Revisions planned for Low Income Public Housing policy

By Virginia Felton
Seattle Housing Authority

The Low-Income Public Housing homeless Work project’s financing will provide the Seattle Housing Authority with the necessary funding to sustain quality housing well into the future.

To support the regulatory requirements for this tax-credit funding, SHA is required to comply with Section 42 of the IRS code which regulates tax-credit housing.

The Housing Authority has been working to revise its policies to reflect these requirements. Residents are invited to review the draft policies and to submit written comments about them.

Residents may pick up a copy of the revised policies in any public housing management office.

Comments on the policies must be in writing and may be either returned to the building’s management office, e-mailed to dfois@seattlehousing.org or mailed to: Policy Comments – Donna Fossa, Seattle Housing Authority, Housing Operations Department, P.O. Box 19028, Seattle, WA 98109.

All comments must be received in writing by 5 p.m. on Jan. 31.

Some of the changes you will see in the revised policies affect admission eligibility factors and tenant selection.

Changes to income limits

The LIPH policy will be changed to reflect the tax-credit rules, which say that tax-credit rentals are available only to people who make less than a certain limit.

For example, a single person living in a homeWorks building needs to make less than $32,700 to qualify for that unit.

Currently if a resident fails to comply with the completion of his or her annual recertification, their housing assistance is removed, and the resident is required to pay the full market rent for the unit.

Where’s the rest of The Voice?

You may notice that this month’s edition of The Voice looks a little different. That’s because we’ve put together a shorter version of the publication to accommodate staff vacations.

Don’t worry, we’ll be back to normal next month, and there are still plenty of great stories inside.

Happy New Year

from SHA Executive Director
Tom Tierney

SHA’s central office.

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**New human resources director hired for SHA**

**BY VIRGINIA FELTON**
Seattle Housing Authority

Dean Barnes began his new job as director of human resources at the Seattle Housing Authority in late November, but already he is making plans and setting goals for his tenure and for himself and his department.

“I want us to be a very effective HR department,” he said. “By applying the latest technology and being efficient in what we do, we can reduce the amount of time spent on paperwork and more time being of direct service.”

Based on past the more efficient his department is at providing services to other SHA employees, the more time they will have to serve residents and help SHA meet its mission.

Barnes said that he also sees a role for himself and the other HR professionals at SHA in supporting resident needs in the workforce.

He looks forward to working with The Job Connection staff and other SHA programs to support the career development efforts that are already in place.

“I am amazed by the cultural diversity here – both on the staff and among the residents,” he said. “I want to explore ways to help residents with the transitions that are needed to make people more employable.”

He points out that many SHA residents have been very successful at entering the job market, but need more assistance to make steady wage progress.

“A lot of our residents have been able to get jobs paying up to $12 or $13 dollars an hour, but they need to see those earnings get up into the $20 range in order to leave public housing,” he said. “I’d like to see if there are more ways that we can help.”

Barnes’ preparation for his new job at SHA is extensive. After growing up in the Yakima area, he attended Whitworth College in Spokane, where he majored in business and also played baseball.

Dean Barnes

On a bookshelf in his new office sits a bowl of baseballs and the wall includes a picture of his father and uncle, both of whom played semi-pro baseball.

He graduated from Arizona State University. During this time, he began a doctorate program in public administration.

His study of public administration solidified his desire to work in the public sector. This led to his coming back to Seattle, and then to Phoenix to become the assistant director of career services at Arizona State University. During this time, he worked in human resources for the City of Seattle.

“It’s really important to me to be involved in work that helps people at a very basic level,” he said.

When asked why SHA in particular was attractive to him, Barnes shared that he really appreciates the singular focus of the work of the Housing Authority.

“The idea of being part of an organization that assists people in finding housing is very appealing to me. We are fulfilling a very basic need that is extremely important to people.”

**Resource directory available**

**SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**
A resource directory of community services for residents of Scattered-Site housing is now available.

Based on past surveys, residents have told SHA they most often need information about locations of local food banks and child care and help finding jobs and emergency rent assistance.

The directory lists services specific to the areas of the city including Northwest Ballard, Fremont, Greenwood, North- east (University District, Wedgwood, Lake City), West (Queen Anne, Magnolia, downtown), East (Central area, Capitol Hill and First Hill), Southwest (West Seattle and White Center), Southeast (Beacon Hill and Rainier Valley).

Residents can request a directory be mailed to their home or pick one up at the Operational Service Center located at 100 N. 130th St. To request a directory call 206-770-6789.

This phone number is also the Scattered-Site’s maintenance line to call for repair issues in resident’s unit or house. After-hours emergency number for repair issues is 206-443-4440.

**Policies Continued from front page**

unit, the resident will be required to pay the maximum tax-credit rent, effective on the first day of the month following termination of the housing assistance.

Resident transfer policy changed
For public housing tax credit units, the criteria for transfers has been revised. The new rules will require a resident’s eligibility to be reviewed before a transfer can take place.

Residents who live in homeWorks units will be ineligible for transfer within their first six months of occupancy in their current unit.

**Correction**
A story in the November issue of The Voice listed the wrong telephone number for the Westwood Heights Technology Center. The number is 206-932-6492, ext. 16.
Residents try out new way to let visitors into buildings

By SVEN KOEHLER
Seattle Housing Authority

Soon, telephones will be used for more than just phone calls at homeWorks buildings.

When the new telephone entry systems are installed to replace the antiquated and failing doorbell/intercom systems, residents will be able to buzz visitors into the building from any place in their apartment using the phone.

HomeWorks is installing Door King telephone entry systems that are similar to systems already in place in some other LIPH buildings.

Jefferson Terrace has had this kind of system for about five years, and they have also been very common in new private-sector apartment buildings for years.

Residents and visitors will notice a big difference at the front door. The existing system has a panel crowded with individual doorkbells for each apartment, and visitors had to search to find the correct one.

Resident Jesse Byers at Green Lake Plaza called the homeWorks information line to point out that the tiny buttons were often damaged, the labels with resident names were hard to read and visitors often rang the wrong unit.

All those doorkbells will be gone, as the new system allows visitors to use large buttons to scroll through names in large characters on a lighted digital screen.

To talk to the resident, the visitor will use a familiar telephone key pad to dial the code for the apartment.

The biggest change will be in the apartments.

Presently, residents must get up and use the intercom panel on the wall to answer the doorbell.

Resident Diana Mausay at Green Lake Plaza described using the old system: “The old speaker makes the voices garbled. Plus, for people in wheelchairs, it’s kind of a burden to rush to the intercom and reach the button on the wall to let visitors in.”

Correction

A story in last month’s edition of The VOICE incorrectly reported LynnSereda’s position with the Resident Action Council. She is the vice president of the organization, not the secretary.

The Voice strives to provide accurate information and we correct all errors. To report a mistake, please contact Voice Editor Stacy Schwandt at 206-461-8430, ext. 227 or by e-mail at stacy@shwa.org.

Residents try out new way to let visitors into buildings

Consider forming a knitting circle

By BETTE REED
Special to The Voice

It all started with a conversation between two residents regarding their knitting habits. They both admitted that over the years they had accumulated bags of yarn — some whole skeins, some odds and ends, but all together pretty big stashes of materials.

Later, an article in a craft magazine solved the problem of what to do with these stashes. The article identified several types of charitable organizations that are anxious to receive various kinds of knitted or crocheted items.

A couple of phones called several local organizations seeking such items as caps, scarves, lap robes or slippers.

Thus was born the Blakeley Manor Craft Circle.

The original two residents have grown to a group of eight. Several members joined simply to learn or re-learn one of these crafts.

While the activity benefits a special charity, it offers these women a weekly social occasion for chatty afternoons.

In most of all, by using the materials on hand, there was no initial cost to anyone. Blakeley knitters would like to encourage others who may have their own “stashes” of yarn to form a similar circle.

Call either Charlotte Fisher at 206-724-2663 or Bette Reed at 206-523-8685 for information on local charities and the items requested.

Bette Reed is a resident of Blakeley Manor.

Help is available for heating bills

By ROBYN CIRCLES
Central Area Motivation Program

The Central Area Motivation Program can help you pay your heating bills with a grant of up to $750.

The amount you’ll receive is based on your household’s annual actual heating costs, family size and income. The average household benefit last winter was $350.

Households earning less than the following amounts qualify for assistance this winter:

- $2,083 for four people;
- $2,438 for five people and
- $2,792 for six people.

Your household’s total income for the three months prior to your appointment is used.

At the time of your appointment you will need to provide the following documents:

- The first is computer identification for the applicant
- Social Security Cards for all adults 18 years or older
- Verification of all children living in the home (birth certificates, medical coupons, or social security cards may be used)

- Your most recent heating bill and your gas bill if they are not the same.
- Your current lease agreement or rent receipt, mortgage coupon or property tax statement.

Adults without income, please obtain Q5 and Q12 printouts from the WorkSource office by calling 1-800-318-6022 or by going to http://www.go.2ui.com.

It is not necessary to be in crisis to apply. However, if your power has been disconnected, you may walk in to CAMP as an emergency. Call 206-812-4940 for more information.

To schedule an appointment for energy assistance, you may call the 24-hour appointment and information line at 1-800-548-7144.

The line is open seven days a week to provide energy assistance information and to schedule appointments for agencies serving King and Pierce counties.

In the city of Seattle, the Central Area Motivation Program administers the program. CAMP is located at 722 18th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122.
The Development Association has been a prime mover in the project. The prime mover in the project is the Seattle Housing Authority as replacement housing for units razed during the redevelopment of NewHolly. They will be rented to low-income people. The building, which sits at the intersection of 35th Avenue Southwest and Southwest Graham Street, is to be known as the West Seattle Community Resource Center. It will house the West Seattle Food Bank and 34 new apartments. It is slated to open early this spring. Seven apartments will be reserved for the Seattle Housing Authority as replacement housing for units razed during the redevelopment of NewHolly. They will be rented to very-low-income people.

The prime mover in the project is the Delridge Neighbors Development Association, a nonprofit community development corporation. The Development Association has been raising funds for the project from the state, King County, the City of Seattle, foundations, nonprofits and civic-minded individuals and businesses—some 400 contributors in all—for two and a half years. Among the larger contributors are the Gates and Paul Allen Foundations. Much of the commercial space on the building's two lower levels will be given over to the West Seattle Food Bank, a part-owner of the building, which long ago outgrew its facility nearby. The Food Bank will make some of its space available to Family Services of King County, the West Seattle Help Line and other organizations that provide services to low-income people.

An office is being set aside for the use of a rotating list of agencies that provide such things as health screening and housing and employment counseling. Apartments in the new building range from one to three bedrooms. All of them will be reserved for low- and very-low-income household.

Model apartments are nearly ready to show, and INDHA expects to start conducting tours and leasing apartments late this month or early in February. The new building is right next door to the 36-unit Alder Crest Apartments, which Seattle Housing Authority has renovated.

The goal is to have a plan ready to show to the community by March, Phillips said. "It’s always difficult to do commercial in what’s known as a transitional neighborhood," he said. "Business is very cautious and very conservative — they just don’t want to be on the leading edge."
Rainier Vista enjoys Asian cooking class

By STACY SCHWANDT
Voice editor

Sizzling vegetables, sweet and spicy chicken and neighborly camaraderie were all available so the Neighborhood House Rainier Vista Center last month.

Despite an oncoming storm, over a dozen Rainier Vista residents crowded into the kitchen to partake in the community’s first ever Asian cooking class.

Participants jockeyed for space, even standing on chairs to get a better look at Gamelin House resident Lilly Li as she prepared beef fried rice, vegetable chow mein and teriyaki chicken.

Many of the observers took careful notes as Li explained her techniques.

Before retirement, Li ran restaurants in Kentucky and Texas for 36 years. “That was my job, I love to cook,” she said.

Li has also been a longtime participant in the Rainier Valley’s monthly senior gatherings, and she approached Seattle Housing Authority Community Builder Naomi Chang to find out more about volunteer opportunities in the community.

“Lilly is very nice, and she agreed to host this class,” Chang said.

Participants asked questions throughout Li’s demonstration, including where to find ingredients in the community’s Asian grocery store and how to store them (wash and dry them thoroughly, then store them in the refrigerator).

Li also pointed out that she was using much less oil in the evening’s meal than she would have in her restaurant, modeling healthy cooking techniques for the class. “It can be much healthier to cook for yourself than to eat out,” Chang observed.

“Everyone enjoyed sampling the dishes.”

“The rice dish was my favorite,” participant Kawar Ali said through an interpreter. “If I make it at home, I might add some Somali spices, though.”

Neighborhood House Computer Lab Technician Tsegaye Gebre helped Chang organize the event. He said that an East African cooking class will be planned for early this year. For more information call 206-461-4568, ext. 202.

One to grow on
Garden tips for community gardeners

By ANZA MEUENCHOW
Special to The Voice

Believe it or not, the days are getting longer and we can begin to plan for the next growing season.

With our Northwest maritime climate, one of the tricks for increasing production in your food garden is by using techniques for “extending the season.”

Most gardeners extend the season by starting some seedlings indoors or buying plants to set out when the soil has finally warmed.

That’s because many of our vegetable crop seeds need warm temperatures to germinate. Once they’re sprouted, they can grow in cooler temperatures as long as they get enough sunlight. In June when our days are the longest, most gardens already have sizable tomato and pepper plants, even though the soil is finally just warm enough for these seeds to naturally germinate.

Many vegetable seeds do well and produce earlier harvests by being started indoors. Lettuces, brassicas (broccoli, cabbage, choy, kale, etc.), squashes, beans, basil and many others will produce food for you more quickly if you start them indoors extra light and seeds." I do transplant onions, but I don’t recommend starting any of the other root crops (carrots, radish, beets, parsnips) this way because the plants don’t develop well.

Squash, cucumbers, peas and beans need careful transplanting because they resent having their roots disturbed. I rarely transplant peas because they will germinate in the cold soils of February and March. Besides starting seeds under grow lights indoors, there are many other ways to extend your season and make your soils warmer so you can plant sooner.

Many gardeners build cloches, hot houses, cold frames or even hoop houses to protect their gardens. These are all terms for using glass or clear plastic to cover an area that you’d like to remain warmer, protected from cold winds and insulated against our cold nights.

When the sun shines, these structures get hot very quickly, so you need to provide for good ventilation.

I never tire of seeing all the creative designs gardeners have come up with to build their season extenders. Most use either recycled windows or plastic tubing with sheets of plastic stretched over them. Just be sure that your frames stand straight against the wind (which has been especially challenging this fall).

Visit a community garden and check out all the ways these folks use season extenders.

A simple technique that will extend the season by a few weeks is using floating row cover (e.g., Remay). This spun polyester fabric will warm the soil by a few degrees and protects seeds just enough to improve germination.

I think it keeps the seeds from drying out in the wind and also keeps birds from eating the seeds or seedlings. The fabric is light enough that you don’t have to stake it. As the plants grow, they lift it up.

Also, the fabric doesn’t exclude the sunlight or water.

The edges of the fabric have to be well anchored down (I use rocks, some use rebar or string) so it won’t blow away or let the insects in.

I remove the row cover when the plants mature and the days are plenty warm. For some crops I leave the row cover on all the way until harvest, because it helps deter dried pests, such as carrot rust fly, spinach leaf miner or cabbage butterflies.

I order row cover by the yard from one of the gardening catalogues (e.g., Territorial or Johnny’s) so it is light enough that shipping is not expensive.

Despite the cold and darkness, take a walk through your garden and remove any weeds that are surviving. Often a winter garden stroll can birth delightful spring and summer plans.

Anza Meuenchow is a farmer and a volunteer with P-Patch. You can reach her by e-mail at malafarm@whidbey.net or on the Internet at http://www.malafarm.com.
Committees formed to address neighborhood issues
Participants welcome, meetings begin this month

By Stacy Schwandt
Voice editor

Hot topics at the NewHolly Neighborhood Night last month included youth misbehaving in the library, grocery carts left on sidewalks and the structure of a neighborhood association.

About 40 people met in the NewHolly Gathering Hall to talk about these issues and others facing the community and to sign up for committees to tackle them.

The committees will work on neighborhood clean-ups, the behavior of young people on the central campus, crime prevention and traffic safety, parks and the formation of a NewHolly neighborhood council.

The meetings will open for members and will begin meeting this month.

“We have a wonderful community, and it’s really complex,” said Seattle Housing Authority Community Builder Joy Bryngelson, who organized the event. “We’re here to help you make the community the way you want it.”

Participants talked about possible structures for a neighborhood association, which could serve as a voice for residents and oversee the spending of the neighborhood’s community fund.

Bryngelson said she expects the neighborhood to have approximately $5,000 a year in interest from leftover HOPE VI redevelopment funds.

She suggested that neighbors select representatives from each phase of the NewHolly development and added that committee members may opt to spend time talking about the association before making decisions.

NewHolly resident Michael Embay agreed with her suggestions.

“We should get to know our neighbors before we decide what to do,” he said.

Ideas for the traffic safety committee included applying for grants to pay for signs asking drivers to slow down in NewHolly and conducting a driving traffic circle campaign.

Seattle Public Library Branch Manager Catherine Lardol said some challenges with young people using the library.

“We’re having to kick kids out of the library a lot,” she said. “The library is filled with noise and disruptive behavior.”

Teens in the audience spoke up, saying they feel they are sometimes treated unfairly by the librarians.

A couple of the youth agreed to be members of the committee forming to address the issue.

The meeting concluded with a lively discussion of litter in the neighborhood.

“There is trash everywhere, it doesn’t make any sense,” said one neighbor. “There are McDonald’s bags. (People) turn the trash cans upside down. It’s too filthy in this area for us to live.”

Particularly troubling to many was the high number of Safeway shopping carts stranded on NewHolly streets.

Adults use them to carry their groceries from the store, leave them behind and then children play on them in the streets and in traffic.

“We need to take care of this issue,” one neighbor said.

For more information on the committees, including dates, times and locations for their meetings, please contact Bryngelson at 206-723-1725.

Little Stars to meet this month
Youth programs abound in NewHolly

By Kari Shieh & Stacy Schwandt
Voice reporters

If you come by Atlantic Street Center’s multi-purpose room after school hours on Friday this month, you will likely be greeted by the 5 to 8 year olds from the Center’s newest group -- the Little Stars.

“The group is designed to create a fun learning environment for kids who are starting school for the first time,” said Shelley Greene, an intern from Seattle University who is leading The Little Stars. “It will help them get interested in something related to school, but in a different atmosphere.”

Another focus of The Little Stars is to help children explore the world, which could take on many aspects as the group evolves.

Some things that the group could possibly do include cooking, playing sports, playing with hands-on projects and taking field trips.

“The kids will have a ton of energy,” said Greene. “We’re going to have a lot of fun together.”

If you live in or around NewHolly and have a 5- to 8-year-old child, consider signing them up for The Little Stars.

It is free to participate in the group, which will meet on Fridays at Atlantic Street Center’s multi-purpose room.

The group is set to run from Jan. 12 to March 16 from 4 to 5:30 p.m., but kids are welcome to come as soon as they are out of school, Green explained.

The Little Stars is just one of many groups and services offered in the NewHolly community to help families and the community raise healthy, self-sufficient children and youth.

Atlantic Street Center also runs groups for 9- to 12-year-old girls and boys. These groups focus on the development of social and leadership skills through discussions, skill-building projects, field trips and community service.

Both groups meet from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Mondays in the teen center.

Girls should consider joining the Ahlam Girls Group, which meets on Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the ASC building. The group offers a safe and respectful place, with a special welcome to Muslim girls.

Finally, children should consider applying for Team A.L.I.V.E, a group that promotes leadership skills in youth ages 13 to 18. The group meets on Monday nights from 6 to 8 p.m. in the NewHolly Gathering Hall.

For more information about The Little Stars or other youth groups, please call Atlantic Street Center at 206-723-4073.

Winterfest celebrates creativity, fun

Participants begin work on paper mache piggy banks, which they finished during their winter break from school.

By Atlantic Street Center staff

Snow fell in early December, setting the perfect mood for Atlantic Street Center’s annual Winterfest celebration.

The Gathering Hall was transformed into a bustling place with three dimensional snowflakes hanging from the rafters, fancifully-papier mache walls, more than 12 engaging craft booths and snacks enjoyed by all.

The room was crowded with over 120 participants who created snow globes, wreaths, swags, gingerbread houses, paper mache piggy banks, jewelry, decorated cookie tins, Kwanzaa cards, books and calendars and tried their hands at origami paper folding and the games of Tangram, mancala and dreidle.

The event also included sitings for family groups.

“A lot of creative and very happy participants carried home projects for gifts and decorations or just for fun,” said Atlantic Street Center program manager Sue Siegenthaler.

The event was made possible by the hard work of about 40 volunteers who contributed their time, effort and creativity. Donations of funds and materials for the event came from Impact Property Management, World Vision and Cash & Carry.

Communities notes

Multicultural Potluck for New Years
Join your friends for food, fun and festivities at the NewHolly multicultural potluck.

The potluck will take place on Friday, January 5 from 6 to 8:00 p.m. at the NewHolly Gathering Hall, 7054 32nd Ave. S.

Learn about New Year’s traditions from around the world and bring a dish to share.

The potluck is coordinated by NewHolly neighbors with support from the Seattle Housing Authority and Atlantic Street Center.

For more information, call Joy Bryngelson at 206-723-1725.

Tutors needed

The Vietnamese Friendship Association is seeking community volunteers, high school and college students for its after school tutoring program, which serves students of diverse ethnicities.

The program meets Monday to Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. at NewHolly Learning Center, above the library.

Volunteer tutors help students with their homework, play language and pronunciation games and serve as good role models. The program is fun and very interactive.

Volunteers may serve for one, two, three or four days. For more information or to sign up, please contact Vu Siegenthaler at info@4elders.org by Jan. 22. Leave your name, address and phone number.

Free health workshop

Participants will learn how to maintain a healthy brain (and body) at a free interactive workshop on Thursday, January 25 hosted by the Healthy Aging Partnership.

The workshop, “Mind Your Mind: Easy Ways to Stay Sharp and Independent as You Age,” will feature presentations by health, nutrition and fitness experts, including Jan Tomartone, family care consultant with the Alzheimer’s Association, Western and Central Washington State chapter.

Participants will learn about brain-healthy diet and lifestyle choices and be led through fun exercises, both physical and mental.

The half-day workshop is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the NewHolly Gathering Hall, 7054 32nd Ave. S. A morning snack and a light lunch will be provided.

To register for the workshop call 206-832-1900, ext. 1970 or e-mail info@4elders.org by Jan. 22. Leave your name, address and phone number. A confirmation card will be sent to you.

The Healthy Aging Partnership is a coalition of 40 Puget Sound area non-profit organizations dedicated to the health and well-being of older adults.
Welcome committee greets neighbors

A minute later a familiar face appeared. An 11-year-old girl named Leena Brown came walking in with her aunt. Brown came from West Seattle and said, “I like it here better. There is so much to do. I have met new friends, and I like going to all the different parties, like this one.”

About 12 new residents arrived after Brown, and all were welcomed into the Yesler Terrace community. Lem Li, who moved with her husband from Vietnam nine years ago said she appreciates the Yesler community for many reasons. “I moved here to be close to my daughters, but it was nice to see that there was a Vietnamese community here,” she said. “We all like to go to the many functions the community organizes. I like to meet the new people, socialize and eat the good food that is offered.”

When asked what made Yesler different from her previous housing Le said, “The yard. I love having a yard. My husband and I plant a garden. Everyone should have a yard.”

If you or others you know are interested in welcoming new residents to Yesler Terrace, contact Demas at 206-461-8430, ext. 258.

Jordon McIntyre is the volunteer coordinator for Neighborhood House.

Notes from the Manager

By Judy Carter
Senior Property Manager

Rats! Mice! Pigeons! These are all creatures that cause health problems and are common to Yesler Terrace. There are things that can and need to be done to get rid of these creatures.

All of your food needs to be in containers that mice cannot get into. They can easily chew through card board and plastic bags. Cereal, flour, rice and other food stuffs need to be stored in hard plastic containers with firm, sealed lids.

Wipe all crumbs off the counters, sweep the floors and take out the garbage every evening before you go to bed.

If there is no food easily available in your home, mice and rats may not be as eager to stay in your home. It does that are very clean but have a lot of clutter may still be attractive to rats and mice. They can nest in boxes or bags of clothing, newspapers or other articles.

If you don’t need it, get rid of it.

If you have a pet, do not leave their food down on your floors at night or even outside. Dog and cat food quickly becomes mouse or rat food if left unattended.

Do not feed the birds, or leave rice or other food outside. Pigeons often carry diseases, and their feces can harm children playing outside. Also, food that the birds do not eat will be gobbled up by the mice and rats.

If you notice mice or rats in or around your apartment, please call the management office at 206-223-3758 to get the area treated.

If no one answers, please leave a message. We will need to know your apartment number and what kind of pest you need treated.

If we get rid of the sources of food for these pests and work with pest control, we should be able to limit the number of rodents in the community.

I hope that this New Year brings you and your family peace and prosperity, and that some of your long term dreams, with your work and perseverance, begin to come true.

Yesler redevelopment communications liaison hired

Three important meetings scheduled this month

BY CLAIRE McDaniel
Seattle Housing Authority

Ayan Musse has been hired as the communications liaison for Yesler Terrace. You may have already seen her in your neighborhood, knocking on doors, asking you and your neighbors for your opinions and answering your questions about the Yesler Terrace redevelopment project.

Musse heard about the liaison position when she was volunteering with several neighborhood groups. Her past positions included working with African Youth United, an African youth group and for Broadcast Emergency Shelter, a nonprofit homeless shelter for women and children.

Musse reports that the next step in the communications process at Yesler Terrace is to hire outreach workers and translators who will represent the six predominant languages of Yesler Terrace residents (Somali, Amharic, Khmer, Spanish, Tigrinya and Vietnamese). These outreach workers will help get the word out about the redevelopment and will help to address resident concerns.

Right now, the Yesler Terrace redevelopment project is in the pre-planning stage. The Yesler community will be doing a lot of talking and information gathering for the first year. In fact, there are three important meetings coming up this month.

The Yesler Terrace Community Council meeting will be on Jan. 23 at the Epstein Building, 905 Spruce St. from 5 to 7 p.m. It is always open to residents and community members to voice their concerns and ideas.

There are regularly scheduled Citizen’s Review Committee meetings in which residents and representatives from housing, governmental and nonprofit organizations work together to develop a vision for the new project.

The next CRC meeting will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. on Jan. 24 at the Yesler Terrace Community Center. Yesler Terrace residents will also have the opportunity to celebrate their community with a project called “Planting Seeds at Yesler Terrace: Honoring Yesler Terrace people, history and hope” presented by the nonprofit organization Pomegranate Center.

The kick-off workshop will take place on Jan. 30 at the Epstein Building from 5 to 7 p.m.

The Housing Authority has hired the Pomegranate Center to “develop community-owned ideas for honoring and celebrating Yesler Terrace people, history and uniqueness and developing a plan to incorporate them into the future redeveloped neighborhood as art and gathering places.”

The goals for the kick-off workshop are to explain the entire project, begin receiving ideas from community members and identify steering group members.

Musse’s message to Yesler Terrace residents is a simple one: “You have a say in what happens in the future so participate, provide input and be hopeful about the process... We want to hear from you.”

Ayan Musse can be reached at 206-972-4689 or by e-mail at amusse@seattlehousing.org.
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