



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



The Voice

April
2007
Articles translated
into six languages

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

Seattle's Ethiopian youth learn about historic victory



PHOTO BY UNIQUE SAUNDERS

Ethiopian youth listen to presentations about the Battle of Adwa at a commemoration at the Yesler Terrace Community center of the battle's 111th anniversary.

By UNIQUE SAUNDERS
Voice reporter

It may seem unusual for children to spend a Saturday afternoon listening to a history discussion. Unusual also for them to pay close attention as speakers described a war that took place over 100 years ago.

Nevertheless, squirming was at a minimum last month as about 60 children and adults from the Ethiopian community learned about the Battle of Adwa, their country's historic victory over Italian invaders.

The battle was fought on March 1, 1896, a time when the Italian army had already conquered Somalia. Differing versions of a treaty between Italy and Ethiopia caused the outbreak of violence.

Ethiopians won the battle, which allowed them to remain with Afghanistan, Persia, Japan and Thailand as nations that never fell under European colonialism.

"Adwa became part of the nation's heritage," said Assaye Abunie, one of the event's organizers, describing how individual soldiers told stories of the victory around the evening fire and at formal community events.

"The glowing triumph at Adwa became every Ethiopian's personal story of courage," he added.

At this year's commemoration, four boys made presentations about the battle and three girls spoke about the Ethiopian Empress Taitu, who played an instrumental role during the war. Five adults also gave talks and slides were shown.

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 111th 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 Woldyeas 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 enacted, 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 Cipollone-Wolters. "Fortunately, it is early in the legislative process, and we will be looking to Congress to correct these skewed fund-

ing priorities."

The other budget change that would affect tenants in SHA housing is the elimination in 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 needs of low-income residents.

As part of this educational push, Cipollone-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 Slemmer 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 Official's 2007 Legislative and Regulatory Agenda was the source for budget amounts cited in this article.

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Quotable

"The response has been amazing. People finally are realizing their insurance covers the cost of shoes and inserts, and they have every right to take advantage of that."

— Scott Severson, area manager for Priority Footwear on the demand for special shoes for diabetics.

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Neighborhood House
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Nonprofit org.
U.S. postage PAID
Seattle, WA
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Use rebates, save money



PHOTO BY KEITH GORMEZANO

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

By KEITH GORMEZANO
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/Post-Intelligencer 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.

You can also download coupons via the Internet by searching for the words coupons and downloads. Popular sites include <http://www.Valpak.com>, <http://www.smartsources.com> and <http://www.save.com>.

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.

RiteAid 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. 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. Always remember to make a copy of your submission.

Next month, I will talk about how to save money using special offers. You'll find out how to get a free portrait like the one pictured above!

Forum to focus on fatherhood

By VOICE STAFF

Fathers from all over Seattle are invited to the third-annual Fatherhood Forum and Resource Fair.

The event, 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 4-year-old son.

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.

The Voice

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The Voice, the newspaper of Neighborhood House, is published monthly with the support of Seattle Housing Authority resident participation funds and the King County Housing Authority. Neighborhood House helps diverse communities of people with limited resources attain their goals for self-sufficiency, financial independence and community building. The Voice contributes to that mission by providing low-income people, immigrants, refugees and other concerned parties with timely, relevant news. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the staff, Neighborhood House, SHA or KCHA. We welcome articles and tips from the community and reserve the right to edit all submissions.

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, will be shown on 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 their 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.

The April 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 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



PHOTO BY LYNN SEREDA

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

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 Lun 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 husbands.

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 growing up, 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 Panama Teahouse, 605 S. Main St. in the International District.

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

Class to help students learn English and land a good job

By VOICE 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 case 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 Fartun Mohamed at 206-730-3699. Khmer speakers can contact Srey Khov at 206-331-5276, and English speakers can contact Matt Helmer at 206-461-4554, ext. 5.



Taking steps in the right direction for diabetics

By PRIORITY FOOTWEAR

Two 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.

This 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, and they have every right to take advantage of that," said Scott Severson, a certified pedorthist and the area manager for Priority Footwear.

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.

"They realized it was more cost effective (to supply the shoes) than to deal with the high costs of wound care and complications," Severson said.

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 and protection for the diabetic foot."

In addition to poor circulation and



Janice Richards receives new shoes and inserts along with some instruction on what to expect of them from Scott Severson of Priority Footwear.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PRIORITY FOOTWEAR

neuropathy, the shoes help address other conditions like calluses, corns, hammer-toes, bunions and even nail fungus, which can lead to infections and ultimately the possibility of amputation.

Severson says proper fit is a huge key.

"If a diabetic is properly fit, they reduce the risk to their feet by a very large margin," he said. "Combine that with positive foot care from a diabetic health care professional, and the patient has a winning combination."

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 and responsible 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.



By ANZA MUENCHOW
Special to The Voice

This has been a cold spring.

We had a snow shower here on March 12. With the soil so cold and soggy, starting your vegetable garden can seem like a lot of effort.

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 floating row cover, create 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 about the 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 the 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 up 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 of biology, physiology, entomology, chemistry, geology 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, summer spinach, choy, 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.

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 a pet, I can go right up to it and pet it, or 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, when you do that with a service animal, you are taking the attention of the animal away from its job and putting the person at risk. Just don't do it!

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

One to grow on

Garden tips for community gardeners

If you haven't added lime in a few years, mix a handful into the soil where you plant the Brassicas which include broccoli, choy, kohlrabi, mustard and cabbage.

Our acidic rain and heavy, wet soils 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 vegetables that I don't have to re-plant every year. I am referring to the perennials: rhubarb, sorrel and asparagus.

I started these from seed a couple years ago 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 in a hot oven 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 the time to prepare a few beds, adding plenty of compost for the tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and squashes that you'll plant in May. I'll have more information on these warm season crops next month.

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

Anza Muenchow is a farmer and a volunteer with P-Patch. You can reach her by e-mail at mahafarm@whidbey.net or on the Internet at <http://www.mahafarm.com>.

Community notes

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 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/ywstudy/>.

Mobile cancer screening

The YWCA Women's Health Outreach program will conduct a mobile health screening on Saturday, April 7 at the Renton WAL-MART store, 743 Rainier Ave. S, in Renton.

The Swedish Breast Care Express — a 64-foot coach equipped with state-of-the-art digital mammography screening equipment — will be parked at the store from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

YWCA Women's Health Outreach provides access to health care to under-insured, homeless and minority women.

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



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 towards being accepted in public, there are many misconceptions that linger.

One of these is that if 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 someplace 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

The mission of the Seattle Housing Authority is to enhance the Seattle community by creating and sustaining decent, safe and affordable living environments that foster stability and self-sufficiency for people with low incomes.

Returning home
ALDER CREST OPENS
See page 2



SHA NEWS

April
2007

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

City council confirms two board appointees

Mayor seeks applicants for two more seats

FROM HOUSING AUTHORITY AND VOICE REPORTS

Two new commissioners joined the Seattle Housing Authority board last month, as the Seattle City 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 the 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.

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

Cabdi speaks four languages: Somali, Arabic, Amai 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 Councilmember Richard McIver. "The Housing Authority has basically been the place where immigrants have come, settled, **See "Commissioners" on page 2**

Community builders switch roles

By CLAIRE McDANIEL
Seattle Housing Authority

A change of faces took place in Seattle Housing Authority communities last month, as two SHA community builders switched jobs.

Community builders work directly with residents, helping them achieve goals and organize in their communities.

When Ellen Ziontz, community builder for Yesler Terrace, and Brett Houghton, community builder for many high-rise and senior communities, first came up with the idea of trading jobs, their bosses greeted it with enthusiasm.

"Several months ago," Ziontz says, "Brett and I were having coffee and we started talking about the things we loved about our work and the things that were challenges for us. Brett expressed interest in the Yesler Terrace redevelopment and had a positive interest around helping that process along. On the other hand, I had begun working on leadership training and had really been enjoying meeting some of the folks in the high-rises. I'd been at Yesler for three and a half years and felt like maybe it was time for me to try something new."

Both Ziontz and Houghton said they enjoy community building and look forward to developing professionally and learning new things.

"This is a really exciting opportunity for both of us to enrich our community building experience, to keep doing the work and yet be challenged and have a new opportunity," Houghton said.

Once the switch is complete, Houghton will be the community builder for Yesler Terrace, Scattered-Sites and the townhouse villages. She said she thinks that a major difference between her old and new jobs will be breadth and depth.

"In high-rise work there is so much more breadth in terms of the number and sorts of communities you're working in," she said.



PHOTO BY CLAIRE McDANIEL

Community Builders Brett Houghton (at left) and Ellen Ziontz switched roles last month.

"It's just a really sharp contrast to Yesler Terrace which has so much more depth of experience working essentially with one community."

Ziontz said that so far she has found the transition to be both exhilarating and exhausting.

"It's exciting to go out of your comfort zone," she said. "There are lots of people to meet and a lot of situations to integrate into, but it's also been incredibly stimulating and fun to see all the different communities and how every community has its own personality and issues that they're working on."

Both said they are thankful that their counterpart still works at SHA.

"If anything happens and I'm confused or don't understand the context or need someone to give me the lay of the land, all I have to do is pick up the phone and call Ellen," Houghton said.

Ziontz concludes by saying, "Both of us are going through a bit of withdrawal. Although we won't be leaving the people we have worked with, we won't be seeing them quite as much. So letting go has been challenging."

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 the outside of their apartment doors was sidestepped 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.

"I 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 on December 1, 2005.

An injunction due to pending litigation has prohibited the Housing Authority from enforcing the rule.

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Residents plan activities to offset renovation hassle

By SVEN KOEHLER
Seattle Housing Authority

For over a year now, homeWorks crews have been active 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 \$1,000 activity fund for residents to spend during construction.

Decisions on how to spend the money come from residents. Last August, Green Lake Plaza residents organized a building-wide cookout and Lictonwood residents purchased supplies for their community room and patio.

In buildings with duly-elected resident councils, the money can be transferred to the council and spent after a vote of its members. In buildings that don't have councils, interested residents can form a group to gather input from the community and vote on what to fund.

Harvard Court residents have a strong tradition of planning events in their community room. With their homeWorks fund, they decided to buy a microwave and a barbecue to prepare food for these functions.

Housing Authority community builders help residents tap into the fund.

Community Builder Marcia Johnson "helped us with research on different mod-

els of grills and microwaves and how to procure them," said Harvard Court resident Edith Rosert.

Making a decision on how to spend the money generated great interest and cooperation at Beacon Tower, Johnson noted. Residents shopped together in the International District to buy food for their community gathering.

At Ballard House, resident Martin Qualters also reported success bringing neighbors together for a pizza party. However, his neighbors balanced the use of funds both for food and things that will last a little longer.

"We had some decisions to make about how much to spend on 'instant gratification' versus more long-term benefits, like buying supplies for our pool table or tuning the piano," Qualters said.

Ballard House residents will also be using part of the fund to jump start their gardening club, with the hope of selling seedlings at the Ballard Sunday Market as a building fundraiser, resident Robert Canamar said.

Residents living in upcoming Phase II buildings will use the funds in ways that fit their buildings' needs.

Soon after their first homeWorks meetings, residents are encouraged to form a group to come up with ideas for their fund. Community builders are there to help and, together with residents, can create some pleasant diversions from the homeWorks experience.

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 communities, including Yesler Terrace, High Point and certain low-income public housing high-rise buildings had dedicated Crime Prevention Specialists.

The Housing Authority was paying for these services, however, funding ceased in 2006. Godefroy approached the City of Seattle, 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 community needs to pay for such services,"

Please see "Training" on page 7

Commissioners

Continued from front page

passed through and moved onto other areas of the city and community. We have a been long time coming in recognizing the immigrant communities of color on this board."

John Littel, political director of the Northwest Carpenters Union, was approved for the at-large commission seat. Littel was previously the assistant to the executive secretary of the Seattle Building Trades Council where he was responsible for negotiations and labor relations at SHA and the King County Housing Authority.

He is also a part of the Washington Environmental Council and currently serves on SHA's Yesler Terrace Citizen's Review Committee.

"With your work for workers and for affordable housing for our community, I think you'll also bring a perspective and independent voice to the Seattle Housing Authority board that will be very valuable to us," said Councilmember Tom Rasmussen.

During the Housing Committee's public comment period, Seattle Senior Housing

Program resident Irv Thomas asked the City Council to deny Cabdi's appointment and request that the Mayor consider a senior housing tenant instead.

He pointed out that the state Legislature added an additional resident seat to the SHA board eight years ago after a lobbying effort by SSHP residents.

"SHA manages two entirely different kinds of public housing," he said. "Not until there is some kind of specifically-designated oversight...can the city safely bypass a watchdog seat."

Councilmember McIver later asked the Mayor's office to consider appointing a senior representative to one of the upcoming vacant seats.

"I do think there is some value also to having some of the senior housing program people represented," he said.

The seven-member Board of Commissioners is nominated by the mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The board is responsible for approving the Housing Authority's annual budget and for setting specific policies that guide its operations.

Renovated building means powerful change for one

By CLAIRE McDANIEL
Seattle Housing Authority

"I keep asking myself, 'Is this real?' I have to pinch myself," says Lois Warns, a resident of the newly-renovated Alder Crest apartments.

Before Warns moved in she had been homeless on and off for 13 years. She'd lived in shelters downtown but found it was too chaotic so she often slept outside in a sleeping bag or in a nighttime women's shelter if the weather was unbearably cold.

Warns and a group of other homeless people in Lower Queen Anne she affectionately calls "my tramps" were like a small family who took care of each other.

"I couldn't take care of myself, but I did whatever I could to take care of someone else," she says.

While she was staying at the Church of Mary Magdalene's shelter downtown she was encouraged to apply for the Seattle Housing Authority Section 8 lottery when it re-opened in May last year.

"I told them, 'Oh, I'll never get it,'"



Lois Warns, new resident at the renovated Alder Crest apartments, proudly displays the keys to her new life.

she said.

But she got her paperwork in two days before the deadline.

When she got her letter, she was number 620 out of 4,000 on the list.

Warns went to a Section 8 orientation last October, she got her voucher and the very first apartment she called on was the one she now lives in at Alder Crest, near her former High Point home.

"I could have taken that voucher and
Please see "Alder Crest" on page 4

Construction to make parking at SHA difficult

By VIRGINIA FELTON
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 done in about a year. An elevator will connect the central office to this underground parking.

Meanwhile, the Housing Authority will also be giving up the gravel lots to the east of the central office, currently used for fleet

and employee parking. This site (which SHA has rented over many years) will also be transformed into condominiums.

Directly across the street to the west, a lot formerly owned by the Teamsters 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 visitor parking, but it will most likely be down the street, not right next to the building.

Staff will look into holding 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 jmbsea@yahoo.com for more information and meeting times.

About The Voice

The Voice is a monthly newspaper published by Neighborhood House with financial support from Seattle Housing Authority resident participation funds.

The Voice is developed and edited by Neighborhood House with help from SHA residents and staff. It strives to provide a forum for objective news and information of interest to low-income people and those living in SHA communities.

The Voice welcomes articles, letters to the editor and columns from readers. If you'd like to submit an article, or if you have a question, feel free to contact Editor Stacy Schwandt at 206-461-8430, ext. 227 or by e-mail at stacys@nhwa.org.

All submissions are subject to editing for accuracy, style and length.

If you have questions about SHA-related stories, you may also contact SHA Communications Director Virginia Felton at 206-615-3506 or by e-mail at vfelton@seattlehousing.org.

POINT OF VIEW

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

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



Ross Manor residents and friends enjoy the anniversary celebration's food and camaraderie.

PHOTOS BY JEFFREY SEDGELEY

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 teriyaki 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.

JM (Jim) Bush is a resident of Center Park who attended the anniversary celebration.



Councilmembers Tom Rasmussen and Peter Steinbrueck address the crowd.

High-rise communities form resident councils

Editor's note: With spring came a bumper crop of resident council elections. Below is an article written by Stewart Manor resident council member Lee Suito 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 them required a nomination and election process to take place within a few weeks. We did that. The elected officers are Tom Bendixen, President; Sheri Kegley, Vice President; Lois Ruff, Secretary; Ricardo Martinez, Treasurer and Fay Rine and Lee Suito, alternates.

The residents' right to funding through Seattle Housing Authority would have been lost had the elections not been held. The knowledge of funding and much else lay in the hands of two loyal residents who were burned out from trying to steer the

community. They would rather remain nameless: one of them had been an officer intermittently for almost twenty years, the other for more than five.

The Stewart Manor Residents' Council is doing much the same as many building organizations might: having a dinner, having an organizational meeting, taking flyers off the Internet from SHA and posting them around the building. It's not a glamorous role, but in time it can bind occupants together and make living in an SHA building all that much more enjoyable.

If you want a lead toward creating a Resident Council in your building, you may contact Lee Suito at 206-938-1954 or by e-mail mleesuito@msn.com. You may have a suggestion for Stewart Manor, too!

Other recent election winners

Beacon Tower

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

Bell Tower

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

Garbage chutes to be closed in high-rises

By STACY SCHWANDT
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 smelly nuisances, others worry about carrying their garbage through a sprawling apartment building to heavy-lidded 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 Flagor, 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 down the chute. These are unhealthy kinds of items that can be biohazards," he said.

It's especially a problem when the chute gets plugged and items get stacked up on top of one another, Flagor said.

"That's floors and floors of garbage. All that stuff comes flying down on the poor person 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 chute 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."

Flagor 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."



Letter to the Editor

Readers of The Voice speak out

TO THE EDITOR,

Every month, I notice in the Community Notes section of the Point of View section in the Voice that the Seattle Senior Housing Program (SSHP) Advocates II will be having their regular monthly board meeting on the second Thursday of each month.

The meetings are open to any interested SSHP resident.

However, when I inquired about attending the March meeting, I was informed that the board meeting was postponed because a member had asked for copies of the Articles of Incorporation, bylaws, board meeting minutes, financial records (the group has \$1,000 in their bank account) and other correspondence. All of which they are entitled to under the bylaws and the Washington

State Nonprofit Corporation Act. The board believes they do not have to turn over these records.

It makes me wonder. Is the board which is comprised of Jean Anderson, Kit Bryant, Rebeka Tyler, Edie Koch, Hazel Bauer, Roger Bennett, Frankie Nicholson, and Patricia Pitts trying to hide something?

I find it hilarious and troublesome because this was an issue with the previous Advocates group.

Or maybe they are afraid that the requestor will find out the true purpose of the group — to hold tea parties and feel self-important.

Sincerely,
Jiro Ramji
Pleasant Valley tenant

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

The 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
Mahfooz Junejo
Gina Owens
Marylouise Peacock
Glenn Slemmer
Gordon Geijsbeek

Harvard Court

Arron B. McLauchlan, President
Timothy Baxter, Vice President
Therese Velasquez, Secretary
Allan Barroso, Treasurer
Mary Rolfe, at large member

Westwood Heights

Arlene Buchanan, President
Carolyn McCool, Vice President
Claudia Hinton, Secretary
Sharon Sollenberger, Treasurer
Irene Brundage, Sgt.-at-Arms

HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY

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 have teamed up to bring 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 decorating of High Point parks. Their participation is meant to increase public awareness of the importance of keeping parks clean.

Samantha Gotkin, a community builder for the Housing Authority said art is the perfect way for people to interact with one another and liven up 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 pond at Market Garden.



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

One of the recycling receptacles that neighbors will decorate this month with help from the Pomegranate Center.

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 425-557-6412 or by e-mail info@pomegranate.org.

Alder Crest

Continued from page 2

gone anywhere but I wanted to come back home," she said. "When I moved in, I had all these memories of my childhood just flooding back, some were good, and some were bad."

In 1964, her family moved to High Point from California.

"I'm going back to exactly where I started. My family lives right up the street and my grandkids, I mean it was just too convenient," says Warns. "The bus is right here. The grocery store is close. There's a new library and a medical clinic. A food bank is going to be put in here."

Warns said she moved into her new apartment in early March with just a sleep-

ing bag and her backpack.

"I had no furniture, but I didn't care," she said. She got a sofa from Goodwill. Her family donated more furniture, and her mom helped her decorate.

"I'm now at a point where the stress has been lifted off my shoulders. I was scared. I was excited. I was happy. I was almost grieving that I was leaving my old environment, but if I really want to change my way of life and who I am, I have to leave all that behind. All the emotions all at once were overwhelming."

The refurbished Alder Crest apartments was celebrated March 21 with a grand re-opening celebration. Located at 6520 35th Ave. S.W. near High Point, the building contains 36 one- and two-bedroom apartments.

Join neighbors at the Healthy Community Fair

By VOICE STAFF

Usher in spring at High Point by joining your neighbors at the Healthy Community Fair on Saturday, April 14 from 11 to 4:30 p.m.

Festivities will begin with a celebration of the Cambodian New Year. Information about yard maintenance, recycling and health insurance will also be provided along with blood pressure checks and a chance for neighbors to paint recycling receptacles (pictured 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.

"Many 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 Southwest and Southwest Graham Street.

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

For more information call Neighborhood House at 206-923-3266.

Election date set for High Point Association

Number of trustees, voting blocks also finalized

By STACY SCHWANDT
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 also to divide the community into four geographic voting blocks instead of the eight originally proposed by the bylaws, asking each block to elect representatives from among both renters and homeowners.

"My agenda was to make sure 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."

Decisions 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 12 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. 306 to confirm.

Using 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 resi-

dents, 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 that would have a budget to work on neighborhood projects.

The Neighborhood Association is a separate entity from the Homeowners' Association and the Open Spaces 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 SHA and Providence Health Systems, the owner of Elizabeth House) and fees collected on the sale of homes. The association currently has a budget of \$7,500 and Housing Authority officials estimate that by 2010 it could reach to between \$30,000 and \$40,000 a year.

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, Kari-lynn 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 at the April 12 meeting will cover nominations, campaigning, voting and getting youth involved in the process.

All are welcome.

RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

Rainier Vista celebrates the Year of the Boar



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Rainier Vista residents gather for a celebration of the Lunar New Year in late February. According to the Chinese calendar this is the Year of the Boar; to find out more about the boar, read the article and translation below.

Significance of the Boar in 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 runs 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 fact, a boar has extraordinary strength.

In America, some policemen are using specially trained boars to help detect illegal drugs. These boars do a better job than dogs.

In the South Pacific Ocean islands, boars can swim and catch fish. In Austria, special military boars can detect land mines. In the western plateau of China, boars are found to be able to catch rats. In Florida, someone trained boars to play music and dance. In the South America Bolivian rain forest, boars are used to cure disease.

Dang La is a resident of Rainier Vista.

豬年談“豬” 羅

2007年的農曆丁亥豬年。海內外華人紛紛傳說是60年一遇的金豬年,因此許多人盼望趁豬年生個金豬寶寶。實際上,按照中國傳統文化的曆法演算,丁亥年不是金豬,而是火豬。

豬年有分春,夏,秋,冬之說:
春豬:一生較為順利,有一副慈善心腸,願意幫助朋友,無論事業,家庭和其它較為滿意,

重事業,加上自己的努力,定能成就一番事業。

夏豬:屬豬的人,一般比較享福,像有貴人相助,困難遇到他便會繞道而過。

秋豬:在社交場合,辦如魚兒得水,言談舉止會贏得人們的好感,願意幫助別人,辦事

認真,任何事情都盡心盡力做好,適合服務性工作。

冬豬:天生吃苦受累,整日閒不住,成家後生活會有改善。為人耿直,肚裏藏不住話,往

往得罪人。

“豬”,在一般人的印象中是又笨又臟的動物,但事實上豬也有很多優點:

在美國一些緝毒警察,讓豬接受嗅聞毒品的特殊訓練,使其成為緝毒的豬警察。

豬警察的鼻子極為靈敏,比警犬還出色,緝毒的警察認為,豬在這方面比狗更聰明,嗅

覺更靈敏,成功地找出多批毒品,已經成為警察中的明星。

豬還有其他特殊的地方,例如:

- 在南太平洋的托克勞群島上,有一種能游泳和捕魚的豬。
- 奧地利有會探雷的工兵豬。
- 中國青藏高原有會捕鼠的香味豬。
- 美國佛羅里達州有會奏樂和跳舞的豬。
- 南美波維亞的熱帶叢林中有能舔傷治病的豬。

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 unsuc-

cessfully 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 want, and our interviewing skills improve each time we interview for a job, regardless of whether we're offered it.

Troung now has an excellent position which he truly enjoys, 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.



Khanh Troung

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 to improve the public connections really resulted in a better project. We are all excited to see construction begin," said Development Program Manager Ed Rose.

The additional work with the design commission will strengthen the pedestrian connections through the site and reduce the emphasis on cars. New public pathways and



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The south side plan for Phase II of the Rainier Vista redevelopment focuses in part on pedestrians.

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

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

So far, 486 housing units are either completed or under construction. Phase I includes 313 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.

NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

Urban Village to offer shopping and housing



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF CITY OF SEATTLE'S STATION AREA PLANNING, AUGUST 2000

Above is one interpretation of how the Othello Urban Village might look once the Sound Transit light rail station and redevelopment work is completed.

By KARI SHERRODD
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 program manager with 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 Holly 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 training.

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 translators.

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

Youth and Parents on Campus

The Youth and Parents committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The idea is to have kids, teens, parents and staff working together on a committee addressing behavior concerns, fair treatment, respect and tolerance for one another on campus and in the community.

Community Clean-up

The Community Clean-up committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Neighborhood volunteers will come together a few times a year to clean up certain areas of their neighborhood 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 8 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 concerns 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

Timing to be determined. The Welcome Wagon committee is a friendly neighborhood program created by Neighborhood House staff and volunteers. New neighbors receive a “warm welcome” visit and a basket full of information about the NewHolly community.

“One of the primary roles of a community builder is to help create a forum for neighbors to talk about what they care about.”

Apprentices install drywall at Lee House



PHOTO BY GREG WARNER

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.

 **Neighborhood House**
Strong Families. Strong Communities. Since 1906.

YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

Information about Yesler Terrace now on the Web

By KARI SHERRODD
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 past 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



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

Yesler Terrace residents begin a discussion about their community values with an interpreter at a late-February Citizen's Review Committee meeting

By STACY SCHWANDT
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.

"It is 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 redeveloped Yesler Terrace still needed to be made.

The Housing Authority is planning to redevelop the 30-acre public housing community which was built in 1938. There are currently 561 apartments on site, including 35 studios, 192 one-bedroom apartments, 229 two-bedrooms, 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 NBBJ, 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 features such as views, topography and transporta-

tion 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, resident groups called for low-rise apartments with private entrances, 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 Ruqiyo Abdi posed some questions directly to Rice.

"Are we as a community just a rubber stamp," she asked through an interpreter. "Are we serious to really demanding 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.

Notes from the Manager

By JUDI CARTER
Senior Property Manager

We are almost three-fifths through the annual inspections of every apartment of Yesler Terrace.

This year, I have noticed that some families, while they keep their refrigerator very clean, are less careful about the little white strip area at the lower part of the refrigerator.

There is a rubber piece that goes all around the inside of your refrigerator door called a gasket. When that area just below the refrigerator door gets sticky from a spill, the door gets slightly hard to open. The gasket is being pulled on when that area is sticky.

Eventually, if the gasket is pulled on for a while, it gets weak and rips. When the gasket rips, your refrigerator has to work very hard to keep the food cold, because the

gasket keeps the cold air in. This is a problem, because it is hard on the refrigerator and it also drives your electric bill up.

Try always to wipe the area that the gasket touches when you clean the refrigerator. This will save you money!

It is getting to be time to cut the grass again. If you do not have a lawn mower or weed eater, you can check out one for free from the management office. We also have rakes available for you to use. You may check these tools out overnight, or over the weekend if you get them on a Friday.

The office is open Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The telephone number is 206-223-3758.

If you do not have time to cut the grass yourself, you might give Neighborhood House a phone call. They have information about other residents who like doing yard work and are reasonably priced. Their phone number is 206-461-4522.

Training

Continued from page 2

Godefroy asked.

Now SNG is receiving funding from the City of Seattle to offer crime prevention training to residents all across the city.

The Seattle Neighborhood Group has created easy-to-understand presentations on 9-1-1 and personal safety.

Godefroy shared prepared materials to help people understand how to use 9-1-1 interpreter services. These 9-1-1 informational materials are available in 12 languages including Vietnamese, Chinese, Tigringna, Amharic and Somali and would be distributed as part of the presentations.

Godefroy said that the Seattle Neighborhood Group hopes to expand their training repertoire to include fraud and other training topics based on residents' needs.

"We are very excited about this new format," she added.

In response to pointed questions from

the residents, Godefroy said that SNG is not asking SHA or its residents for money.

The organization simply wants to inform residents about its new services and tap into residents' knowledge of their community, what is needed and what will work in terms of crime prevention services.

Godefroy explained that SNG wants to form a crime prevention leadership advocacy group to critique SNG's presentations before they roll them out and to tell SNG what additional training residents want.

She encouraged residents to contact SNG staff directly if they are interested in serving in this leadership group.

Residents interested in being involved in the crime prevention leadership advocacy group or in scheduling a presentation in their community on 9-1-1 or personal safety can contact Allan Davis at 206-323-7094 or by e-mail at allan@sngi.org or Kelly McKinney at 206-323-7084 or by e-mail at kelly@sngi.org.

Community 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 Spruce 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.

