Seattle’s Ethiopian youth learn about historic victory

By UNIQUE SAUNDERS
Voice reporter

Seattle student Abigail Solomon said it was the second year she has attended the celebration.

“I like how Ethiopia stands as the only independent African country,” she said.

Eleven-year-old Eden Seifu said she had also heard stories about the victory prior to the day’s event. She once won a quiz about Ethiopian history, she said with pride.

Seifu added that she would like other people to know that “we come from a beautiful place.” Her 8-year-old sister Sally agreed, adding, “Africans and African-Americans changed the world.”

The 11th Adwa Victory Anniversary was sponsored by the Ethio Youth Media TV program, a cable television show that aims to teach the historical and cultural heritage of Ethiopia.

Produced by Assaye Abunie and the Ethiopian Educational, Cultural and Sports Center, the show airs on the second and fourth Sunday of the month from 3 to 4 p.m. on SCAN, cable channel 77/29.

The anniversary commemoration was meant to educate the youth and to celebrate Ethiopian heritage, Solomon Woldeyayas of the Ethio Youth Media TV program said.

He added that the group wanted to raise awareness of the Battle of Adwa because it is more than just Ethiopian history — it is the history of anyone with African ancestry.

Abunie said the event was a perfect opportunity to teach the youth about their special history and culture. One of its main purposes was to “build their self-esteem and identity,” he said.

President’s budget reduces funding for housing by 8 percent

By VIRGINIA FELTON
Seattle Housing Authority

President Bush released his suggested budget for the federal fiscal year 2008 in January, putting housing advocates on alert that the challenge of adequate funding for housing will continue.

The President’s budget requests $35.2 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, approximately 8 percent less than the fiscal year 2007 level. The President’s budget is a starting point, and will be amended by both houses of Congress before it is approved.

Where public housing is concerned, the administration’s total 2008 budget is nearly $500 million less than the appropriation by Congress for 2007.

The proposed budget for operation of the Low-Income Public Housing program (which pays for housing management and maintenance for most readers of The Voice) is $986 million less than the amount needed, according to the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials.

“The administration’s request would cover 82 percent of the amount necessary to serve residents and cover the gap in utility payments and administrative costs,” the organization said in a statement. “If implemented, the budget would increase the program deficit to more than $3 billion in just eight years — with more than two-thirds of that amount accruing in fiscal year 2006-2008.”

The president’s budget also proposed a 17 percent decrease to the capital fund, which is used to take care of major capital improvements in public housing buildings.

This means that there will not be enough funding to take care of the backlog of capital needs in public housing across the country.

The administration’s budget request is not fully funding what is needed to create a sustainable safety net for our nation’s low-income residents,” said Seattle Housing Authority’s Advocacy Director Lisa Cipolone-Wolters. “Fortunately, it is early in the legislative process, and we will be looking to Congress to correct these skewed funding priorities.”

The other budget change that would affect tenants in SHA housing is the elimination of the administration’s request for funding for the Resident Opportunity and Supportive Services grants.

In past years, SHA and its partners have consistently received these grants to help fund elderly services and Job Connection and Family Self-Sufficiency programs.

The President’s budget request increased funding for the Section 8 program slightly. Unfortunately, funding is still insufficient to cover inflation adjustments over funding provided for 2007.

As Congress turns its attention to the 2008 budget in the coming months, housing advocates expect the challenge to continue to be daunting.

Democrats in Congress have committed to a “Pay as you go” process, meaning they will find revenues to meet expenses on a yearly basis. This may make it difficult to increase funding for housing programs.

Housing authorities, including SHA, will continue to work closely with members of the state’s Congressional delegation, which has been very supportive of the Section 8 program.

As part of this educational push, Cipolone-Wolters, SHA Community Building Coordinator Ann Levine and a group of SHA residents are talking with local legislators about the importance of quality public housing, Section 8 and supportive services.

Green Lake Plaza residents Gina Owens and Glenn Emmerson and Amin Ararsa, a Section 8 voucher holder who lives and works in High Point, met with Senator Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) and the staff of Representative Jim McDermott (D-Wash.) in late March.

By sharing their stories, the residents hope to raise legislators’ awareness about the negative impact that would come from the dramatic funding reduction in President Bush’s proposed budget.

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials’ 2007 Legislative and Regulatory Agenda was the source for budget amounts cited in this article.
Class to help students learn English and land a good job

By V OICE staff
Neighborhood House, in partnership with Highline Community College, is starting a spring quarter ESL for Jobs class in the new Wiley Community Center in Greenbridge.

The class begins on Tuesday, April 10 and runs Tuesdays through Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m. The Wiley Center is at 9800 Eighth Ave. S.W.

The class teaches students basic English speaking, listening, reading and writing skills with a special focus on communication and problem-solving skills for the workplace. Students are offered ease management, job placement assistance and career development help for at least one year after they land a job.

Free transportation to the classes and childcare are available.

Those interested should contact Neighborhood House today.

Somali speakers can contact Furtun Mohamed at 206-730-3699, Khmer speakers can contact Sovy Choo at 206-331-5767, and English speakers can contact Matt Helmer at 206-461-4554, ext. 5.

Forum to focus on fatherhood

By V O ICE staf f
Fathers from all over Seattle are invited to the third-annual Fatherhood Forum and Resource Fair, which will take place at the NewHolly Gathering Hall on Saturday, April 7 from 12 to 3 p.m., will feature entertainment, a panel discussion and remarks by former Franklin High School basketball coach Ron Drayton.

During his coaching days, Drayton was well-known for his focus on principles, discipline and academic excellence. He left Franklin in 1998, a year after his wife died of breast cancer, in order to raise his two children on his own.

The event is organized by the greater Seattle Fatherhood Coalition, including Head Start and Community Action Agencies. Childcare and light refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Sean Benning at 206-322-0354, ext. 44.

Use rebates, save money

By K EITH GORMEZEANO
Voice reporter

Would you like to save enough on the necessities you normally buy to pay for one month’s rent?

Every week drug stores such as Rite Aid and Walgreen’s publish flyers promoting items on which they’re offering a rebate. You can find the flyers in the Sunday Seattle Times/Pot-In the Gallerian or you can get them on Tuesdays when the post office delivers them.

Rebate items include toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, mouthwash, body wash, shampoo, razors, deodorant, antacids, cold and other medicine, light bulbs, VHS tapes, free DVD movies, dishwasher and laundry detergent, hair color, makeup and feminine care products.

I donate the latter three items to women’s shelters or FareStart along with any extra items I do not need.

Rebates work as follows: check the flyers, circle the items you or your friends need and buy them.

Then submit your rebates at the end of each month using the rebate submission forms supplied by the store. Companies do not rebate sales tax or the cost of the postage needed to mail in the rebate submission form.

Before you buy the items, make sure you check the newspaper coupon section in the Sunday paper for coupons that you might be able to use (which may allow you to save on the sales tax on some items).

A copy of the newspaper only costs $1.50. You can also subscribe for 13 weeks for $13 if you are a new subscriber or obtain one at a coffee shop at the end of the day for free.

The average Sunday paper usually has over $40 in coupons. Most can be used on products bought on rebate.


Get cheap, free stuff

This is the first in a series of articles on saving money on everyday items.

Next month, we’ll have an article on saving money using special offers.

It helps to organize the coupons by category in a set of envelopes. Rite Aid allows you to either submit your rebate online or via the mail. If you submit online by typing in information from the receipt, you will receive a check in two weeks.

Otherwise allow four to six weeks. They allow you to cash the check at their stores.

Walgreen’s will add a 10 percent bonus if you choose to receive the amount on a gift card, which pretty much pays for sales tax and postage. They take about four to six weeks to send you their rebate.

Although there are fees for doing some of this work, the time and effort can be well worth it. The average check for a month is about $15 to $20.

Many Uch speaks to the audience at a recent film showing co-sponsored by the Coalition of Anti-Racist Whites and Hate Free Zone.

Images like these can all be purchased using discounts, rebates and other special offers.

Local film shines light on immigrant justice

By LYNN SEREDA
Voice reporter

Imagine being sent against your will to an unfamiliar country because of a mistake you made when you were a teenager.

That’s the fate awaiting Many Uch, a Cambodian refugee living in King County. Uch is one of the subjects of a powerful documentary called “Sentenced Home.”

Immigrant rights organization Hate Free Zone has been co-sponsoring local showings of the documentary, which features the stories of Uch and two other refugees who, because of crimes committed when they were young, have been deported to Cambodia.

The film, which has been screened at the Seattle International Film Festival and the Berlin Film Festival and David Grabias, May 15 on KCTS Channel 9, at a time to be determined.

All three of the film’s subjects left Cambodia as infants when their families fled the brutal Khmer Rouge regime.

Their deportations came despite already having served time in jail, because of stiff immigration laws passed in 1996 and the U.S. government’s post-9/11 pressure on Cambodia to reverse its policy of not accepting deportees.

Uch, who is currently an immigrant rights worker, has been making public appearances in conjunction with the screenings.

Besides telling his personal story, he is also promoting the work of Hate Free Zone and an upcoming national day of action that calls for the restoration of due process to our immigration system.

March 5 event, called “Night of 1,000 Conversations” will consist of more than 1,000 average people hosting small group conversations across the country in order to highlight the need for comprehensive immigration reform.

The film “Sentenced Home,” produced by the Nicole Newnham and David Grabias, highlights the effects of laws that allow the government to deport legal immigrants who have been convicted of felonies, regardless of who they are today and whether their crimes occurred many years ago.

It tells the story of Kim Ho Ma, Loeun Lun and Uch who were all what Uch calls “a minority in a minority,” as newly-arriving immigrants often find themselves even within their own ethnic community.

The filmmakers interview the three men, their parents and grandparents who all describe attempts to adjust to their new culture. Family members point out that few services were available to ease this transition and that sometimes the youngsters were treated as outsiders and picked on.

The boys got swept up in gangs and all three were eventually convicted of felonies including, in Uch’s case, serving as an accomplice to armed robbery.

The film traces the three years in which the men wait to be deported and follows Lan and Ma to Cambodia where they struggle to adjust, once again, to a foreign culture.

Moving from an urban area like King County to the home of distant relatives who live in the countryside leaves one with few employment prospects and a feeling of social isolation.

The film also has heartbreaking interviews with the families who are torn apart by the loss of their son and husband.

Uch remains in the U.S. today, but he is still on the deportation list. Besides working for justice at Hate Free Zone, he has also spent time as a youth mentor helping at-risk Cambodian youth get involved in Little League baseball.

He said if there were more mentors when he was a child, perhaps fewer immigrant youths would have felt there was no alternative to gang life.

Seattle’s Night of 1,000 Conversations will take place on Thursday, April 5 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Panaman Teahouse, 605 S. Main St. in the International District.

The event will also be sponsored by Hate Free Zone. For more information call Hari Kondabolu at 206-723-2203, ext. 209.

Many Uch speaks to the audience at a recent film showing co-sponsored by the Coalition of Anti-Racist Whites and Hate Free Zone.
Takes steps in the right direction for diabetics

BY JANICE RICHARDS

Three years ago, the Voice published a story about Priority Footwear, a local footwear supplier for people with diabetes. The results were astounding. People from all over the Puget Sound called after learning that there was someone to help them with their footwear needs.

The response enabled the company to grow significantly.

Priority Footwear now has a facility in Northgate, providing a central location for patients and allowing the company to travel throughout Western Washington to serve the diabetic community.

“The response has been amazing. People finally are realizing their insurance covers the cost of shoes and inserts which can help guard against the poor circulation and lack of feeling (neuropathy) that can lead to amputations among diabetics.”

“Medical utilization was more cost-effective (to supply the shoes) than to deal with the high costs of wound care and complications,” said Severson.

Granted, the shoes need to fall into the guidelines Medicare has supplied.

“But these aren’t your Grandmother’s therapeutic shoes,” he said. “The industry has made great strides so that the shoes are more attractive but still have the proper support you need about the bottom of their feet.”

In 1993, Congress passed a bill authorizing Medicare and Medicaid to cover the cost of shoes and inserts which can help guard against the poor circulation and lack of feeling (neuropathy) that can lead to amputation among diabetics.

“Priority Footwear is also a leader in education, and staff members can present clinical talks and seminars at no charge to anyone who will listen. Senior centers, medical facilities, retirement homes, diabetic support groups and senior housing buildings are just a few that have taken advantage of this educational opportunity.

“If people know the risks and their treatment options, then they can make educated decisions to protect their feet,” emphasizes Severson.

To request more information or a lecture presentation, visit Priority Footwear on the Internet at http://www.priorityfootwear.com or call the Northgate office at 206-957-7772.

Reader’s viewpoint

Readers of The Voice share their ideas

The 4-1-1 on service animals

BY ROBERT CANAMAR

Special to The Voice

Although we who have service animals have come a long way toward being accepted in public, there are many misconceptions that linger.

One of these is that the animal isn’t a guide dog, it isn’t a service dog.

That’s just not true.

There are many types of service animals who perform many types of services.

A medical alert dog, for instance, will alert its handler when an emergency is about to happen. A seizure alert animal will give its handler about five minutes warning before a seizure, providing that person with time to take medication, eat something or find somewhere private to have the seizure. These are just a couple of examples of working service animals.

The Americans With Disabilities Act defines a service animal as any animal that is individually trained to work or perform tasks for a person with a disability.

Under the law, a service animal is not considered a pet, and no one can restrict a person who relies on a service animal from their establishment. The exception to the law is if the service animal is threatening or disruptive. A certified service animal is unlikely to behave in these ways.

To help dispel some of the other myths about service animals, let’s look at them.

A person must look like they are really messed up before they can have a service animal.

No, a person who has seizures will look like anyone else, and just because a person walks and talks normally does not mean a service animal is not required.

All service animals have to have something on them saying that they are a service animal.

Under federal law, the person does not have to put a label on their animal, show a card or any other form of service animal ID. The only exception to this is that this identification must be shown to a police officer in the officer’s pursuit of carrying out his or her duty.

If a person has a service animal, they should tell me what their animal does for them.

To even ask this question is an invasion of privacy. A person does not have to tell you what their disability is.

Anyone can have a dog certified as a service animal.

An animal must pass through a very tough battery of costly tests before it can be certified. The training of the animal alone can cost more than $30,000.

If I see a dog, whether it is a service animal or not a pet, I can guess what it is doing, and even if I wish, give it some food as a treat, without even asking the human on the other end of the leash.

First off, would you let any Tom, Dick or Harry lay their paws on your animal, or give it food you don’t know about? Secondly, who do you really think people do with a service animal? You are taking the attention of the animal away from its job and putting the person at risk just by asking if it is a dog.

Robert Canamar is a resident of the Seattle Housing Authority apartment building Ballard Place.

One to grow on

Garden tips for community gardeners

BY ANZA MUECHOW

Special to The Voice

This has been a cold spring. I had a snow storm here on March 12. With the soil so cold and soggy, starting your vegetable garden can seem like a chore.

Consider using some of our typical cold climate techniques to get the soil warmed for planting. Build cloches out of plastic or old windows, use fleece row covers, and plant your vegetables in raised beds and, of course, start lots of seeds indoors.

I generally start many more transplants than I need in my own garden. If I have a particular crop failure (slugs ate the lettuce, rabbits got my broccoli or weevils got my peas), I always have another flat of vegetable starts that I can substitute in that raised bed.

With luck I have extra vegetable starts that I can share with a neighbor. If you need motivation to get going in your garden, think how easy access you’ll have to the fresh, delicious produce just outside your door: wonderful salad mix, sun-ripened tomatoes, bounteous zucchini, sweet carrots and onions.

All of these will be there for the picking. No one had to get into a car and drive to a store or depend on the trucking (oil guzzling) industry for a very fine dinner entrée. Instead of snacking on chips and cookies, take the children (or parents) on a stroll through the garden and enjoy fresh peas or a carrot.

Food gardening saves money and guarantees a diet of more fruits and vegetables. This sets us up for a healthy lifestyle that will last a lifetime. I am so grateful for the modeling my mother and grandmother gave me for appreciating homegrown food.

Through gardening, I have developed a greater appreciation for biology, physiology, nutrition, chemistry, biology and even meteorology. The activity of food gardening takes us outside where we notice and participate in the natural world.

This month you should continue to plant all the green leafy vegetables you want on your dinner plates this summer: lettuce, mustard, spinach, kale, cabbage, broccoli raab, etc.

Usually we plant these seeds closely and then thin out the small ones for delicious early snacking. That will leave room for the remaining plants to mature without crowding.

These plants like a rich soil, with compost or another organic nitrogen source and lots of water, which our April showers will provide.

If you have added lime in a few years, mix 1 cup of lime into the soil. We plant the Brassicas which include broccoli, choy, kohlrabi, mustard and cabbage.

Our acidic rain and heavy metals can encourage the dreaded club root fungus, which stunts and usually kills many of our favorite Brassicas. Keep a higher pH in your soil by adding lime, and club root should not be a problem.

I am watching the return of a couple of pests to your gardens this year. I am referring to the perennials: rhubarb, sorrel and asparagus.

I started plants this year and will probably harvest them every spring for the next 10 to 20 years. From planting to harvest may take a couple years but it is worth it.

We are enjoying sorrel in our salads and sandwiches now. In a few weeks we’ll be roasting our asparagus and start to use even for 10 minutes with olive oil and a sprinkle of salt. For the rhubarb, we’ll be serving up rhubarb crisp, rhubarb pies and perhaps rhubarb jam this year.

Maybe on the next warm, dry day, you’ll have to prepare a few beds, add more organic matter (compost) to the soil and water with a gentle, thorough watering.

Enjoy the coming spring, and may the longer days inspire us.

Anza Muechow is a volunteer, P-Patch Footprint P-Patch. You can reach her by e-mail at mahafarm@whidbey.net or on the Internet at http://www.mahafarm.com.

Study seeking volunteers

Researchers at the University of Washington and Children’s Hospital & Regional Medical Center are seeking young people from 11 to 18 years old with above-average weight to participate in a study of the condition.

The purpose of the study is to understand how being above-average weight affects the quality of life of young people, as well as how it affects the lives of their family members.

Participation in the research study is completely voluntary, and parental permission is required.

Participants in the research study will receive $20 to $40 in exchange for their time.

For more information, contact the study coordinator at 206-616-6977, or toll-free at 1-800-291-2193.

You can also find out more about the study on the Internet at http://www.depts.washington.edu/yestudy/.

Mobile cancer screening

The YWCA Women’s Health Outreach program will conduct a mobile health screening on Saturday, April 7 at the Kent-WAL-MART store, 744 Rainier Ave. S, in Renton.

The Swedish Breast Care Express will be on hand to screen women who have been referred to the state-of-the-art digital mammography screening equipment — will be parked at the store from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The YWCA Women’s Health Outreach provides access to health care to under-insured, homeless and minority young women.

For more information about the health screening or to make an appointment, please call 206-436-8671.

April 2007

LOCAL AND NATIONAL NEWS — 3
TIME TO THINK ABOUT COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

"Waxaad aad karta Kolejka," Wuxuu ahayarka Seattle Housing Authority Waxbarashada Sare oo lagu xiriiroo doono ugu hesho Ummahay Janaya oo la aqoonsan doono Yesler Terrace Community Center.

Qaybaad 50 Aday Dugi Sare, waalidintaooda iyo kuwa waa baray ayaa ka qayb Galay iyago kaga soo qayb galay meelo kale daawan Jaamacadda God. Kolejesiisiga waxay ku fahayday in ay la hadal int qof qof kuwa ka socda kale kula markaasna guuriga geesiyada wax ugu hesho lahaa ugu hesho waxbii inuu sos bandhigiyi meesha oo ka caawinaya sidii ay go'aana uga gaar ah la haywoyon miiroohkaada.

Dadda isugu yimid guwaha waxay u caddeeyeen siid oo la helo kuwa badan oo waxbarashada ku saabsan weydiisa lahaa, dhamiga daadka dumarka Cusub, Cusub. Waxbarashada waa loo istaali tahay raadiso taariikh, caddiyaha ku deegaan sannadkii iyada, iyagii gaar ah la ogaano. Waxbarashada waa loo kala caawin yahay inaa saabsan siinayaa badan oo dhamiga daadka dumarka Cusub, Cusub.

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City council confirms two board appointees

Mayor seeks applicants for two more seats

A final ruling on whether Seattle Housing Authority board last month, as the City of Seattle Community Council unanimously approved Mayor Greg Nickels’ appointments to resident and at-large positions. Yusuf Cabdi and John Littel will fill Board of Commissioners seats vacated by Marie Cook, a Union representative, and the late Al Winston, Jr, an SHA resident.

The Mayor’s office is currently taking applications for two additional at-large seats currently filled by Jennifer Potter and BettyLou Valentine.

Candidates must live or work within the City of Seattle and should have a strong demonstrated interest in low-income housing issues. To apply, candidates must submit a letter of interest and a resume to Mayor’s office by May 1. For more information, contact Rebecca Hansen at 206-684-8208.

Newly-appointed Commissioner Cabdi, a low-income public housing resident, left Somalia in 1991 and lived in a Kenyan refugee camp for seven years before coming to the United States. He has worked on Somali and Muslim family and housing issues since settling in Seattle in 2003. Cabdi recently moved to Tri Court from Denny Terrace, where he was elected to be an at-large representative to the resident council in 2006.

He is the first immigrant to serve on the SHA Board.

“Vvisual is very bright, well-educated and well-mannered,” said Denny Terrace resident June Rowtan at a Housing Committee hearing last month. “He is well-con- nected in the East African community here in Seattle, and he has a heart for helping others.”

Cabdi speaks four languages: Somali, Arabic, Ammi and English. More than 1,700 SHA households speak a language other than English as their first language.

“I think it’s wonderful that you’re here. It’s time. It’s past time,” said City Council-member Richard McVey. “The Housing Authority has basically been the place where immigrants have come, settled, See “Commissioners” on page 2.

Sign rule case sent to State Supreme Court

BY STACY SCHWANDT Voice editor

A final ruling on whether Seattle Housing Authority tenants can post signs on their outside of their apartment doors has been steered last month as the Court of Appeals referred the case directly to the State Supreme Court.

The reason for the referral was unclear, with the attorneys on the case speculating that it may have something to do with the Court of Appeals’ case load.

“If the case was going to end up in the State Supreme Court anyway, it might as well just go there to begin with,” said Eric Dunn, the Northwest Justice Project attorney who is representing SHA tenants.

A date for oral arguments in Olympia has not yet been set.

In Supreme Court cases, no witnesses are called or other evidence taken. Rather, the Court hears only legal issues and decides based on the factual record developed in the trial court. After hearing oral arguments, the Court may take months or even years to issue its opinion, which can only be appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

“Would be surprised if we would take an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court,” said SHA General Counsel James Fearn, adding that he thinks the case will be decided based on state, not federal, law.

“The Housing Authority appealed an April 2006 Superior Court ruling that said they could not prohibit tenants from posting signs on apartment doors because when they lease their apartments they give up their “right of possession” to the apartment doors. The United States Supreme Court has upheld the right of housing authorities to restrict speech in the hallways and common areas of their buildings. Those areas are considered public property, which is subject to a legal analysis that allows for speech restrictions in places not considered by the court to be traditional forums of expression.

“At issue, in part, in this case is whether apartment doors are part of the hallways, and therefore public property, or part of the apartments and thus private property.

The case came before the Superior Court when the Resident Action Council, an elected group of high-rise residents, filed suit against SHA on the grounds that the sign rule infringed on their First Amendment rights.

The rule was part of an addendum to tenants’ lease agreements that went into effect December 1, 2005.

An injunction due to pending litigation has prohibited the Housing Authority from enforcing the rule.
Residents plan activities to offset renovation hassle

By Svet Kehler
Seattle Housing Authority

For over a year now, homeWorks crews have been working in Seattle Housing Authority high-rises.

While everyone benefits once the work is done, there is no doubt that life in the building changes temporarily while construction is underway. To help offset these impacts, the homeWorks project comes with a plan to fun- finance activities that help residents to spend during construction.

Decisions on how to spend the money come from the community. The SHA board that will be very valuable to us,” said Tom Rasmussen, board member. “Community builders are there to help and, as a building fundraiser, resident Robert Canamar said. “We have a been active in Seattle Housing Authority the last 3 years and we have been successful in getting seedlings at the Ballard Sunday Market and employees and visitors will soon become familiar with this real? I have to pinch my nose,” says Lois Warns, a resident of the former High Point home. She explained that Seattle Neighborhood Group shifts its services

By Ann Levine
Seattle Housing Authority

A group of low-income public housing resident leaders learned about Seattle Neighborhood Group’s new crime prevention services at a Resident Participation Fund meeting last month.

Speaking to 21 resident leaders, Kay Godefroy, Seattle Neighborhood Group’s executive director, talked about the crime prevention trainings that her organization is ready to offer Seattle Housing Authority residents.

She explained that Seattle Neighborhood Group’s services changed dramatically in 2007. Previously, several SHA commu- nities, including Yesler Terrace, High Point and High Point West, had dedicated Crime Prevention Specialists. The Housing Authority was paying for these services, however, funding ceased in 2006. Godefroy approached the City of Se-attle, asking for the City, instead of SHA, to pay for these crime prevention services.

“Why should SHA have to pay for crime prevention services when no other com- munity needs to spend such money,” Please see “Training” on page 7

Construction to make parking at SHA difficult

By Virginia Kelton
Seattle Housing Authority

In a “perfect storm” of development and construction around the Seattle Housing Authority central office, parking for employees and visitors will soon become very challenging.

A number of new buildings will soon be under construction nearby. To the south, at the corner of Sixth Avenue and Denny Way, Greg’s Japanese Auto repair shop will be demolished to make way for a residential hotel and 100 condominiums. Construction is due to start this spring and will eliminate the visitor parking lot.

The Housing Authority is selling this land to the developer in exchange for 110 permanent parking stalls in the underground garage for the new building, which will be the site of even more new construction, and there are other projects planned in the immediate area as well.

At the same time, the City of Seattle has plans to convert nearby street parking to two-hour parking. This may actually free up some parking for visitors, as it will no longer be used for all-day parking by people working in the area.

The Housing Authority is in the process of leasing parking lots nearby, but there will certainly be fewer spots for both visitors and employees.

The Housing Authority will continue to offer a limited amount of free visitors parking, but it will most likely be down the street, not right next to the building.

Staff will look into housing meetings that involve residents and other visitors at alternate locations. Check The Voice next month for more information.

Elections for Resident Action Council planned

Elections for the Resident Action Council, a board that represents tenants of low-income public housing, will likely take place in June. Nominations are currently being accepted for the positions of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Contact JM (Jim) Bush at jmbush@yahoo.com for more information and meeting times.

Resident planning activities to offset renovation hassle

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Ross Manor anniversary celebration draws crowd

By JM (Jim) Bush
Special to The Voice

Ross Manor, a Seattle Housing Authority high-rise apartment building located near the Pike Place Market downtown, celebrated its 24th “birthday” last month with a party that some people (especially the residents) won’t soon forget. It all started with remarks made by Seattle City Councilmembers Tom Rasmussen and Peter Steinbrueck.

Mayor Greg Nickels was unable to attend the event, but remarks from a letter he sent were read including, “Seattle draws its strength from individuals who contribute their time and energy toward bettering our neighborhoods. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.”

The speeches were followed by plenty of food (naturally), served on real dishware, including killer teryaki chicken thighs made by Doug Morrison, the president of the Ross Manor residents council and the Resident Action Council. While participants ate and shared memories, they were serenaded by an up and coming saxophone player called McKinley. The music was quite sensational, but then, isn’t most sax music? Needless to say, a good time was enjoyed by all.

J.M. Bush is a resident of Center Park who attended the anniversary celebration.

High-rise communities form resident councils

Editor’s note: With spring came a bummer crop of resident council elections. Below is an article written by Stewart Manor resident council member Lee Suitor about his community’s experience keeping their resident council going. Following, you’ll find a list of officers recently elected in other high-rise communities.

By Lee Suitor
Stewart Manor resident council

As of a late January election, the residents of Stewart Manor rescued their right to have a Resident Council. Community Builder Brett Houghton led the people through the process.

The residents had a set of bylaws which were still in effect, but were about to be cancelled for a lack of use. A portion of the bylaws, serving on resident councils

other recent election winners

Beacon Tower
Jo Ann Bestefeld, President
Nhung Kim, Vice President
Lao Sears, Secretary — Beacon Tower resident Chung P. Lam will help out
Young Hy V.V., Treasurer
Ann Chin, Sgt.-at-Arms

Bell Tower
Raymond Vincent, Chair
Dianne Thompson, Co-Chair
Annette Elledge, Secretary
John Edwards, Treasurer

Green Lake Plaza
Eddie Lewis, Sgt.-at-Arms

Green Lake Plaza Community Council has elected to use a different governance model where they will have six officers of equal rank. Those officers are: Patricia Bryant
Mahlouz Junejo
Gina Owens
Maryleese Peace
Glen Slemmer
Gordon Geijerbeck

Point of View

Garbage chutes to be closed in high-rises

By Stacy Schwart
Voice editor

One by one, the garbage chutes in Seattle Housing Authority high-rise apartment buildings are becoming things of history. And while some residents aren’t wasting any goodbyes on what they view as noisy and generally nuisance, others worry about carrying their garbage through a sprawling apartment building to high-lying Dumpsters.

Tenants at Ballard House organized a petition asking that the chutes remain open, collecting signatures from nearly all of the building’s residents. Their request was not granted, and the chutes were closed in late February as they will be in all of the buildings that are part the HomeWorks project, the Housing Authority’s effort to renovate 22 high-rise apartment buildings, SHA officials say.

According to Property Management Administrator Errol Flager, SHA is removing the garbage chutes for health and safety reasons.

“One of the problems we’ve had is people dropping cat litter or adult diapers into the chute. These are unhygienic kinds of items that can be biohazards,” he said.

It’s especially a problem when the chute gets plugged and items get stuck up on top of one another, Flager said.

“That’s floors and floors of garbage. All that stuff comes flying down on the poor people who unplugs it,” he said, adding that fires have also broken out in the chutes and that many are in need of extensive repairs.

Still, Ballard House resident Robert Canamar said he had no trouble getting all of his neighbors to sign a petition asking for the chutes to remain open.

“Our building is a senior-designated building. We have people who can’t carry a heavy bag of garbage, let alone lift the lid of a heavy Dumpster and hoist the bag up,” he said.

“We have disabled people who can’t see too well. They may grab a bag of garbage and not realize it’s dripping. If they take out their garbage and it drips all the way down the elevator and into the lobby, that’s a problem.”

While Housing Authority officials suggest that people who cannot carry their own garbage may be eligible for chore workers to help them with the task, residents say that’s not necessarily the case.

“There are new regulations,” Canamar said.

“If you can dress yourself (I don’t think) you’re eligible for a chore worker.”

Flager said that people who encounter problems with their trash disposal can work with the building managers to find a solution.

He added that the Housing Authority is looking at Dumpsters with lighter plastic lids and that they are trying to ensure that paths to the Dumpsters are easy to negotiate without steps or other barriers.

“Hopefully we can do this in a way that’s considerate,” he said.

“I’m not saying that their concerns are unfounded, but when we look at the financial, health and safety issues, closing the chutes is a prudent thing to do.”

The Voice
Residents invited to bring art into the community

By Unique Saunders
Voice reporter

Get ready to lend your artistic vision to High Point.

The Pomegranate Center and the Seattle Housing Authority are bringing community art projects to the neighborhood.

So, mark your calendars for art workshops at the pocket park near the Market Garden on Saturday, April 14 and Saturday, April 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will be a great time for High Point residents to meet one another and add uniqueness to the area.

The pocket parks are a group of eight small parks scattered around High Point. The Pomegranate Center built a shelter at the pocket park near the Market Garden where the workshops will be held.

The Pomegranate Center is a non-profit arts organization, founded by Milenko Matanovic in 1986. The purpose of the center is to give artists an opportunity to get involved in building communities. The center connects art with social and environmental issues.

Tom Phillips of the Seattle Housing Authority initiated the idea for community members to participate in the designing and forming of High Point parks. Their participation is meant to increase public awareness of the importance of keeping parks and playgrounds clean.

Samantha Gotkin, a community builder for the Housing Authority said art is the perfect way for people to interact with one another and live together in the community.

The workshops will also give people an opportunity to actively participate in the redevelopment of High Point.

Participants of the workshops will decorate trash receptacles, construct concrete tiles for the shelter and finish building a kiosk near the pocket park. Each of the eight pocket parks will have one trash and one recycle receptacle decorated by community members. Pomegranate Center has already designed artistic stands for the receptacles and residents will have the opportunity to add their own touch by making mosaics and painting. Participants may also have the opportunity to build a bench for the shelter.

The finished kiosk will be unveiled at the Healthy Community Fair on Saturday, April 14, after the workshop. It will include youth art work, a walking map and information on High Point. The kiosk will be made from recycled materials from the pre-redeveloped High Point, including wood from trees that were cut down and old High Point doors.

People of all ages are welcome to participate, but children under 18 must have permission from their parent or guardian. Participants are asked to bring work clothes and gloves and to wear closed-toe shoes.

To attend either workshop or for additional information, contact the Pomegranate Center at 425-557-1212 or by e-mail info@pomegranate.org.

Join neighbors at the Healthy Community Fair

By Voice Staff

Joiner, in spring at High Point by joining your neighbors at the Healthy Community Fair on Saturday, April 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Festivities will begin with a celebration of the Cambodian New Year. Information about yard maintenance, recycling and home insurance will also be provided along with blood pressure checks and a chance for neighbors to paint recycling receptacles (picket at left).

The event will serve as the kickoff for the High Point Walking Club, which will serve as a catalyst for the community to come together and embrace healthy living and community spirit. It will also feature a keynote speech by King County Executive Ron Sims.

“My of our planning team members have witnessed Mr. Sims’ personal gains — and losses so to speak — as a result of his shift to healthy eating and an active lifestyle,” said Neighborhood House Executive Director Mark Okazaki. “We think he will be the best authority to help kick off our community’s efforts.”

Weather permitting, the event will take place outside. Otherwise, neighbors can gather in the Elizabeth House community room, on the corner of 32nd Avenue South and Graham Street.

The event will be hosted by Neighborhood House, Seattle Housing Authority, High Point Klamer Association, SafeFutures Youth Center, International District Housing Alliance and High Point Homeowners & Open Spaces Associations.

For more information, call Pomegranate Center at 206-923-3266.

Election date set for High Point Association

By Stacy Schwindt
Voice editor

The first ever High Point Neighborhood Association elections will take place no later than June 30, a date set by the association’s interim trustees last month as they met to make some final bylaws changes.

Trustees decided to also divide the community into four geographic voting blocks one of the eight original proposals by the bylaws, asking each block to elect representatives from among both renters and homeowners.

Simpson said it was made to ensure that every person in the new High Point had equal representation,” said Trustee Elizabeth Stubblefield. “We don’t want to have that separation that sometimes occurs when people come together from different economic groups.”

There is still need to be made about how the elections will be carried out, and the community is invited to take part in a planning meeting on Thursday, April 11 at 6 p.m.

The meeting will likely take place at the High Point library, but call Seattle Housing Authority Community Builder Samantha Gotkin at 206-937-3292, ext. 366 to confirm.

Using 2000 population statistics provided by the Housing Authority, the trustees decided that three voting blocks will elect one renter and one homeowner to the board. Voting block B, which has significantly more renters because it includes Elizabeth House, will elect two renters and one homeowner.

The trustees will then select two at-large members from the neighborhood or the surrounding community, forming a board with 11 members in total.

Currently, only voting blocks A and B are occupied, so the June election will result in the selection of five new trustees.

At last month’s meetings, the interim trustees, with support from High Point residents, amended the bylaws to say that the trustees themselves will select the two at-large members. Previously, the bylaws called for only one at-large member who would be appointed by the Housing Authority.

The High Point Neighborhood Association was established by the Housing Authority at the beginning of the neighborhood’s redevelopment. The idea was to create an organization for both renters and homeowners to help the neighborhood.

The neighborhood will be a separate entity from the Homeowners Association, the Open Space Association. Its mission is to foster the development of a vibrant and caring community at High Point committed to service, inclusiveness, lifelong learning and well-being.

Its budget comes from a $15 annual fee per household collected from all property owners including the Housing Authority.

The Housing Authority Community Builder for High Point and Stubblefield, who grew up in the neighborhood and currently works at the High Point Neighborhood Clinic, said the association’s goal is to “serve as a catalyst for the community to come together and embrace healthy living and community spirit.”

The association is governed by a Board of Trustees. To get the association started, three interim trustees were appointed by the Housing Authority. They are: Miranda Taylor, a neighbor of the community, Karly Frank, the former SHA community builder for High Point and Stubblefield, who grew up in the neighborhood and currently works at the High Point Neighborhood Clinic. The interim trustees will serve until the elections have occurred in all the voting blocks. The association’s bylaws call for elections after 120 people have moved into a voting block.

All High Point residents age 18 and over are eligible to vote in the elections. Discussions include plans to hold April 12 meetings to discuss the neighborhoods, open nominations, campaigning, voting and getting young involved in the process.

All are welcome.
Rainier Vista celebrates the Year of the Boar

By Dang La, Special to The Voice

Translated by Naomi Chang

Many Chinese people, including those living overseas, are celebrating 2007 as the year of the Golden Boar, which happens in a cycle of every 60 years.

Expecting parents are hoping to give birth to children during the Golden Boar year, who would be considered “Golden Boar babies,” which is believed to bring family prosperity. This year is actually a “Fire Boar” year, according to traditional Chinese calendar calculation.

Legendarily, people born in the Year of the Boar can be differentiated into four groups, depending on the season their birthday falls in.

For the Spring Boar, life is smooth. The person is sincere with charitable feelings, willing to help out friends. Career, family and other matters are quite acceptable. The Spring Boar will achieve success through hard work, chivalry and gallantry.

The Summer Boar has a taste for the sweet life. Others will help out the Summer Boar during times of struggle. The person is able to deal with any difficulty they run into.

The Autumn Boar manages social occasions easily and smoothly. The person’s conversational manner wins others’ favor. The Autumn Boar likes to help others and when the person likes to work he or she gets right to it.

The Winter Boar endures hardship. After getting married, the person’s life is able to improve. The Winter Boar is steady and resolute in doing things. Because of this, they may harm others without knowing.

The word “boar” gives some the impression of one that is clumsy and unwise. In reality, the Boar is highly intelligent.

Significance of the Boar In the Year of the Boar

In South America Bolivian rain forest, boars are trained boars to play music and dance. In the western plateau of China, boars are found to be able to catch rats. In Florida, someone trained boars to help detect illegal drugs. These boars do a better job than dogs.

Resident lands maintenance job in Rainier Vista

By Larry Hill

Seattle Housing Authority

Rainier Vista resident Khanh Troung began his new duties as a Seattle Housing Authority maintenance technician last month.

Troung has lived in Rainier Vista for most of his life. He first approached The Job Connection in 2004 when he was about to complete the residential portion of his Job Corps training in Sedro-Woolley, Wash. Thanks to his training there in the construction trades, a positive attitude and a high level of personal motivation, Troung was able to secure an excellent position as a laborer at Walsh Construction.

Residents of Rainier Vista saw Troung working and running the entry gate to the first phase of redevelopment on the west side of this community.

Once this phase of the project was finished, Troung found himself in the job market once again. He applied for three separate positions with SHA and interviewed unsuccessfully for two of them.

His current position proves that the third time’s the charm. But, in all seriousness, there is a great lesson here. Job searches generally involve multiple attempts for jobs that we really enjoy, a job he can walk to in well under a minute in the morning and the satisfaction of being able to provide a valuable set of services to the community he has been a part of for so long.

Residents of Rainier Vista can take comfort in the fact that a friendly and familiar person will now be a new resource for addressing their maintenance needs.

Boys & Girls Club is focus in Phase II

By Virginia Felton

Seattle Housing Authority

Grading and site construction in the area south of Oregon Street is scheduled to begin this summer in the second phase of Rainier Vista.

The centerpiece of this site will be the new and expanded Boys & Girls Club which will also include a large playfield and several smaller park areas. The southwest corner of the site, at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Way South and South Alaska Street is slated for a mix of housing and retail.

Plans for this site include up to 50 units of low-income housing in a low-rise apartment building along MLK and single-family homes for sale.

Seattle Housing Authority staff has been working with the Boys & Girls Club and their architects over the past several months to complete the process of design review that the City of Seattle requires.

The site is located very close to the Rainier Vista/Columbia City stop for Sound Transit’s Link Light Rail, scheduled for operation in 2009. Because of this, the City’s design commission was especially concerned about the pedestrian connections that run along side and through the site.

“The opportunity to work with the design commission will strengthen the pedestrian connections through the site and reduce the emphasis on cars. New public pathways and gateways were created in the plan and public benefits (such as access to the playfield) were strengthened.

Several large parking areas are included on the site, but they will be behind build-

ings and not visible from MLK. Oregon Street will become a boulevard similar to (and continuing from) Columbia Way in Phase I.

The first phase of Rainier Vista was substantially completed at this time, with only for-sale housing remaining to be completed.

So far 146 housing units are either completed or under construction. Phase I includes 331 very low-income rental units; all but 14 are finished and occupied. Some of the homes for sale are still under construction and will be completed later this year.

Dang La is a resident of Rainier Vista.

Khanh Troung

The south side plan for Phase II of the Rainier Vista redevelopment focuses in part on pedestrians.
Urban Village to offer shopping and housing

By Kari Sherwood
Seattle Housing Authority

A grocery store, fitness center, coffee shop, retail shops and, of course, housing, are just a few of the possibilities that are being explored for the future mixed-use development — called Othello Urban Village — in the NewHolly neighborhood.

“Early planning for the redevelopment of NewHolly called for a vital commercial and residential node at South Othello and MLK Way South to serve the new community,” said Ed Rose, senior development director for the Seattle Housing Authority. “Other redevelopment projects and studies have shown that having access to commercial businesses, such as a grocery store, really help make a healthy community.”

The developments will be centrally-located near the LINK Light Rail’s Othello Station off Martin Luther King Jr. Way and South Othello Street.

It is certain that the southwest corner of the Othello Station neighborhood, across from the P-Patch community garden and next to the Othello Building, will be a part of the mixed-use development, as well as the area that is currently the site of Holy Court or near it.

When finished, the mixed-use sites could comprise more than ten acres.

The Othello Urban Village will also offer housing for a mix of household incomes. This mix of housing will include some housing for low-income renters, but the focus will be on workforce to market-rate condominiums for those with incomes from 60 to 120 percent of the Area Median Income. This will compliment much of the affordable housing SHA has built as a part of the NewHolly redevelopment.

Planning for the mixed-use area has taken place over the last seven years by the City of Seattle, Sound Transit, SHA and the Othello community.

The Othello Town Center Plan, Transit Oriented Development Studies and Othello Neighborhood Design Guidelines have established the vision and design framework for the ideas surrounding the Othello Urban Village.

Rose has been presenting the possibilities of what the Othello Urban Village could look like to the community at the Othello Neighborhood Association and the Rainier Valley Community Development Fund Board.

The possibilities are open at this point and the community’s feedback has been welcomed and valued. Some of the best ideas for the mixed-use development have come out of these meetings.

Rose plans to continue to meet with neighborhood and community groups to make the Othello Urban Village an area that will be well-used by the community.

Committees form to address hot button issues

By Claire McDaniel
Seattle Housing Authority

Joy Bryngelson, community builder at NewHolly, her staff and community volunteers have successfully organized different types of neighborhood groups over the past eight years including block parties, pot lucks, task forces, information forums and crime prevention initiatives.

But, as NewHolly grows, it is becoming more difficult for people to connect across the three phases of the community.

As a solution to this problem, the community is creating structured, regularly-scheduled committee meetings centered on “hot” topics.

“One of the primary roles of a community builder is to help create a forum for neighbors to talk about what they care about and work together to accomplish community goals,” says Bryngelson.

She said she hopes that as many NewHolly residents as possible will participate in the newly-forming council and committee system. They will allow community members to talk about common issues, concerns and ideas for activities while retaining flexibility in their personal schedule.

They can also be part of democratically deciding how to spend the $5,000 a year in community building funds provided by SHA. Some possible ways it could be spent are: community events, training, scholarships, childcare, transportation and translation.

The NewHolly Community Building Office wants to support resident leadership and will help to organize, choose times for and advertise a community council.

Volunteers are drafting a plan for how the Council Committee system should work including supporting diversity by addressing language issues. This system will also make it easier for people new to the neighborhood to get acquainted and become involved.

If you want to contact committee leaders or if you have questions stop by the community building office or contact Bryngelson at 206-723-1725 or by e-mail at jbryngelson@seattlehousing.org or Selam Mehanezli, NewHolly VISTA volunteer, at 206-723-1790 or by e-mail at smehanezli@seattlehousing.org.

NewHolly resident Abdikhan Hassan started an e-mail list in English for the NewHolly community in 2004 at newhollynighbors@yahoo.com where residents can join an e-mail forum. Contact Bryngelson or Mehanezli if you are a resident and would like to be added to the list.

The following are brief descriptions of seven existing committees and the regular days and times they meet. All meetings take place on the NewHolly Campus.

If you need an interpreter, call the community office ahead of time. Bryngelson encourages people to bring a friend, neighbor or family member to interpret.

Youth and Parents on Campus

The Youth and Parents committee meets with the Clean-up committee on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Neighbor volunteers will come together a few times a year to clean up certain areas of their neighbor in an organized manner. There are supplies and resources available for these work parties.

Friends of the Parks

The Friends of the Parks committee meets with the Clean-up committee on the first Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Neighbors are concerned about the maintenance of the parks and they also want more programs for youth and adults. Ideas include outdoor movie nights, game tournaments and more garbage cans.

NewHolly Council Organizing Group

The NewHolly Council Organizing group is meeting on the third Wednesday of the month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The Council may have a committee for Phase I, Phase II and Phase III of the NewHolly redevelopment so that each committee can talk about topics that are most important to their area. Each phase might have a different structure depending on its members.

Traffic Safety/Crime Prevention

The Traffic Safety and Crime Prevention committee will be meeting on the second Thursday of each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Renters and homeowners alike are very concerned about traffic and crime activity in their neighborhood. Forming members of this committee are very serious about coming together to find solutions to protect each other. Volunteer to be part of the project to get speed limit and block watch signs.

Multi-Cultural Communication

This committee meets on the third Thursday of each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. to discuss and address issues in the community such as cultural, linguistic, economic and racial differences and finding volunteer interpreters and translators. Its intention is to promote tolerance and understanding for all community members.

Welcome Wagon

This committee is an informal organization. The Welcome Wagon committee is a friendly neighborhood group created by Neighborhood House staff and volunteers. New neighbors receive a “warm welcome” visit and a basket full of information about the NewHolly community.


NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

Apprentices install drywall at Lee House

Apprentices from Seattle Vocational Institute donate their time to install drywall as part of the renovation of the Harry Thomas Community Center at Lee House.

Apprentices from Seattle Vocational Institute donate their time to install drywall as part of the renovation of the Harry Thomas Community Center at Lee House.
Information about Yesler Terrace now on the Web

By Kari Sherwood
Seattle Housing Authority

You can now keep up-to-date with the conversations surrounding the future of Yesler Terrace by visiting the recently-created Yesler Terrace Web pages at http://www.seattlehousing.org/Development/Yesler.htm. You will find details about the future redevelopment efforts at Yesler Terrace, including how the community is getting involved in the conversations. This includes information about the Citizen’s Review Committee that is led by former Mayor Norman Rice and is comprised of Yesler Terrace residents, members of related organizations and members of the surrounding communities. The committee’s upcoming meeting dates and preset meeting minutes are posted on the Web pages. There is also a section called “Heard on the Street” that dispels rumors about the process and future of Yesler Terrace. One misconception that is clarified on the Web page is the suggestion that SHA already has architectural plans for the property. As shown on the Web page, this is untrue.

The Housing Authority is working with the community and the CRC to develop guiding principles and a conceptual site alternative. This process began in October 2006 and will conclude in October 2007. Only when this process is completed and reviewed by the community will the site design process begin. Any construction is not expected to begin until at least 2009. The Web pages also contain suggestions of how you can get involved in the process. Some of these include attending a CRC meeting, participating in community meetings and viewing the information kiosk that will soon be installed in the Yesler Terrace neighborhood. More information will be posted on the Yesler Terrace Web pages as it becomes available, so please check it often.

Committee discusses replacement housing

BY STACY SCHWABD
Voice editor

A late February discussion by the Yesler Terrace Citizen’s Review Committee about how housing in the neighborhood should be replaced during and after redevelopment shed some light on how the project might proceed.

Seattle Housing Authority officials and Committee Chair Norman Rice suggested that an expansion of the boundaries of Yesler Terrace be considered. Also mentioned was that the redevelopment could take place in phases over time so that current tenants would not need to move far away while the community is rebuilt.

“In my position that special attention must be placed on replacement strategies that minimize relocating off-site or outside of the community,” Rice said, adding that hard decisions about the density of the new neighborhood and how to prioritize the amenities in the redesigned Yesler Terrace still needed to be made.

Seattle Housing Authority is planning to redevelop the 30-acre public housing community which was built in 1918. There are currently 561 apartments on site, including 35 studios, 192 one-bedroom apartments, 229 two-bedroom, 86 three-bedrooms, 19 four-bedrooms and 6 one-bedroom handicap accessible apartments.

Many members of the review committee advocated for replacing the current number of bedrooms, not necessarily the current number of apartments. About 60 Yesler Terrace residents attended the meeting. The group heard a presentation by NBHM, an architectural and planning firm hired by the Housing Authority to serve as a consultant on the project, which included diagrams of current Yesler Terrace’s features such as views, topography and transportation connections. Attendees, committee members and Housing Authority staff broke up into groups to discuss their values and ideas about replacement housing. As they have in previous meetings, residents met with private entities, bigger units with more storage, the ability to stay in the same area during renovation and the ability to continue to run-in-home businesses in the redeveloped community.

As the small groups reported back, a spokesperson for the Somali community said that they wanted “nothing that looks like Rainier Vista, High Point or NewHolly. We want a Yesler that is family-oriented, culturally-appropriate and affordable to all people.”

During a question and answer period at the end of the meeting, Somali resident Ruuyoi Abdi posed some questions directly to Rice.

“Are we as a community just a rubber stamp,” she asked through an interpreter. “Are we seriously to really demand change or are we just going to talk, and it will just go into thin air….I want a commitment from you that we’re not just playing here, honor what we’re saying because this is my community too.”

Rice said that he wouldn’t be part of the committee if the Housing Authority wasn’t going to take the community’s input seriously.

“We want you in this process,” Rice said. “In the end we will have a framework for the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace that reflects what you put into it.”

An all-day meeting for the committee to begin to shape their recommendations for the redevelopment scheduled for late March was cancelled, because not enough committee members could attend. At press time, a rescheduled date had not been set.

Committee notes

Community council meeting planned

The Yesler Terrace Community Council’s next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 17 at 6 p.m. in the first floor conference room of the Jesse Epstein building at 905 Spokane Street. All are welcome to attend.

Senior gathering continues

Yesler Terrace seniors are invited to their monthly gathering, which takes place every third Thursday in the Yesler Terrace Community Center, 917 Yesler Way, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, contact Annie Edwards at 206-461-4522, ext. 224.
SHA residents may qualify for cable discounts

SHA residents may qualify for cable discounts
SHA deegaanka way u qalmaan cable lacag dhimis ah

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Damaan deegaanka SHA oo ku noqon doonay haddii aan ujoob oo Seattle scoob yahay, magaalada Seattle oo doonay inay gashabadaan Millennium Digital Media and Comcast waxay u xog badan yihin kuwa u qalma lacag dhimisasi waxay ju xiran tahay shaqada.

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SHA residents may qualify for cable discounts

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Tất cả chúng ta đều biết xem TV có CABLE thì có lẻ mắc tiền, nhưng quí vị có biết rằng cư dân thuộc Nha Cấp Phát Gia SHA có thể được giảm giá phí phục vụ này không?

Văn phòng Thông tin và Cáp Quang Cable của Thành Phố Seattle có sự thỏa thuận với công ty cable Millennium Digital Media và công ty cable Comcast để giúp các cư dân trong các khu phụ cấp gia cư được giảm giá phí cable miễn là họ sống trong phạm vi thành phố.

Khi mà tất cả cư dân thuộc SHA - Nha Cấp Phát Gia Cư Seattle đều sống trong phạm vi thuộc thành phố, thì tất cả những ai ghi danh thư dụng cable của công ty Millennium Digital Media và công ty cable Comcast đều có khả năng được giảm giá, tùy theo mức hợp đồng mà họ đã đăng ký.

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Chư dân sẽ phải cung cấp chứng từ về mức lợi tức của mình.