth High School, Denny Middle School and Madison Middle School.*

## Vocational English class helps students land jobs

BY KRISTA KENNER  
*Seattle Jobs Initiative*

For most, searching for a job is a nerve-wracking experience.

Scanning the classifieds, filling out intricate job applications, placing follow-up calls and managing face-to-face interviews can be overwhelming.

Imagine taking on this process in a new country with a different language. Every year thousands of immigrants to the Seattle region do just that.

"The single largest barrier to employment for the immigrant/refugee population is language," said Rhonda Simmons, executive director of Seattle Jobs Initiative.

To help lessen this barrier, Seattle Jobs Initiative and Neighborhood House began collaborating this year to offer vocational English as a Second Language training in White Center.

Funded by Making Connections and SJI, the pilot project focuses on preparing participants for janitorial jobs that offer wage progression and career advancement.

Nicholas Muñoz came to the United States from Mexico 10 years ago, but until recently was still struggling with his English skills. He needed to find a steady job to support his family, so when he found out about the SJI/Neighborhood House project, he immediately enrolled.

After completing the intensive, 10-week training, Muñoz was offered a job as a janitor at South Seattle Community College. He now makes \$9 per hour and is looking forward to receiving medical benefits for his family within six months.

"My teacher was very good and paid attention to each student," he said. "One student just came from Vietnam and didn't know any English, but after only two months, he could speak a lot."

Neighborhood House ESL Instructor Mary Turla said she teaches her students



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

Nicholas Muñoz draws his country's flag at an ESL class in March.

the words they'll need in the workplace, such as mop, broom and detergent, but she also answers their individual questions.

"In vocational ESL, you plan, but some days a student has a particular situation they need help communicating in," she said. "You have to be flexible."

Project staff are also building relationships with employers in the White Center area. The goal is to connect with employers that offer wage and career advancement as language skills improve.

Currently, 20 students are enrolled in the class, and four have been placed in jobs.

"This pilot is a great opportunity for us to learn exactly what works and doesn't work for this particular population," Simmons said. "We want to share our experience with other agencies to enhance and expand appropriate employment services and training in this region."

For more information about the project, please contact Gloria Hatcher-Mays at (206) 628-6967.

## Early Head Start families enjoy summer picnic

BY VOICE STAFF

Bubbles and balls, hula hoops and parachutes were just some of the diversions enjoyed by the many children who attended the Neighborhood House Early Head Start picnic.

They also shared food from around the world, including Salvadoran pupusas and Ethiopian injera. Parents involved in the program helped plan the late July event, which attracted more than 130 people.

"Everything's so great," said Tham Nguyen.

Her friend Hong Nguyen agreed.

"The staff has been friendly and a big help to kids," she said. "We feel really welcome."

The Early Head Start program serves low-income families in Seattle that have children from ages birth to 3.

The program offers home-based activities, including parenting education and child development information.

Early Head Start Supervisor Marcy Miller said the aim of the picnic is to give parents and children a chance to meet and



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

Kids enjoy playing with a parachute at the picnic.

socialize with other families.

Participant Hodan Mohamed said she enjoyed the opportunity.

"It gives us a chance to see how many people have home visitors," she said, adding that her home visitor has given her information and encouragement as her 2-year-old daughter recovers from an injury.

"We're happy to have her helping us," she said. "I really like the program."

For more information about the Neighborhood House Early Head Start program call Marcy Miller at (206) 760-9330.

## Rally

Continued from front page

also decried federal cuts to the Section 8 program, which provides vouchers to help low-income people pay their rent.

Many Rainier Valley residents depend on Section 8 vouchers, event organizers said, so this loss of funding, paired with redevelopment already underway, could displace current residents of the area.

Esther Little Dove John, a leader of the Tenants Union's Justice in Southeast Seattle Project and the event's emcee, projected that redevelopment would force a number of residents to move away from their jobs, families and homes.

"We live here, and we want to stay here," she said.

Instead, the Tenants Union is calling for "equitable development," where new resources can come into a neglected community, but policies, public agreements and laws regulate its effects and allow current residents to stay.

The rally was attended by United States Congressman Jim McDermott and Seattle City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen. Both said they supported the Rainier Valley's concerns over Section 8 cuts.

"I can't think of anything more basic than housing and health care, and these needs are not being met by this administration for low- and middle-income people,"

McDermott said, encouraging those gathered to continue to take action and speak to government representatives. "It's the fact that you live here and have a right to speak, so I want to hear your voice."

Rasmussen promised to work with community representatives to save the Rainier Valley from potential displacement and gentrification. He said he plans to take community members' ideas to the state legislature.

Although Seattle Housing Authority officials did not speak at the rally, leaders said afterwards that their developments in the Rainier Valley already follow principles of equitable development.

"Many residents of the former communities have, in fact, progressed to home ownership in the neighborhood, and most of the residents who said they wanted to return to the redeveloped communities have been able to do so," said SHA Communications Director Virginia Felton. "People assume that the beautiful new housing is too expensive for poor people, but (much of) it is just as affordable as the old housing was... The for-sale houses that are more expensive help to pay for additional low-income housing."

To become involved in the effort to promote equitable development in the Rainier Valley or to find out more on the issue, contact Michele at the Tenants Union at (206) 722-6848 ext. 114.

### The Voice

#### Editor

Stacy Schwandt  
(206) 461-8430 ext. 227  
stacys@nhwa.org

#### Reporters

Lora Cropper  
Lynn Sereda

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.



## One to grow on

### Garden tips for community gardeners

By ANZA MUENCHOW  
Special to the Voice

As the end of the 2005 growing season approaches, I hope you have time to enjoy your harvest.

Take some time to pick your squash, eggplant, tomatoes, cucumbers, and beans. Prepare some delicious meals and share them with friends.

You may have heard of the "slow food" movement. As food gardeners, you are the backbone of this movement.

Slow Food USA is an educational organization dedicated to sustainable food production and to the revival of the kitchen as the center of families, culture and community. Slow Food encourages regional and seasonal food traditions and a slower, more harmonious rhythm of life.

My favorite fall recipe is a ratatouille.

I usually cook it in a cast iron pot, first stir frying in olive oil the following ingredients in this order: garlic, onion and eggplant (until eggplant starts to get soft).

Then I add peppers (green or red, not hot), zucchini and several chopped, peeled tomatoes. Add a handful of chopped fresh Italian herbs or a couple tablespoons of dried herbs. Salt to taste.

The amount of each ingredient depends on your harvest and your preferred taste.

I think it is the freshness of the ingredients that makes this a great dish. Serve it alone or on pasta or rice. It's good with Parmesan cheese, too.

To extend your fall food harvests, watch out for those early rains and heavy mists. This weather pattern can help spread harmful fungi. Prune any tomato plants with blight, which forms dark brown splotches on the leaves, stems and fruits. Also remove

powdery, mildew-infected leaves on your squash and cucumbers. This white, moldy-looking fungus spreads rapidly.

Later in the fall, most tomatoes and squashes finally do die from fungal pests, but cleaning them out of your garden will lessen and slow the damage to you crops.

Even though the weather may seem damp, you may need to water the soil around your plants to ensure the root zone below the surface stays moist. Draught stress (dry roots) weakens your plants.

Make time to weed your garden well before you put it to rest for the winter. Many annual weeds are setting seeds in September. For the best weed control, pull them out before the seeds spread.

As the rains begin, watch for newly sprouted perennial weeds also. These should be removed before they get a chance to get established this winter.

The best weed control methods are hand-pulling and then covering the soil around your crops with weed-free mulch. A cover of mulch excludes light and thus prevents the germination of the new weed seeds.

Mulches can be made out of a weed-free compost, wood chips, shredded paper or dried leaves and grasses (without seeds).

Using a winter cover crop is another excellent way to reduce weeds. Planting nitrogen-fixing "green manure" like crimson clover, vetch or field peas will prevent weeds and enrich your soil. Sow these cover crops this month while the weather is still warm.

Enjoy the seasonal bounty!

Anza Muenchow is a P-Patch volunteer and an avid gardener. If you have questions or comments about the material in this column, send her an e-mail at [mahafarm@whidbey.net](mailto:mahafarm@whidbey.net).

## Bells ring for after-school programs

By VOICE STAFF

With school back in session, parents are searching for after-school programs to help their children succeed in school.

Following is a list of programs that serve public housing communities in Seattle and King County.

**Catholic Community Services'** youth tutoring program is an evening educational enrichment program for students living in six Seattle public housing communities, including Cedarvale Village, Jackson Park Village, NewHolly, Rainier Vista, High Point and Yesler Terrace.

The program focuses on developing students' reading skills, providing them with homework assistance and increasing academic knowledge through skill-building curricula. Call (206) 328-5659 for more information.

**SafeFutures Youth Center** provides programs for West Seattle youth aged 6 to 18.

Programs include homework help, counseling, enrichment activities and field trips. Students can also get involved in special initiatives such as an anti-violence leadership team or a healthy communities project. Call (206) 938-9606 ext. 118 for more information.

**Kent Youth and Family Services** provides youth programs for residents 5 to 19 years old at three KCHA developments, Cascade Apartments, Springwood Apartments and Valli Kee, with after-school activities beginning on Sept. 1.

At Springwood, the program is in Building 23, while the Springwood Youth Center is under construction.

Activities include tutoring and homework help, arts and crafts, cooking classes, intramural sports leagues, teen nights and

career exploration. Highlights include a talent show in February and a three-on-three basketball tournament in April. Youth are encouraged to take part in program planning and to set goals for field trips. Call (253) 859-0300 for more information.

**Neighborhood House** runs an after school youth tutoring program for kids aged 7 to 18 at Burndale and Green River Homes in Auburn and at Park Lake Homes in White Center. It also provides after-school tutoring to students at Tyee High School in SeaTac. For more information call (206) 366-5084.

KCHA's Eastside developments - Eastside Terrace, Avondale Manor, College Place, Spiritwood Manor and Hidden Village - benefit from youth programs offered by the **Bellevue Boys & Girls Club**, (425) 454-6162.

After-school activities focus on education, character development, the arts, fitness and health and life skills.

In Auburn, youths at Firwood Circle participate in after-school programs provided by the **Auburn Boys & Girls Club**, a satellite of the Federal Way club. The Firwood Circle club is closed during renovations of the community room, but is expected to be back in operation by October. For more information, call (253) 804-5915.

At Ballinger Homes in Shoreline, the **Center for Human Services'** Homework Factory has long provided kids with a helping hand for schoolwork. There is also QuEST (quiet evening study time), the Awesome Possums service club, weekly teen outings and art classes on Saturdays.

Youth programs at Ballinger, provided by CHS, begin on Wednesday, September 7. For more information, call (206) 362-2842.

## Conference teaches leadership, organizing

By LYNN SEREDA  
Voice reporter

Seniors, immigrants, youth and low-income public housing residents were among the more than 100 citizen activists who gathered for a weekend of workshops at Seattle University last month.

The event, called "Taking Action, Making Change," was sponsored by the Northwest Federation of Community Organizations. Washington Citizen Action is a member of this federation along with other groups from Oregon, Idaho, and Montana.

Washington Citizen Action is a statewide social and economic justice organization with over 50,000 individual members. Its board includes partners representing labor, senior, faith and community organizations, and its mission "is to achieve economic fairness in order to establish a democratic society characterized by racial and social justice, with respect for diversity, and a decent quality of life for those who reside in Washington State."

The conference began with an immigrant rights plenary, which included a panel of immigrants who shared their stories.

Issues addressed included maintaining worker protection, reuniting families and making the dream of higher education possible for immigrant youth by lifting federal restrictions which force states to deny in-state tuition to immigrant students.

Attendees participated in a wide variety of workshops, some of which focused on racial and social justice. Others focused on skill-building in areas such as public speaking, computer use and canvassing.

A major highlight of the conference was the "Put People First" forum on the health care crisis in Washington, which was organized by Washington Citizen Action. Union leaders and organizers spoke about initiatives for more affordable and universal health care.

Then several dozen citizen activists came to the microphone to give testimony and recite statistics that illustrate the current health care dilemma.

For instance, nearly 800,000 people in Washington are uninsured and the cost to the state is nearly \$318 million a year.



SHA resident Regina Owens spoke about health care issues at the conference.

Steve Hill, administrator of the Washington State Health Care Authority spoke about the State's plan to address health care issues and fielded some very tough questions from the floor.

Several residents from the Seattle and King County housing authorities attended the conference and a few played major roles in organizing it.

Regina Owens of Greenlake Plaza has been involved in WCA since July 2001. She currently sits on the state board and chairs the King County Action Team, which holds meetings on the first Wednesday of each month from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Greenlake Plaza Community Room, 505 N.E. 70th St. in Seattle. The group organized a garage sale as a fundraiser for the conference.

Owens also gave testimony at the Put People First health care forum. Her daughter Tiffany traveled to Olympia to testify for the Fair Share Health Care Bill. Both mentioned many benefits to becoming involved with WCA, such as the leadership training and mentorship that is offered.

"The more low-income voices that are heard, the more they take our views into consideration," Tiffany Owens said.

For more information about Washington Citizen Action or the King County Action Team, call (206) 389-0050, ext. 105 or visit the Web site at <http://www.wacitizenaction.org>.

### Community notes

#### Win funds for neighborhood projects

The City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods is holding an "ideas fair" for those interested in applying for funding for neighborhood projects.

Project funding is available through a number of City programs, including the Small Sparks program and the Race and Social Justice fund.

The fair will feature displays on past projects including playground improvements, oral histories, traffic calming projects, youth involvement projects, cultural programs and more.

It takes place on Saturday, September 10 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Seattle Vocational Institute, 2120 S. Jackson St.

A workshop on the Race and Social Justice fund will take place from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. Learn more about the fund and hear from 2004 award recipients.

Other workshops will cover tips for submitting competitive applications, and developing proposals.

For more information contact the Department of Neighborhoods at (206) 684-0464.

#### Senior job fair at Seattle Center

Older adults looking for possible jobs and networking opportunities can find them at the fourth annual Senior Employment Fair on Wednesday, September 14, at the Seattle Center.

The Mature Workers Alliance of Puget Sound presents Hire Experience: 50+ Job Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Seattle Center House.

At this job fair, you can network with potential employers, participate in job search workshops and learn how to start your own business. Admission is free. Bring your resume and dress for success.

For questions or accommodations, please contact the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging at (206) 838-8163. For Metro Transit bus rider information, call (206) 553-3000.

The Mature Workers Alliance of Puget Sound is a group of public and private organizations committed to empowering older workers and increasing their presence and productivity in the workforce.

More information is available on the web at <http://www.seattlecenter.com>.



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.

**Gardeners wanted**  
**HELP STOP CRIME IN YESLER**  
**See page 7**



# SHA NEWS

**September  
 2005**

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

## New community center opens in Rainier Vista



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF SEATTLE

A traditional Chinese lion dance helped celebrants ensure a bountiful future for the new Neighborhood House Rainier Vista Center.

By **KARI SHERRODD**  
 Seattle Housing Authority

Over the coming years, thousands of people will come through the doors of Neighborhood House's newly opened Rainier Vista Center.

Preschool children from all over the world will attend the Head Start program, job seekers will use the building's computer lab and new immigrants will learn English in the center's ESL courses.

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

More than 250 community members and public officials celebrated the center's opening and the completion of the first phase of rental housing at Rainier Vista at an event last month.

"The center will benefit people in this community," Deputy Mayor of Seattle Tim Ceis said at the event. "The...services that

are in this building are what will help make this a true community."

Built by Neighborhood House on land donated by Seattle Housing Authority, the center is the first "home" that the organization has built and owned in its 99-year history. Generous support from donors helped to pay for the 10,000 square foot building, which will allow the agency to expand its programs.

The technology center—made possible in part by a \$250,000 grant through SHA from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development—will offer computer classes, vocational training, and financial literacy education.

Head Start students will enjoy two large sun-filled classrooms and a state-of-the-art outdoor play space.

Multilingual family support workers will meet with clients in five private offices. Several other agencies, including SHA's The Job Connection and the Rainier Vista Leadership Team, will lease office space.

Families who live just steps away will have access to training and education to help them become more self-sufficient.

"I believe this new building is geared to helping families and encouraging kids to continue their lives on a more positive note," said Sandra Borders, leadership team chair and Rainier Vista resident. "Kids in the neighborhood will be watching people getting up and going to work at the center—this sets a great example for them."

A number of public officials spoke at the event, which included the unveiling of Neighborhood House's new logo and a lively Chinese lion dance.

"Congratulations to everyone involved in creating this new community," said Tom Tierney, SHA executive director. "Most importantly, thank you to all Rainier Vista residents. Your partnership is the most important."

## SHA now issuing Section 8 vouchers

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Last month, families at the top of the waiting list for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program got a nice surprise—a letter inviting them to complete the application process for a voucher.

After cost-reducing measures were approved by the Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners in July, agency managers made the decision to begin issuing new vouchers.

Due to the uncertainty of funding levels for Section 8 over the past few years, vouchers that were turned in by participants who no longer needed them were not re-issued.

"The exact number of vouchers we are able to issue will depend on the rate of cost-savings and the rate of attrition for current participants, but we hope to serve between 30 and 50 new households per month," said Barbara Strayer, acting director of rental assistance programs.

Households with incomes below 30 percent of area median income (\$16,350 for an individual, \$18,700 for two people or \$30,850 for an eight-person household) and households that have been homeless within the last 12 months will receive preference for a voucher.

Applicants on the waiting list who do not meet these criteria or who are no longer eligible will not be invited to apply for a voucher.

Waiting times for applicants will vary, since the status of applicant households is constantly changing. August's applicants included families who applied for a voucher and were placed on the waiting list between 1993 and 1998.

New voucher holders will be subject to tighter occupancy standards than in the past, and some will experience a small reduction in payment standards.

"The subsidy levels are a little less generous now, but families who finally get vouchers will see their housing options expand considerably," Strayer noted.

It could take years to house the 2,700 low-income families on the waiting list, but applicants are still anxiously waiting their turn.

As one applicant commented at a recent public hearing, "I am on the waiting list. I make \$700 a month, I have 3 kids and my 1- and 2- year olds sleep with me. I don't care what amount I get, anything is better than nothing!"

SHA does not have plans to open the waiting list to new applicants at this time.

## Housing Authority develops new house rules

### Sign rule sparks debate among residents

By **VIRGINIA FELTON & STACY SCHWANDT**  
*Special to the Voice*

The Seattle Housing Authority has developed a new set of house rules that will become an addendum to the lease signed by tenants of Low-Income Public Housing.

One rule, that would prohibit residents from posting signs or other materials on doors or windows, has sparked controversy among SHA residents.

According to Cindy Sribhibhadh, SHA property management administrator, the new rules are meant to clarify what is expected of tenants on SHA property.

They have been in the works for about a year, and a final version was presented last month to the Joint Policy Advisory Committee, a resident group that provides advice to SHA on policy issues.

Most committee members said they understood the need for the rules, but some voiced disagreement with the sign rule.

Rick Harrison, resident of the SHA high-rise Cedarvale House and a member of the committee, joined others in calling the rule an infringement on First Amendment rights.

(See "Naomi's Viewpoint: Community Council President speaks up" on page 7.)

Housing Authority Executive Director Tom Tierney said the rule "is to prevent the blighting influence of paper and clutter in our buildings and on the neighborhoods in which they are located."

Clutter and blight from the indiscriminate posting of paper, placards and signs has been a problem for residents, neighbors and SHA management, he said.

Still, members of the Resident Action Council, representing tenants of SHA's 28 high-rises, voted 7 to 2 last month in favor of seeking an outside attorney to help them protest the new rule. Two council members abstained from vote.

The group has since signed an agreement with an attorney from the Northwest Justice Project to take on the issue.

"We hope that SHA will have a change of heart about this," Harrison said.

Tierney pointed out that most private landlords do not allow residents to post signs on bulletin boards or on their doorways without management approval. The **Please see "House rules" on page 2**

### In this section

<b>SHA News</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>RENT CHANGES COMING</b>	
<b>Point of View</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>CEDARVALE SERVES KIDS</b>	
<b>High Point Herald</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>YOUTH SCREEN FILM</b>	
<b>Rainier Vista News</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>COMPUTER LAB OPENS</b>	
<b>NewHolly Notes</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>GROUP REACHES OUT TO MUSLIM GIRLS</b>	
<b>Yesler Happenings</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>EVENT AIMS TO HELP P-PATCH GROW</b>	
<b>Translations</b>	<b>Page 8</b>

## Homes for sale attest to mixed-income success



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

This house, built by Polygon Northwest, is one of many for sale at NewHolly's Othello Station. Houses are also for sale in the Rainier Vista and High Point communities.

### SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Each of the major new Seattle Housing Authority communities—NewHolly, Rainier Vista and High Point—has captured the interest of home builders in the Seattle area. The homes for sale at NewHolly are nearing completion, while homes at Rainier Vista and High Point are still in the beginning stages.

Recent media attention has focused on the fact that new homes have sold for prices over \$400,000. Some people have seen this as questionable public policy in a community that includes public housing.

Tom Phillips, SHA's senior development manager, sees it differently.

"One measure of the success of our mixed-income communities is how much home buyers are willing to pay to live there," he said.

When homes sell for higher prices, SHA participates to a greater extent in the profits. This provides additional funding to create more low-income housing. All of SHA's proceeds from homes sold in these communities are re-invested in the community itself, usually in the low-income housing that is located there.

It is SHA's goal to rebuild all three of these communities as mixed-income neighborhoods. This helps to make the communities good neighborhoods for everyone, and integrates them back into their surrounding neighborhoods.

Part of this goal is to have a number of homes for sale in each community that are affordable to people earning less than 80 percent of median income (\$58,000 for an individual). NewHolly will have 100 such homes and High Point will have 80. Forty percent of the homes built at Rainier Vista will meet these criteria.

## House rules

Continued from front page

same practice also applies to most condominiums, where homeowners' associations have similar rules. A survey of Seattle's non-profit housing developers shows that several also have rules which prohibit signs on residents' doors and windows.

"To the extent possible, SHA wants its buildings to blend into their neighborhoods and not stick out as 'public housing' or 'low-income housing,'" Tierney said. "For residents' enjoyment of the common areas in buildings, we want to limit the clutter in hallways from signs posted outside individual units."

According to Srihibhadrh, it is common to find two or three resident doors on each floor that clutter the hallway with exces-

sive signs. Prices for homes in SHA's new developments will vary considerably but will still provide unique opportunities for first-time home buyers.

Prices for homes for sale in Seattle and King County have skyrocketed over the past few years, with the median price now at \$369,000. Many NewHolly homes are well below this figure, and new homes at High Point and Rainier Vista will also include prices below the median.

Help for first time buyers is available through the City of Seattle's Office of Housing. In addition, Habitat for Humanity will continue to be an important partner for SHA. Habitat recently celebrated the completion of their 100th home in Seattle, located (along with six others) at Othello Station in NewHolly.

When SHA made the commitment to redevelop these communities as mixed-income neighborhoods, it took on a new role as a community developer.

The Housing Authority sees this new role as a means to creating neighborhoods that are both more effective and more sustainable over the long term.

For Seattle residents who view the housing authority's role as providing housing for very-low-income residents *only*, this shift has been controversial.

However, the Housing Authority is still committed to providing the same number of housing units, or more, throughout Seattle for the low-income population it has traditionally served.

Providing housing for slightly higher income residents contributes additional subsidy for this low-income housing.

For more information about the homes for sale in Seattle Housing Authority communities, visit <http://www.inseattle.com>.

sive signs.

As presented, the "no sign rule" allows for signs or placards needed for health or safety reasons, and for those that a Senior Property Manager provides written permission for in advance.

In response to residents' concerns, SHA is currently further considering the wording of this rule to make it clear that the intent of the rule is to eliminate clutter and blight, not restrict anyone's right of expression.

The new house rules will not be implemented until appropriate language for this rule is adopted. Signs that relate to the specific health needs of residents or safety issues will still be allowed on doors.

Once SHA has finalized the language on the house rules, tenants will be given at least 30 days notice of its implementation.

## Residents soon required to report income changes

### SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Starting Oct. 1, residents will be required to report all increases in household income within 14 days of when their income changes.

This is new for public housing residents, who previously only had to report increases in income at their yearly recertification or annual review.

Rent will go up for residents who receive an increase of \$100 per month or more. Even if the increase is less than \$100, it still needs to be reported to the Seattle Housing Authority.

Residents whose income fluctuates on a monthly basis due to seasonal or temporary work and residents who are self-employed should talk with their property manager about how to report income changes.

The new rule applies to SHA's public housing high-rise buildings, Yesler Terrace, Cedarvale Village, Jackson Park Village and Scattered-Sites. Management offices will have forms to make reporting changes as simple as possible.

Residents of public housing units in NewHolly, Rainier Vista and High Point are subject to different rent policy rules, but are usually required to report income changes within 30 days.

This change is part of a new rent policy that the SHA commissioners recently approved. The policy aims to increase fairness, reward resident employment through automatic savings accounts and earn more rent revenue for the agency in order to decrease dependence on shrinking federal dollars.

## Write for this paper

By STACY SCHWANDT  
Voice editor

We want to hear *your* voice.

Whether you have a story idea, a comment on something you've read or a question about information presented in these pages, you're welcome to contact us.

The Voice is published by Neighborhood House with support from the Seattle Housing Authority. It's aim is to provide reliable, objective information of use to residents of public housing.

Our success depends on our readers.

The Voice is currently undergoing a strategic planning process. We held focus

groups in late July with residents who both read and don't read the paper.

Among other things, participants told us they want more comprehensive news about the Seattle Housing Authority, and that they want to see more resident involvement in the paper.

This month, we'll be developing some strategies to accomplish these tasks, and we'll be talking about possible changes.

This invitation is our first step.

Please contact us with comments, suggestions and story ideas at (206) 461-8430 ext. 227, by e-mail at [stacys@nhwa.org](mailto:stacys@nhwa.org) or by mail at 905 Spruce St. #200, Seattle, WA 98014.

## Youth screen movie about their lives, neighborhood

### High Point anti-violence project a success



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

Members of SafeFutures Youth Center's anti-violence team present their movie to an audience of family and friends.

By STACY SCHWANDT  
Voice editor

High Point teens tell their own stories in a new film they directed, shot and edited themselves.

The 30-minute movie, "Teens in the Hood," sends a strong anti-violence message to younger kids who haven't yet made bad choices that could change their lives.

The teens, part of the SafeFutures Youth Center's anti-violence leadership team, screened their video for friends and family last month.

In the film, three High Point youth describe how their lives have been touched by gang violence, and a fourth tells the caution-

ary tale of how her bad attitude nearly took her down the wrong path.

Lisa shares the story of her uncle, a gang member who left her grandmother with no choice but to raise his child. Sopheak talks about losing his best friend to gang violence before realizing his life was on a dead-end course.

Shaay describes how she learned to check her out-of-control attitude, which got her expelled from school more than once.

A dramatization of a teen shooting and subsequent police chase frames the documentary stories, which are told by the teens in their own words.

"We wanted to catch people's attention  
**See "Teens screen video" on page 4.**

# POINT OF VIEW

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

## Annual meeting and barbecue a success



PHOTO BY LINDA CROWN

The SSHP Advocates II, an organization of senior building residents, held its annual meeting and picnic under the trees at Ravenna Park last month.

## Medicare drug benefit available soon

By VIRGINIA FELTON  
Seattle Housing Authority

Last month, Secretary Mike Leavitt, head of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, visited Seattle to talk about the new Medicare drug benefit that will soon be available to Medicare subscribers.

"This is one of the most important events in health care in the last 40 years," he told a roomful of elderly residents and service providers at NewHolly's gathering hall.

The new benefit is a result of legislation passed by Congress and signed by President Bush in 2003.

According to Leavitt, the new drug benefit will help people stay healthy, by helping to pay for the drugs they need to address their chronic health conditions before they require surgery or hospitalization.

He drew attention to a new booklet that will be available in October called "Medicare and You, 2006." This booklet will be available in community centers, senior centers, doctors' offices and other places that seniors visit. (Neighborhood House and Seattle Housing Authority will also have copies available.)

This booklet will explain the choices that people need to make before enrolling for this new benefit.

Within the new program, people will have a choice of two or more drug plans. It is important to pay attention to the differences in these plans, since one plan may meet a person's needs better than another.

People with very-low incomes, including many of SHA's residents, will not have to pay for this new benefit. However, according to HHS spokesman Michael Marchand, all participants should study the plans available to them so that they can pick the one that best meets their needs. Marchand cautions, "When in doubt, fill it out," referring to the drug benefit application.

People who are already on both Medicare and Medicaid will be automatically enrolled in the new program. They will receive a letter in late October explaining more about this program. This is a back up



PHOTO BY VIRGINIA FELTON

Secretary Mike Leavitt from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services speaks at NewHolly.

measure, however. Participants should still investigate their options and actively enroll in the best plan.

People who are eligible for Medicare can begin enrolling in the program in October. The benefit will be available beginning in January 2006.

Watch for additional information about workshops in information sessions near you. Meanwhile, here are some resources for more information:

Based in Seattle, The National Asian Pacific Center on Aging offers the only national toll-free multilingual helpline in the country. This helpline enables people to obtain direct bilingual enrollment assistance and access to translated information on the new prescription drug coverage. It can be reached in English at 1-800-582-4218, in Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin dialects) at 1-800-582-4218, in Korean at 1-800-582-4259 and in Vietnamese at 1-800-582-4336.

Fact sheets are also available in English and other languages on the following Web site: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicare-reform/factsheets.asp#spanish>.

## Cedarvale volunteers help with sack lunch program

By JAMES OWENBY  
Seattle Housing Authority

Thousands of kids in Seattle received free meals through the Seattle Human Service Department's Summer Food Service Program this summer.

The Summer Sack Lunch program, funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, served children at more than 120 sites.

Thanks to the efforts of resident volunteers Rick Harrison, Brenda Simpson, Shirl Bannister and Betty Turner, Seattle Housing Authority's Cedarvale House was able to participate in the program.

They hosted about 20 kids a day from nearby Cedarvale Village.

Each week, the resident volunteers contributed to the program by moving the lunches from the delivery truck to the refrigerator, taking temperature readings to ensure safety, distributing the lunches according to health and safety rules and then cleaning up afterwards.

"I was a little concerned at first because it was going to be run by volunteers, but it has actually turned out to be one of my best running sites," said Ben Warren, a social service aide and site monitor for the program.

Warren showed up to collect paperwork and observe the programs at one of his 15 sites every few days.

Resident and Volunteer Shirl Bannister made a point of running a tight ship at Cedarvale.

She distributed lunches every day. "Eat your veggies," she told the kids, who would try to hide them on their way out of the kitchen. Each week she also asked a few kids to help with clean up.

She spent her own money on a few small toys, and at the end of the week, she opened her bag of goodies and allowed her helpers to pick something out as a reward for their efforts.



PHOTO BY JAMES OWENBY

Resident Volunteer Betty Turner hands out a lunch to a sack lunch program recipient.

Bannister has been also working with Cedarvale residents to coordinate donations from the food bank.

"Some of the kids (at Cedarvale Village) don't get the lunches and stuff they need," she said. "I want to make sure that they can eat during the day. That's why I do this."

The Summer Sack Lunch program was established in 1968 as a response to research that correlated a child's nutritional intake with their academic success.

Meals are served in accordance with strict USDA guidelines that specify conditions for site supervision, food storage, time of day that food is served, portion size and nutritional value.

Food is served at supervised playgrounds, summer camps for low-income children, youth employment projects, low-income housing sites, child care programs and summer schools.

"One of the big gaps between the more well-off and the less-fortunate is the kind of inadequate stuff some of the less-fortunate have during the summer months," Warren said. "Our goal is that if we give them a nutritious meal, they'll be more active."

### Community notes

#### Advocates meet

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

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

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

#### Senior job fair at Seattle Center

Older adults looking for possible jobs and networking opportunities can find them at the fourth annual Senior Employment Fair on Wednesday, September 14, at the Seattle Center.

The Mature Workers Alliance of Puget Sound presents Hire Experience: 50+ Job Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Seattle Center House.

At this job fair, you can network with potential employers, participate in job search workshops and learn how to start your own business. Admission is free.

Bring your resume and dress for success.

For questions or accommodations, please contact the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging at (206) 838-8163. For Metro Transit bus rider information, call (206) 553-3000.

The Mature Workers Alliance of Puget Sound is a group of public and private organizations committed to empowering older workers and increasing their presence and productivity in the workforce.

More information is available on the Internet at <http://www.seattle-center.com>.

# HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY

## Teen clinic opens in High Point

By VOICE STAFF

A new teen clinic has opened in the High Point Medical and Dental Clinic.

Puget Sound Neighborhood Health Centers is running the clinic on Thursday evenings from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The clinic is located at 6020 35th Ave. S.W. and can be reached at (206) 461-3915 ext. 111.

Appointments are not necessary.

The clinic will offer general, preventative, reproductive and mental health care services. PSNHC already runs school-based clinics at two middle schools and two high schools in West Seattle.

"We saw teens really liked having a clinic

just for them," said Pam Macnab, High Point Medical & Dental Clinic manager. "Teens also needed more health care access—a place for health care in the evenings and on weekends. We established this new teen clinic to provide more access to services for teens in the community. We want to make High Point more teen-friendly."

The clinic will be staffed by a doctor, mental health counselor, registered nurse and support staff.

Most teens are eligible for state-sponsored insurance and can enroll confidentially. The clinic has eligibility staff members on site who can help.

## Volunteers clear staircase, share summer barbecue



PHOTO BY ROSE LONG

High Point resident Maria Hernandez and her children Rosie, Jesse and Alex climb the stairs after a recent hike in the neighborhood below.

By ROSE LONG

Special to the Voice

Five hundred hours of volunteer time went into rehabilitating the Graham/Bataan Street staircase that connects High Point to the Delridge neighborhood below.

Ten youth from the Healthy Homes program, which is jointly coordinated by SafeFutures Youth Center and Neighborhood House, helped clear, paint and beautify the stairs.

Adult volunteers came from the neighborhood and many area nonprofit and social service organizations. More youth from the SafeFutures' Asset Team helped clear the brush and distribute flyers to neighbors who live at the bottom of the staircase.

The task seemed daunting when we first saw the condition of the staircase. The Himalayan blackberry bushes that overran the area would be difficult to contend with because of their thorns. There were also the 220 stairs to climb up and down to get the job done. We also had 10 youth with boundless energy, who had preferences other than working on the stairs in the height of their summer vacation.

We also were not sure if we would have enough volunteers show up.

However, as the job progressed, we were impressed with the community's dedication

and learned a lot of lessons about our environment, ourselves and working together.

"I am going to use this for exercise, it looks a lot cleaner and safer," one of the volunteers said. "I got to know the community and it seems we are stronger for it."

To celebrate the community's efforts on the staircase, a barbecue was held at the Greg Davis Park on the corner of Southwest Brandon Street and 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southwest.

Although the barbecue was considered the culmination of weeks' worth of staircase rehabilitation, some work still remains to be done.

It will be up to neighbors to remain involved and make sure the trail is kept safe and clean for many others to enjoy.

We will also be calling for volunteers again when we are ready to mulch and get ready for landscaping in the fall.

The barbecue was attended by city officials, community folks, youth and friends who tasted a sumptuous menu of burgers, chicken wings, green salad and Asian noodles.

Prospective volunteers can contact Rose Long at (206) 923-3266 or by e-mail at rose.long@gmail.com.

Rose Long is a consultant working with Neighborhood House on the staircase project.

## Community joins together for Crime Night Out



PHOTO BY JAMES OWENBY

High Point Community Police Team officer Adonis Topacio reaches in a bag held by Kelly McKinney for a raffle.

By JAMES OWENBY

Seattle Housing Authority

A hot summer night is the perfect time for hanging out with friends and neighbors, having a barbecue and meeting new people.

Last month's Crime Night Out at High Point was just that.

The event started with a small march escorted by mounted police. Participants walked from Block Ten in the redeveloped section of High Point to the new High Point Community Center where they then enjoyed activities, food, prizes and an inflatable jumping room.

The event was held as a small consolation in a year when High Point won't be having its traditional Diversity Festival. Money left over from last year's festival paid for the food and activities.

"We are in a transitional phase where people are moving from the old High Point to the new High Point. It was decided that trying to plan Diversity Fest was too complicated and there weren't enough people to do it, so we decided to do something

much simpler. So basically this is just a big block party," said Kelly McKinney, Seattle Neighborhood Group's High Point Crime Prevention Organizer, who organized the event.

The event was well-attended by neighbors and service providers. Tom Phillips, senior development manager for the Seattle Housing Authority answered questions about the redevelopment and members of The Job Connection staff served up hamburgers from the grill.

Staff members from SafeFutures Youth Center, Neighborhood House, the Seattle Neighborhood Group, the Seattle Police Department and the Seattle Parks Department were also on hand talking with High Point community members.

"This year Crime Night Out incorporated all of High Point. By starting the march at the newly-completed block in High Point North and then joining the events at the Community Center, the neighbors sent a wonderful message about the pride they have in their community both new and old," said Kari-Lynn Frank, SHA community builder for High Point.

## Teens screen video

Continued from page 2

first, and then have the real stories," said 15-year-old Trang Troung, who directed the dramatic scenes.

"It was really, really fun putting it together," she added.

The video was made possible with funds from SafeFuture's Partnership for Anti-Violence Education grant.

The Right Brain Center for the Arts provided technical support for the project.

Right Brain is an organization dedicated to providing up-to-date digital media training for youth in the Seattle area. It was founded by Val Seid, a professional photographer who worked as the senior director of the High Point YMCA.

Seid developed a media production class at the Y.

"I realized that the kids really wanted to have access to these resources," he said.

The High Point teens were eager to start the project, but they said they quickly

learned about the pressure of meeting deadlines. They had just seven weeks to complete the project.

"We thought it was an easy, quick thing to do," Troung said. "But it took time and patience."

"The first two or three weeks we kind of slacked off, then we had to decide if we really wanted to get it done," she added. "After that, we stayed after if we had to."

Both Seid and SafeFutures Youth Development Specialist Christine Torres-Clara, who oversaw the project, said they were impressed with what the kids came up with.

The students not only shot and edited the film, but they composed and produced its hip-hop soundtrack.

"I'm very happy with end product," said Torres-Clara, "I know the kids are too."

For more information on SafeFutures Youth Center call (206) 938-9606. For more information on Right Brain visit the Internet at <http://www.therightbrain.org>.

# RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

## Kids line up for seats in new computer lab



PHOTO BY VIRGINIA FELTON

Rainier Vista youth packed the computer lab on opening day. Although the Internet was not yet connected, the kids enjoyed trying out the new drawing programs.

By VOICE STAFF

When the Rainier Vista Technology Center opened its doors in its new home last month, youth from the community crowded into all the open seats.

"I don't have a computer at home, so I come here to use one," said 8-year-old Rainier Vista resident Lucas Tupua.

As the month rolled on, more and more adults discovered the lab's new location, in the Neighborhood House Rainier Vista Center on 29th Avenue South.

The lab, which has 15 brand new computers and presentation equipment, was made possible in part by a \$250,000 grant through the Seattle Housing Authority from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Tsegaye Gebru, the lab's coordinator, is already teaching three-week tutorials in Microsoft Excel, Word and Publisher.

Gebru is also collaborating with Seattle Housing Authority's The Job Connection to offer a job coaching class on the third Wednesday of each month.

The class, which meets from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., uses technology to teach students resume writing skills and interviewing techniques. Classes in ESL GED preparation are also planned.

"We're trying to reach out to the low-income families, those who didn't get a chance to finish high school," he said. "We offer a number of classes so they can get their GED and perhaps get a promotion in their job."

The lab will also offer classes for neighborhood youth after school starts.

Twelve-year-old Austin Au said he is looking forward to working on his homework assignments in the lab.

"My computer at home isn't fast enough for me to finish my assignments," he said.

The lab is open on Monday and Wednesday from 1 to 8 p.m. On Tuesday and Thursday it's open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on Friday and weekends.

For more information on the lab and its classes, contact Gebru at (206) 461-4568 ext. 202.

## Some parks in Rainier Vista open for use

By KARI SHERRODD

Seattle Housing Authority

Grass has been growing, flowers are being planted and in some of Rainier Vista's parks people can be found resting on benches and eating lunches at picnic tables.

Progress has been made in developing Rainier Vista's roughly four acres of parks this summer, and more work will be done in the coming months.

"Almost 15 percent of the community will be open space," said Jeff Saeger, Seattle Housing Authority development project coordinator.

Already, some of the main parks and small pocket parks have been built in the first phase of the new development.

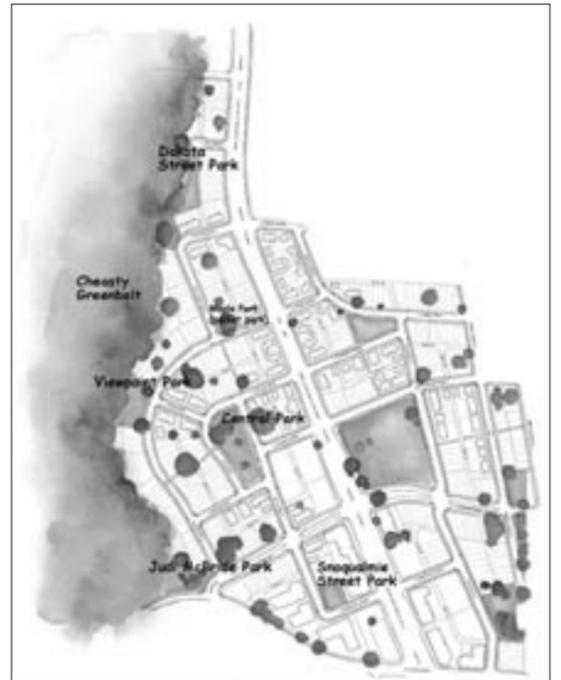
Judi McBride Park, named after the former president of the Rainier Vista Leadership Team,

is nestled among perennial flower beds, surrounding a small lawn area where the park fronts 28th Avenue South. This corner will provide a quiet, accessible seating area to visit or to enjoy the gardens.

The park will be dedicated on September 22 at 4 p.m. All residents and community members are invited to participate, and refreshments will be served in the community room at McBride Court after the ceremony.

Another attraction in store for the new community is Viewpoint Park, which will be situated at one of the highest points in the first phase of Rainier Vista, providing views of the Cascade Mountains and Mt. Rainier.

This park is located adjacent to the Chesty Greenbelt and will include an overlook platform, eight feet above street level, that will be able to double as a stage. "Seat logs" under the trees will provide audience



GRAPHIC BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Parks in Rainier Vista will provide a welcome oasis for residents.

seating for performances at the overlook platform, which will be ADA accessible.

Central Park will be another important gathering place for the community. This park will be centrally located, directly across from Neighborhood House's Rainier Vista Center, and will be roughly one acre in size with a large sloping lawn for children of all ages to play. A walking path will create the perimeter of the park.

The northern half of the park will consist of pathways and picnic tables. The park site will be carefully graded and designed to preserve several existing mature trees, including a red oak tree, a black locust and a Douglas fir.

Central Park still needs to be seeded. Once the grass has grown, the fences will come down for everyone to enjoy.

Other parks in Rainier Vista will include Dakota Street Park, a pocket park named Maple Park and Snoqualmie Street Park.

## Genesee Housing to offer more than just apartments

By KARI SHERRODD

Seattle Housing Authority

The new Genesee Housing building, located on Martin Luther King Jr. Way South, will provide affordable housing next spring for 50 households in a mix of 36 one- and 14 two-bedroom apartments.

Twenty-two of the apartments are set aside for people with disabilities under the Section 811 program where at least one adult must have a qualified disability.

Another 20 apartments are set aside for other low-income people enrolled in the Section 8 program.

Construction began on Genesee Housing in January and the building is expected to open to residents in March 2006.

"Genesee Housing was designed for people with disabilities in mind," said Knute Brinchmann, senior housing developer with Housing Resources Group.

The project was developed with guidance from a neighborhood advisory committee which includes people from Rainier Vista



PHOTO BY KARI SHERRODD

The Genesee building will provide affordable housing for people with disabilities.

who have a disability, the Washington Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, AIDS Housing of Washington and the Seattle Housing Authority.

All 50 units have been designed so they can be easily adjusted to accommodate the specific needs of individual residents.

All of the units have bathrooms and kitchens with five feet diameter turning

spaces. Each unit also has reinforced walls by the toilets and bathtubs or showers for the installation of grab bars if needed.

Five units incorporate additional design features under the guidance of King County's Housing Innovations for Persons with Developmental Disabilities program.

This program was created in 2003 to fund affordable housing that integrates

people with developmental disabilities into communities and that improves the quality of life for these residents.

Genesee Housing is being built by Housing Resources Group, a nonprofit housing developer and manager, in partnership with AIDS Housing of Washington.

Both have developed successful projects with SHA in the past, including AIDS Housing of Washington's Shirley Bridge Bungalows in West Seattle.

The new project will also offer Rainier Vista residents additional amenities.

On the ground floor, at the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Way South and South Columbian Way, retail and office spaces will be filled by commercial tenants.

When this space is finished, tenants will be selected by the Seattle Housing Authority.

Genesee Housing's 50 units will serve as on-site replacement housing for the redevelopment at Holly Park and Rainier Vista and will be managed by Housing Resources Group.

# NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

## Girls group reaches out to Muslim youth, others

By LORA CROPPER  
Voice reporter

Attention girls! Interested in getting involved in the community? Seeking to develop your social and leadership skills? Interested in field trips?

Or are you just looking for an *all-girl* place to hang out? Well, look no further. The Ahlam Group may be just what you've been waiting for.

The Ahlam group is a new group for girls between the ages of 9 to 18. The group began in June when staff of the Atlantic Street Center realized that young Muslim girls were not using the teen center, a popular hang-out for youth of New Holly.

"We realized that we were not serving a large and growing population in New Holly," said Gitana Garofalo, one of ASC's youth development program coordinators.

Garofalo decided to change this, so she created the group and hired Majida Brooks to lead it.

Although the group targets Muslim girls, all girls are welcome.

Ahlahm means dreams, and making dreams come true is something that Brooks is more than capable of doing for these young women. Brooks is a dynamic and upbeat mother of two who used to be a teacher. She taught grades kindergarten through seven at the Islamic School and is Muslim herself.

Being a Muslim helps Brooks strengthen the group's mission of providing a comfortable space in the community where Muslim girls can come together with other girls while engaging in activities that enhance their academic and social skills.

She also knows well what these girls dream of doing, such as going swimming – an activity that young Muslim girls cannot do if boys are around. Swimming is a regular event activity that Brooks and Garofalo have brought to the group.

Eventually, this will be an activity that will include moms, aunts, and nieces, Ga-



PHOTO BY MAJIDA BROOKS

Members of the Ahlam group went on a blackberry picking excursion last month.

rofalo explained.

Swimming is not the only appeal of the Ahlam group. The girls recently went to the Columbia City Farmer's Market, where they interviewed the farmers and enjoyed the overall atmosphere.

Prior to that, the girls discussed poetry and created poems of their own. Currently, the girls are focusing on the theme of visible and invisible aspects of culture. They discussed various facets of culture that can be seen versus those that cannot. Each girl will receive her own camera and, as the culminating project, will be taking 25 pictures that represent this theme.

The group's activities, discussions and field trips not only promote social and academic skills, but they also help the girls reach out to the community around them in a fun and interactive way. It is also something that the participants thoroughly enjoy.

One young girl attended a meeting after a couple of months away.

When asked if she missed the group, she enthusiastically exclaimed, "Yes!"

As the group continues to grow in popularity, the only aspect that is missing is more adult volunteers. If you're looking for a place where you can satisfy your dreams and more, please contact Majida Brooks at (206) 723-4073 or by e-mail at majidab@atlanticstreet.org.

## Parks offer retreat for NewHolly community

By KARI SHERRODD  
Seattle Housing Authority

Kids playing on toys, families picnicking and kids of all ages playing basketball can be spotted in NewHolly's parks throughout the year.

NewHolly's more than 16 acres of parks were designed to offer residents a variety of places to meet each other, play and retreat from daily routines.

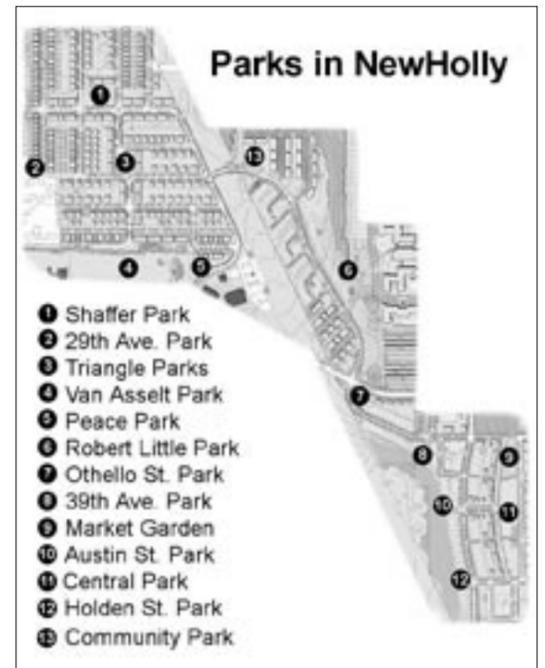
"We're lucky to have different kinds of parks throughout NewHolly – from the quiet Peace Park to the active basketball courts to the small tot lots," said Joy Bryngelson, Seattle Housing Authority's community builder at NewHolly. "The community uses them as places where adults and children from all different backgrounds have an opportunity to meet each other."

The newest parks at NewHolly are in Othello Station and some are already being enjoyed by the neighborhood. Othello Station includes five acres of parks, capped by the 2.3 acre Central Park, which arcs through the neighborhood from north to south, and will have varied play areas and a Market Garden and P-Patch.

The north end of Central Park has been opened and the fences on the rest of the park will be removed once the grass has finished growing. Other parks in Othello Station will include Othello Street Park, where a basketball court was recently installed, and three pocket parks, consisting of 39th Avenue Park, Austin Street Park and Holden Street Park.

Robert Little Park creates a peaceful retreat in the second phase of NewHolly. It offers a large open space that borders Elder Village. Up the street, another park offers multi-cultural design elements and a seating area. A walking path across the street leads up the hill to a small picnic table and the P-Patch garden.

Shaffer, Van Asselt, 29th Avenue and a variety of Triangle Parks in the first phase



GRAPHIC BY KARI SHERRODD

Several parks in NewHolly offer open space.

of NewHolly offer the community large open spaces, children's playground toys and quiet places to visit and rest. Peace Park, which caps the hill across the street from the Neighborhood Campus, was installed for the International Day of Peace in 2003.

"It's a quiet place of reflection with a beautiful view," said Bryngelson. "And, now community members volunteer to maintain the park and plant flowers in it."

Developers and designers working on NewHolly's housing and park plans made a conscious effort to place a priority on creating usable and inviting parks in the new community.

Carter Hart, SHA development project coordinator, explained that parks are a necessary place in our communities and society.

"They are places that can be more open, more neutral and less demanding than other places where most of our time is spent, such as homes or workplaces," he said. "Kids and adults alike need a place to meet or be alone without the baggage of these places. The parks in NewHolly accomplish this well."

## New system for water bills at NewHolly

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

After meeting with representatives from Minol/MTR this summer, Seattle Housing Authority will move forward with a plan to take direct responsibility for utility billings in all phases of NewHolly.

Minol/MTR is the company that has been responsible for determining how much each rental household at NewHolly pays for the water they use.

Since the first NewHolly rental units opened in 1999, residents have expressed concern over the size of their water bills.

Seattle Public Utility installed a master meter for each block at NewHolly, and they bill SHA for water and sewer charges based on the amount of water passing through the master meter.

Under each master meter, individual rental units are sub-metered. Bills have been sent to households by Minol/MTR based on readings from these sub-meters.

Many residents have been frustrated because the bills have been confusing, and residents have been unable to get complete or acceptable responses to their inquiries from Minol/MTR. Many residents have expressed concern over how high their bills are and whether the billing is accurate.

As of the end of September, Minol/MTR will no longer be in charge of the third-party billing system. SHA negotiated an end to the contract in Phase I. The contract for Phase II expired at the end of March and was not renewed. The new housing in Phase III did not have a Minol/MTR contract.

Impact Property Management, the division of SHA that manages NewHolly, will takeover billing tenants for water use in all of these areas.

Impact is already doing this at NewHolly Phase II and III, and in the new housing at High Point and Rainier Vista. New hardware to read the water meters has been

installed, and Impact Property Management is billing tenants directly.

One of the factors that make water bills at NewHolly higher than at other communities is the fact that residents there are repaying a loan from the City of Seattle that helped to pay for the installation of the new water supply, sewer and storm water systems. A surcharge is added on to water bills to help repay this loan.

In most cases, the utility allowance received by NewHolly residents is adequate to cover all their utility bills, including this surcharge. For some larger families, however, water bills have been very high.

Seattle Housing is continuing to look at alternatives that could decrease this surcharge or eliminate it altogether, so that water bills at NewHolly would be closer in size to those in other communities. No decisions have yet been made on this issue, however.

### Community notes

#### Calling all youth writers

Participate in Atlantic Street Center's "The Me I Dream to Be" contest by writing an essay or poem that describes your dreams for yourself.

If your essay or poem is selected, you will win \$75 and have the opportunity to read your essay at ASC's Big League Dream event on Sept. 28.

Completed essays can be turned in to your ASC site coordinator by Sept. 14. For more information call Monica Johnson at (206) 329-2050 ext. 109.

#### Seeking submissions

The Voice is seeking submissions for its NewHolly community section.

Articles, photos and announcements can be sent to 905 Spruce St., Seattle, WA 98104.

Submissions can also be sent by e-mail to stacys@nhwa.org.

# YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

## Event aims to help Yesler garden grow

By STACY SCHWANDT  
Voice editor

Many Yesler Terrace residents avoid the West end stairs that lead from the public housing community to Jackson Street.

Drug dealers are known to congregate on the staircase, making many residents fearful. But alongside the stairs, is a P-Patch garden just waiting to grow.

"Part of the theory is that (the garden) will displace some of the not-so-good activity that's going on here," said Kirstin O'Donnell, Yesler Terrace Community Council Vice-President.

But for the garden to be successful, more people need to use it, she said.

Nearly 40 people gathered in the garden last month for a work party that aimed to raise awareness of the resource and to demonstrate the area can be safe.

The event was organized by Cultivating Communities, Seattle Housing Authority, the Yesler Terrace Community Council and other community leaders. Cultivating Communities, a program of the City of Seattle, manages the garden.

Those involved said they hope their presence, along with police emphasis patrols funded by SHA through federal grant monies, will discourage illegal activity.

Seattle Neighborhood Group Crime Prevention Coordinator Michael Neguse said he enjoys working in the garden, where he spends a few hours every week. He is tend-



9-year-old Kearia Wilson, left, and her friend Manisha have planted cucumbers and greens in their own garden.

ing three raised beds with an impressive mix of tomatoes, cabbage and turnip greens.

"I'm so glad that people are coming down here," he said. "Next year we're going to plant some more beds."

The August event inspired at least one new resident to get involved. Rodolfo Gil spent the evening raking and watering a section of the garden.

"I think it looks nice here," he said. "I got a little spot up there, I'll grow tomatoes and other vegetables."

## Naomi's Viewpoint Community Council President speaks up

By NAOMI FINKELSTEIN  
Yesler Council President

This month SHA introduced a series of new rules in the form of a lease addendum. (See "Housing Authority develops new house rules," on front page.)

I am going to talk about one that the Resident Action Council has voted to work with an attorney to challenge, an action which I will ask the Yesler Community Council to support.

The rule reads: "No signs or placards may be posted on any doors, windows or common area walls, except for those signs or placards necessary for health or safety reasons, in or about the premises without the Senior Property Manager's written permission in advance."

This applies to everything—flags, religious symbols, political statements.

Everything.

In this country we have a Bill of Rights which guarantees the right to free speech. This rule is a violation of the right to free speech. There have been other cases recently in Seattle where landlords providing low-income housing have tried to evict residents for placing signs against the wall in the windows and lost.

The Northwest Justice Project attorney RAC consulted said we have a good case, and that there are other cases in the country where public housing residents have challenged these kinds of rules and won.

I have urged Seattle Housing Authority's

Executive Director Tom Tierney, both in conversation and in a letter, to reconsider this rule *before* it gets to court and costs SHA money to litigate.

SHA claims it is dealing with people who put swastikas (Nazi symbols) in their windows. I was unaware of such a trend. If that is the case, then the rule can be rewritten to be very clear that hate speech is not allowed. Our attorney is going to suggest just such a strategy.

SHA is an unelected bureaucracy. It is not in a position to undermine the Bill of Rights. And though, as a Jew, I despise Nazis, I cherish the right of free speech and the fact that I live in a democracy. I will fight to preserve that democracy. I have never put a sign in my window, but I now have one up that supports my home health aide's right to organize through SEIU.

I wish SHA would concentrate more on the rodent problem, on mold problems, on advocating for money for affordable housing in Washington, on finding money for new refrigerators and on re-scheduling a meeting it canceled at the last minute with the executive committee of Yesler Terrace last month, than on trying to control my little SEIU sign. What a case of misguided energy and resources!

Way to go to RAC for taking a stand. I bet Yesler will stand with you all as well. I know I will.

*Naomi Finkelstein is the Yesler Terrace Community Council President. This column reflects her personal views.*

## Remembering Sandy Loberg

By LABARBARA BROOKS  
Special to the Voice

Sandra Loberg, a longtime resident of Yesler Terrace and a friend to many, passed away in late July.

She was 63 years old.

Loberg was active in her community. She worked with the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department to get the word out about the different social activities here in Yesler, and she also volunteered in Yesler Terrace as a receptionist for Neighborhood House for at least six years.

Sandy was a thoughtful and caring person. She went above and beyond in her duties as a receptionist—even when she was not feeling well she did not want to miss a shift. At times, she even volunteered to cover other people's shifts.

Now that's true dedication.

Volunteering was a joy for her. Loberg loved Neighborhood House and the staff. She was also a sharing person. When she went on senior trips with Parks and Recre-



PHOTO BY KATHY NGUYEN

Sandy Loberg read a book profiling Yesler volunteers at a recent event.

ation, she would return with gifts for her neighbors and friends.

A memorial service was held in her memory last month. Many community members and friends turned out to say their good-byes.

Sandy will truly be missed.

*LaBarbara Brooks is family support worker for Neighborhood House.*

## Shelter headed to City Hall

CITY OF SEATTLE

Mayor Greg Nickels and the Seattle City Council recently approved funding to house the city's severe weather homeless shelter at City Hall next winter and to pursue long-term site options for the shelter.

The shelter is open 60 to 70 days a year when the weather is especially cold, allowing homeless people to sleep in a warm, dry and safe place. The shelter has been operated by The Salvation Army at a number of locations in recent years.

Last winter, the shelter was located in the old Yesler Terrace Community Center, despite objections from many community members. The winter before, it was tem-

porarily located at the old Public Safety Building, which was subsequently closed for demolition.

In late May, Mayor Nickels proposed legislation to the City Council to appropriate \$261,000 to complete building enhancements in the western section of the new City Hall basement so it could be used temporarily as the severe weather shelter.

This appropriation, approved in July, supplements an earlier ordinance that provided \$250,000 to further develop the City Hall basement.

Also in July, City Council approved another \$250,000 to research and develop a long-term shelter site, if possible.

## Notes from the Manager

By JUDI CARTER  
Community manager

Now that school has started again, and the boredom of late summer has given way to the excitement of a new year, it might be a good time sort through those clothes that are still good but no longer fit your children.

Francis House, located at 169 12th Ave. is a great place to take those clothes and perhaps find some more that your children can use.

This would also be a good time to start thinking about what your family would do if there were to be a big disaster, like an earthquake or fire.

Do you have a plan for getting out of your home quickly if a fire starts?

What would you do if there were a big earthquake and the roads were not passable? How would you check to make sure your children were safe if they were at school?

What would you do if the water pipes were broken and the water did not work when you turned on the faucet? How would you eat if there was no electricity and the stove didn't work? How would you keep warm if such a disaster occurred in the dead of winter?

Seattle Fire Department staff members

recommend that every household develop an escape plan in case of fire in their unit. The whole family should practice the plan, so everybody knows what to do.

And, speaking of fires, now that the weather is starting to cool down, it is critical that you make sure nothing is closer than eight inches from your heaters before they are turned on.

Cleaning the dust away from the top of the heater with a slightly wet cloth and vacuuming the coils out will prevent the dark lines on the walls above the heater that can occur when they are first turned on.

Over the course of the year, when people find keys and other items on the sidewalk, they frequently bring them to the management office.

We now have several sets of keys, a single earring or two, a necklace and assorted other small items in our lost and found spot. If you lost any of these items, please check in the management office to see if it is in our collection.

I hope to see many of you at the Community Council meeting on Sept. 14 at 6 p.m. in room 101 at the Jesse Epstein Building. The address is 905 Spruce St.

I hear they have a great door prize to give away!

