



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



# The Voice

June  
2007  
Articles translated  
into six languages

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

## Construction Trades Fair: Earn while you learn

By HARBORVIEW HOSPITAL

Take your first step to a new career by taking part in the Construction Trades Fair on June 21 at the Yesler Terrace Community Center.

New construction projects are starting daily in the Seattle area and the city is booming with construction apprenticeship programs where participants can be working and learning at the same time.

For people interested in the building trades, there are many programs offering immediate training for employment at a living wage. Participants in these programs get paid while training and working for many great companies.

Everyone is invited to join the trades fair, where trade professionals, apprenticeship coordinators and community college advisors from the Seattle area will gather for an informative day focusing on training opportunities available through local apprenticeship programs.

On-site interpretation will be available in many languages. On-site interviews and light refreshments will also be provided.

The Earn While You Learn Construction Trades Fair is scheduled for Thursday, June 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Yesler Community Center, 917 East Yesler Way in Seattle.

The fair is co-sponsored by Turner Con-

struction, Harborview Medical Center and the Seattle Housing Authority.

At the fair, participants will learn about programs that offer on-the-job training and classroom work. Many of these programs offer a living wage with health care, retirement and other benefits while learning the trade and increased wages upon completing the requirements of the program.

The trades fair will also provide information on apprenticeships, including qualifications and careers which offer apprenticeship programs, and much more.

After completion of an apprenticeship program, students earn a journey-level status which entitles the participants to union-scale wage anywhere in the United States.

Apprenticeship coordinators will be available to answer questions about schooling and jobs.

The trade show will highlight the wonderful opportunities that are available and provide participants with an opportunity to meet with coordinators and network with others. Multiple presentation booths and activities will engage local students and adults and demonstrate the opportunities available in the construction industry.

If you have questions or need more information, please call 206-521-1794 or e-mail semiera@u.washington.edu.

## Thousands rally in Seattle and across the nation to support immigration law reform



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

More than 5,000 immigrants and their supporters, including several public housing residents, took to the streets last month to rally for national immigration reform.

Protestors called for a pathway to citizenship for the nation's undocumented workers and for a halt to work-site raids which have led to deportations that often take parents away from their children.

The rally was one of several that took place across the nation and was organized by religious, human rights and labor organizations.

## Free computers and Internet service within reach

By KEITH GORMEZANO  
Special to The Voice

Would you like to get a free computer?

Would you like to purchase computer software, hardware or peripherals for only the cost of the sales tax?

The information below will tell you how to take advantage of free offers and rebates that will get you on the information highway in no time.

### Free computers

Interconnection, a Seattle-based organization that works to make technology more accessible to underserved populations, will give you a free computer if you

complete their 30-hour computer skills program.

This program uses hands-on learning to teach volunteers about computer components, how to fix computers and how to install hard drives, memory, software and operating systems. It could come in useful in future jobs as most people do not know the inside of a computer.

Visit Interconnection's Web site at <http://www.interconnection.org/index.php?pagina=volunteer/onsite> to find out more.

Since 1994, the Seattle Community Network Association's Computer Give-away Project has been a source for free

**Please see "Free stuff" on page 2**

## KCHA Section 8 waiting list opened

### KING COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

The King County Housing Authority began accepting applications for its Section 8 Rental Assistance Program waiting list for two weeks starting Wednesday, May 23 and ending Thursday, June 7.

This opportunity allows eligible applicants to qualify for a rental subsidy which can be used in the private market. Also known as the Housing Choice Voucher program, this program is the primary means of housing assistance for low- and very low-income people provided by King County Housing Authority.

Currently, KCHA's Section 8 Program provides rental assistance to more than 21,000 residents in King County.

The waiting list has been closed since May 2006. The list will be exhausted within the next few months, and KCHA

will be accepting new applications. The Housing Authority will place a maximum of 2,500 names on the waiting list, covering 12 to 18 months of placements.

Successful applicants will be selected through a random drawing that will be held after the list has closed on June 7. Applicants not placed on the list will be notified by the Housing Authority following the random drawing.

Beginning May 23, people can apply online at <http://www.kcha.org>. Applicants may download an application from the same Web site and complete it by hand; or those interested may pick up a printed copy at one of the following eleven locations:

- Section 8 Office – 15455 65th Ave. S., Tukwila
  - Auburn DSHS – 2707 I St. N.E.,
- Please see "Section 8" on page 3**

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"Some children may need extra help to play and talk the way other kids their age do. We can give them that help."

— Neighborhood House's Colleen Hollis on the special needs services available through Head Start.

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## Reader's viewpoint

Readers of *The Voice* share their ideas

### Undoing Racism training opens eyes

By LEE SUITOR  
Special to *The Voice*

"Undoing Racism," a workshop on race relations, was offered recently to workers and volunteers in Seattle.

I was fortunate to be sponsored by the Seattle Housing Authority to attend the two-day conference. Its purpose was to break down racial barriers.

After 17 hours, including breakfasts and lunches, thoughts blur, so I will offer some examples of what was said rather than provide a running commentary.

We began the first morning by looking at a contract we would be asked to agree to. There were things you might expect — to listen, participate, stay on the cutting edge, respect. But then there were, "Cell phones will be silent," and "You will stay the whole time."

Can you imagine two days and 60 people without a cell phone going off?

One factor we brainstormed was the effect of where poor people live.

What are their neighborhoods like? Railroad tracks, small and low-quality grocery stores (don't touch the vegetables and produce), run down schools, run down homes, liquor stores, dilapidated sidewalks and streets, bus yards and industry.

What faceless agencies do they bump up against? The Internal Revenue Service,

Medicaid, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Department of Defense, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and so on.

We could easily see that the next generation was being trained into an image of impenetrable walls and low expectations.

A hard bite to swallow was historical development versus historical classification. That is, humankind developed and its distinctions could be seen more than a million years ago, but classification was only established in the past couple of centuries by white human beings. Human bias being what it is, Caucasians came out on the top of the heap of humanity, and it has only been in the latter part of the past 200 years that other races have been seen as equal to whites.

The "Undoing Racism" workshop is evidence that we are serious about working on that, but we are not there yet.

The workshop is offered throughout the year through People's Institute Northwest 206-938-1023. The Seattle Housing Authority has funds available to send interested SHA residents. Contact the community builder in your community for more information.

*Lee Sutor is a resident of Stewart Manor, a Seattle Housing Authority high-rise building. He can be reached with questions at 206-938-1954.*

### Free stuff

Continued from front page

computers. E-mail them at computer giveaway@scn.org for more information. (They require you to show that you can use e-mail to request one.)

Other sources for free computers include: WildTech <http://www.wildtech.org/programs.htm> and the Onit Foundation <http://www.theonitfoundation.org/> which provides free computers for people with school-aged children or who want to buy a computer on credit.

#### Free Internet

No Charge, <http://www.nocharge.com>, offers free dial up Internet service in the Puget Sound area.

You can set up your account by calling 206-495-1000 using dial up networking in your computer. (You will need a modem for this. If you don't have one, check the stores listed below for rebates.)

Select the user name "guest" and the password of "password" or you can download their installation disk to a floppy at the library.

Seattle Community Network, <http://www.scn.org>, also offers free web pages and e-mail addresses as well as Internet access.

Remember, you can also get a free e-mail account at Hotmail or Yahoo by using the computers at the public library to sign up for one.

Go to <http://www.hotmail.com> or <http://www.yahoo.com>.

[www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com).

#### Computer software

CompUSA, Fry's (check their Friday ad in the Seattle Times for the best deals), Staples (offers online rebates), Office Max, Office Depot, Circuit City and Best Buy offer weekly rebates through themselves and/or the manufacturer.

To use a rebate, purchase the product and then send your receipt and rebate form directly to the manufacturer.

You generally need to mail in a rebate form within a specified time period after you buy the item.

In a matter of weeks, you will receive a check for the amount of the rebate. Manufacturers do not reimburse sales tax paid on items or the cost of the postage you needed to submit the rebate.

Using rebates last year, I was able to purchase my antivirus, antispyware, Windows cleanup and Internet security programs for the cost of the sales tax, which was about \$16.

The year before, I purchased about \$550 worth of software and hardware including new modems for cable Internet and dial-up and used rebates to significantly reduce the price.

Remember to make a copy of all the forms you sent in. Follow through with the store or corporate headquarters if you do not get your rebate within the time period specified on the form.

*Keith Gormezano is a resident of Phinney Terrace.*

## Parent network provides families with resources



PHOTO BY STUART ISETT

*Project HANDLE Program Coordinator Steven Van writes down ideas and suggestions from participants for ways to reduce substance abuse (including alcohol, drugs, prescription drugs and tobacco abuse) problems at home and in the community.*

#### BY NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE STAFF

Over 40 Cambodian parents gathered in one of the newly-constructed homes in the High Point community last month for a Parent Support Network meeting. The network is a new program to support parents who have graduated from Project HANDLE's HIV-AIDS and substance abuse prevention classes called Guiding Good Choices.

Project HANDLE is an HIV-AIDS and substance abuse prevention program of Neighborhood House that serves members of the Cambodian, African American and East African communities.

The Parent Support Network is a grassroots effort that was organized when parents asked for more support in their homes. Last month's meeting focused on ways to seek solutions to reduce substance abuse at home and in the community.

"This parent support meeting was very helpful to the families and the communities," said Savoeun Keo, who offered to host the next meeting at her home. "Our host Ms. Noeum Nov was very welcoming."

Nov is a Community Advisory Coalition member who helped recruit parents and youth for the Guiding Good Choices classes.

The coalition includes members from the religious, educational, governmental and other sectors and aims to address substance abuse and HIV prevention in the Cambodian community throughout Seattle and King County.

The Parent Support Network was successfully launched at an event in March

hosted by the White Center Coffee Hall on 16th Avenue. The coffee hall owner became involved in the coalition because of its mission to educate parents and teenagers on HIV and substance abuse prevention.

Six Project HANDLE staff members attended last month's Parent Support Network meeting. Their roles were to help answer questions and provide additional support for the parents. The parents were very happy to share food, information and resources.

"The parents brought so much ethnic food," said Steven Van, Project HANDLE coordinator. "Although the space was small, the heart was huge."

Project HANDLE Director Warya Pothan said she is happy that the event was such a success.

"The Parent Support Network is a great example of taking science from the classroom to the community and now into the home," she said.

More meetings are planned for the Greenbridge, Rainier Vista and High Point communities.

Guiding Good Choices is a model program developed by the University of Washington's School of Social Work. Parents attend a five-week class which addresses family conflict, family management problems, youth rebellion and other family-related issues.

Project HANDLE is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration and the Office of National Drug Control Policy.



## Health Notes

A column devoted to your well-being

### Protect your loved ones from meth abuse

By TERESA MOORE  
Moore Ink. PR

With one of the highest incidences of methamphetamine abuse in the nation, Washington state is seeing escalating risks to youth and adults from the highly addictive and dangerous drug.

According to the Washington Department of Social and Health Services, teen meth use is increasing. More than one in every 20 Washington tenth graders reports they have used meth. Federal sources note that the number of adult addicts seeking treatment for meth in the state's publicly-funded treatment centers in 2005 exceeded the numbers for any other drug except

alcohol — outpacing cocaine, marijuana and heroin.

If you think someone you know might be using meth, or if you're a parent who suspects your teen might be using, the nonprofit Partnership for a Drug-Free America offers the following list of warning signs:

- Physical symptoms may include weight loss, abnormal sweating, shortness of breath, nasal problems or nosebleeds, sores that do not heal, dilated pupils, burns on lips or fingers and track marks on arms.

- Behavioral symptoms might include withdrawal from family and friends, change in friends, disinterest in previously

**Please see "Health Notes" on page 4**

#### 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.



# One to grow on

## Garden tips for community gardeners

### A few things to know about squash

By ANZA MUENCHOW  
Special to *The Voice*

With the summer temperatures here finally, it is time to plant all the heat loving plants. I'm especially enjoying planning for all the different kinds of squash we will grow this season.

Not just zucchini, but also delicata, hubbard, those cute little mini pumpkins and others.

The squash family is called the cucurbit family. It includes cucumbers, pumpkins and all kinds of squash — summer and winter. What is interesting about the squash family is that they are monoecious, which means each plant produces both male and female flowers.

When looking closely at the flowers, you will see some are on a longer stem and some have a short fat stem. The short-stemmed flowers are female and will develop into the fruit.

Many gardeners get confused because the first flowers to come out are often male so will not produce fruit. Relax, the female flowers will form soon, and you will get plenty of fruit.

As you can imagine, the pollen needs to get from the male flower to the female flower in order for the fruits to form. This means all squash are dependent on bees for pollination. There are very few colony bees, such as honey bees, in my neighborhood, so we depend on solitary bees, like bumble bees and mason bees.

Bees will travel many hundreds of feet visiting flowers and moving pollen around. This means that the pollen that reaches the female flower may not be from the same type of cucurbit plant.

It is typical that many hybridized (cross pollinated) seeds form inside your squashes and cucumbers. The variety of squash or cucumber you purchased to plant in your garden will create the fruit you want the first year, but the seeds may not stay true in the next generation. Saving cucurbit seed does not always produce the same fruit year after year.

I appreciate when gardening friends share their favorite variety of saved squash or cucumber seed with me, but I'm reluc-

tant to plant them because they may not produce the desired fruit.

Many people like to start squash early indoors or purchase vegetable starts, but it is also fine to start the seeds outdoors in the garden at any time after Mothers Day until the end of June.

The last few years I've started a second crop of zucchini late in June because the younger plants produce so much more produce during the month of September.

For a gourmet treat, harvest some squash blossoms early in the morning and stuff them with mixtures of cheeses, herbs, meats or grain. Twist the tops closed and fry them in a light batter. Or add them to your stir fry at the very end for about 30 seconds. Yum.

Soon, your early spring lettuce will be going to seed (bolting). This will cause the lettuce leaves to taste bitter.

To have delicious sweet lettuce all summer, continue planting new lettuce every two to three weeks and keep it well watered. Black-seeded Simpson is a good summer lettuce variety.

For those lettuce plants going to seed, allow several to form their flowers, stake them up and watch for seed development. In a month or so, you will see the little winged seeds that look like dandelions. The seeds will probably be mature enough to harvest at that point.

Cut off the top of the plant, place it in a paper grocery bag, and label bag with the variety (if known) and the date, and keep in a dry place out of the sun.

This seed usually stays true and will produce well when planted next spring.

Though we had a very cool spring it was surprisingly dry during the early part of May. Don't let your soil dry out because it will stress your plants.

In anticipation of a long dry summer, we laid out our drip irrigation by the middle of May, which is fully two weeks earlier than normal. But I'm hoping it'll be a great tomato season.

*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.*

## Section 8

Continued from front page

Auburn

- Federal Way DSHS – 616 S. 348th St., Federal Way

- Federal Way Multi-Service Center – 1200 S. 336th St., Federal Way

- Kent Multi-Service Center – 515 W. Harrison St., Kent

- King Eastside DSHS – 805 156th Ave. NE, Bellevue

- King South DSHS – 1313 W. Meeker St., #100, Kent

- Mt. Si Senior Center – 411 Main Ave. S., North Bend

- Northshore Family Center – 18315 Bothell Way N.E., Bothell

- Shoreline Family Center – 17018 15th Ave. N.E., Shoreline

- White Center DSHS – 9650 15th Ave. S.W., Seattle

Applications not submitted on-line must be returned by mail and postmarked by June 7 to King County Housing Authority, Section 8, P.O. Box 58550, Seattle, WA 98138.

Applicants must be over 18 years old, have limited income and qualify for one of the local housing preferences to be eligible.

The preferences are for households that are homeless or about to become homeless (through no fault of their own), families who are living in substandard or transitional housing or families who are spending more than 50 percent of their incomes on rent.

For information about the application process, please call the KCHA Section 8 Office at 206-214-1300.

The Section 8 Program pays rental housing subsidies — provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and managed by KCHA — to private landlords on behalf of low-income households.

The subsidy allows program participants to find housing in the private rental market. Generally, HUD pays the difference between the rent charged by a housing owner and the assisted household's rental contribution, usually 30 to 40 percent of the household's income adjusted for family size and utility costs.

The King County Housing Authority administers a range of quality affordable rental and homeownership programs for residents of King County. The Authority serves more than 17,000 households including families, elderly and disabled residents.

# Time to enroll your children in Head Start



PHOTO BY MIKE MOORE, MOORE INK. PR

Reading is a big part of each day in the Neighborhood House Head Start program. Here, students interact with a volunteer reader as she shares with them the classic storybook "Where the Wild Things Are."

By VOICE STAFF

Do you have a child who would love to learn their letters and numbers, sing songs and play with other children?

The Neighborhood House Head Start program is now enrolling children between the ages of 3 and 5 for the next school year, which begins in September.

The Neighborhood House Early Head Start program is also enrolling pregnant women and families with children from age 0 to 3. The Early Head Start program is a free, weekly home visiting program where low-income families receive child development information, social services, health assessments and other services.

Head Start is a free federal program for preschool children from low-income families. Its half-day sessions provide children with activities that help them grow mentally, socially, emotionally and physically.

Head Start staff members recognize that parents are the first and most important teachers of children, and they welcome their involvement in all school activities.

Neighborhood House runs Head Start programs in the NewHolly, Rainier Vista, Yesler Terrace and High Point communities.

Children who attend Head Start participate in a variety of educational activities. They also receive medical and dental care

and have healthy meals and snacks each day.

Last year, Neighborhood House Head Start students even took a field trip to the Woodland Park Zoo.

Children with special needs are also welcome at Neighborhood House.

"Some children may need extra help to play and talk the way other kids their age do," said Colleen Hollis, the person who works with Neighborhood House's

**Neighborhood House  
NOW ENROLLING  
for Head Start and Early  
Head Start programs**

Call 206-461-8430, ext. 247 for Head Start or 206-760-9330, ext 10 for Early Head Start.

special needs students. "We can give them that help."

Head Start also offers individualized support to families, helping parents reach their goals so they can effectively support their children's education.

For more information about the Head Start program in your neighborhood, or to enroll your child, contact Million Shiferaw at 206-461-8430 ext. 246.

## Community notes

### Bowl for a good cause

Get ready to knock some pins down! Join neighbors, community members and friends on Thursday, June 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Roxbury Lanes for the first ever Neighborhood House bowlathon.

The event will raise money for Helpline, which provides emergency financial and supportive assistance to families at risk of eviction.

Play as an individual or as a team. Prizes will be awarded for the most talented — and for the not-so-talented.

This special fundraiser is only \$25 for adults and \$15 for children. Please join Neighborhood House for an evening of fun and help support this extremely important program.

To RSVP and reserve a space, contact Jordon McEntire at 206-461-8430, ext. 255 or by e-mail at jordonm@nhwa.org.

Roxbury Lanes are at 2823 S.W. Roxbury St. in Seattle.

### Computer classes available

Free basic computer classes for ESL and adult literacy learners are available at the Seattle Public Library.

To register, call the Central Library branch at 206-386-4649 or 206-684-0849. For classes at NewHolly call 206-386-1905.

### Free legal help available

The Seattle Public Library and the Access to Justice Institute are hosting a free legal clinic on Thursday, June 7 at the downtown library. Attendees will have an opportunity to consult with an attorney one-on-one for up to 20 minutes regarding putting together a basic will.

Translation will be available in Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese and Russian. For more information please call Valerie Wonder at 206-386-4667. The sessions take place in conference room 1, on level 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 5:15 p.m.

## Denny Terrace: a high-rise bustling with activity



PHOTO BY MARK MOORE

Denny Terrace resident Mr. Aaron Gardner blows out the candles on his cake at his 98th birthday celebration.

By KAREN JENSEN  
Special to The Voice

Denny Terrace has been very busy with programs facilitated by Partners in Caring (a program of Solid Ground, formerly the Fremont Public Association).

Solid Ground is working to build a group of core volunteers who will be actively involved in their community and take over programs.

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department and Partners in Caring offer a free "Sit and Be Fit" class with a Parks and Recreation employee known as "Uncle Jake."

At 11 a.m. there is an art class following the exercise group. Participants are making greeting cards with stamps and will add more variety as the class progresses.

Denny Terrace resident Indigo Summer has volunteered to take over the classes with help from me, an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer

Solid Ground's Michelle Lucas started a book club and it will be taken over by resident Katherine Anderson. The book club meets the first Tuesday of each month and the books are handed out at that time.

On the last Tuesday of the month, a movie based on the book is shown. Food is also served that relates to the book. Last month the book was "Chocolat" and there was a lot of chocolate to eat and we had a fabulous time.

Seniors Making Art has a watercolor class on Fridays from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Jones community room. Residents of Denny Terrace and Harvard Court participate in this class.

Students have learned to make all colors from the three primary colors, and each week the instructor adds something new. The class is well-attended and is considered

to be very therapeutic.

The third Tuesday of each month Partners in Caring has a pancake breakfast at 10 a.m. Residents are actively involved in making the morning a success.

Every Friday, Partners in Caring delivers groceries to our home bound residents using monies The Seattle City Council has allocated for that purpose.

The grocery delivery coordinator is resident Mark Moore and the volunteers are David Norris, Larry Wisdom, Robert Harris, Greg Fletcher and Aaron Turner. The delivery goes very smoothly because of all their help.

On May 16 we celebrated Mr. Aaron Gardner's 98th birthday in grand style. He is the most senior resident at Denny Terrace and perhaps all of Seattle Housing Authority.

Fifty-two of his Denny Terrace and Mount Zion Baptist Church friends and family were in attendance. Mr. Gardner is the last original resident of Denny Terrace and is well respected and loved. He is a World War II veteran and was video taped documenting his service for the National Archive.

He is one of the oldest surviving veterans of WWII and the video is highly prized and will be a permanent addition to our National Archives.

Mr. Gardner was praised for his dignity, grace, and humanity. Everyone had a wonderful time and any time spent with Mr. Gardner is a pleasure because he is a true gentleman. He was very happy to be honored and thanked everyone for their love and friendship.

Denny Terrace resident Annemarie Burks has already begun planning for his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in two years!

Karen Jensen is a resident of Denny Terrace and a AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer with Partners in Caring.

## Health Notes

Continued from page 2

enjoyed activities, increased activity, long periods of sleeplessness (24-120 hours), long periods of sleep (24-48 hours), incessant talking, irritability, twitching and shaking, itching, decreased appetite and erratic attention span.

- Meth users often display repetitious behavior, such as picking at skin, pulling out hair, compulsively cleaning, grooming or disassembling and assembling objects.

- Addicts may become very aggressive and violent, display a false sense of confidence, control and power.

They may also exhibit carelessness about their appearance or show deceit or excessive secretiveness.

- Mental symptoms can include but are

not limited to the following: paranoia, anxiousness, nervousness, agitation, extreme moodiness, severe depression, inhibition, hallucinations and delusions of parasites or insects crawling under the skin. It is important to note any radical change in behavior.

- Meth users' paraphernalia might include rolled up paper money or short straws, pieces of glass or mirrors, razor blades, burned spoons, surgical tubing and syringes/needles.

For more information on meth and other drugs — including tips for helping parents learn how to talk to their kids about drug abuse — visit the partnership's Web site at <http://www.drugfree.org>.

To schedule a presentation about the dangers of methamphetamine for your civic group, PTA or other local organization, e-mail [meth360@comcast.net](mailto:meth360@comcast.net).

## STAR Center offers computer access to many

By DEAN WILLIAMS  
Resident reporter

It's been said that the Special Technology Access Resource Center, or STAR Center, is a place where people's way of thinking is changed from "I can't" to "I can."

The center, located at the Low-income Public Housing high-rise Center Park, specializes in assistive technology programs ranging from screen reader programs, dictation programs, Braille translator programs and many more.

The center is a place where people of any skill level can use the computer and where new users can learn from any of the center's trained staff.

The center primarily caters to individuals with special needs and the elderly, though the general public is welcomed as well.

Jacque Cook is the director of the STAR Center, which was founded by the Seattle Housing Authority and other neighborhood partners and is funded by SHA and various grant programs.

Cook said that her vision for STAR is to utilize special technology to facilitate computer access for all — even individuals with physical disabilities — and in doing so to narrow the digital divide.

Center Park and the STAR Center are located at 2121 26th Ave. S.

More information can be found on the Internet at <http://www.starofseattle.org>.

Several staff members of the center live in the Center Park community adjacent to STAR, and several residents of Center Park are also clients.

Paula Williams, a Center Park resident and the STAR receptionist, has been working there almost a year. She found out about the center through her husband who also works there.

"Through all my struggles in life starting with becoming legally blind at the age of 22 due to cancer, working at STAR has given me the ability to expand on what I know. I have been able to learn new things about computers, opening a whole new world for me when I felt the world was giving up on me," she said. "I learned basic administrative things like using a database, which I've never done before until now, and STAR has helped me realize that life can go on even with a disability."

Many of the clients who use the center say that when you're at STAR you always feel a sense of community and togetherness. All agree that a whole new world has been opened up for them because of STAR.

Dean Williams is a resident of the SHA high-rise Center Park and volunteers at the center.

## HUD official visits Seattle, consults on funding for computer labs, other programs

By JEFF ARNIM  
Seattle Housing Authority

Early last month, officials from the Seattle Housing Authority welcomed Ron Ashford, the director of HOPE VI Community and Supportive Services for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, to the Pacific Northwest.

Ashford oversees a number of HUD grant programs, including Resident Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency and the Neighborhood Networks programs.

He came to town to conduct a site visit and see what SHA is doing with grant funding from each of these programs.

After meeting with Seattle Housing Executive Director Tom Tierney and Deputy Executive Director of Finance and Administration Andrew Lofton to discuss the status of services and community building at the Seattle Housing Authority, Ashford toured Neighborhood Networks computer labs at the STAR Center, Yesler Terrace and Rainier Vista, along with Neighborhood House at Rainier Vista, the NewHolly development, and the Job Connection's offices at High Point, to see the services in action.

Despite strong results, the federal government eliminated the Neighborhood Networks grant program in HUD's 2007 budget appropriation, and Ashford discussed the implications of this with some of the affected non-profit organizations during his visit.

He also outlined some of the changes HUD is considering applying to funding for the ROSS grant program.

Though funding changes may be imminent for Neighborhood Networks, the financial sustainability of the program's computer labs is still possible.

Seattle Housing Authority continues to seek funding for its services in collaboration with its partner agencies. Seattle Housing's operating partner for the STAR Center is the non-profit Digital Promise.

## Progress made on SHA Qwest field project

By VIRGINIA FELTON  
Seattle Housing Authority

Pioneer Square is one step closer to seeing a mixed-use development constructed on the northern half of the Qwest Field parking lot, which is the largest undeveloped piece of land in downtown Seattle.

The project was announced last July and has now proceeded to the King County Council for approval.

A council hearing was held on Wednesday, May 16 to consider the deal, and com-

mittee members voted to move the project forward. The Seattle Housing Authority will be part of the development, adding 100 units of housing that will be affordable to people earning 60 percent of area median income.

King County Executive Ron Sims has signed a purchase and sale agreement which will transfer the land (3.8 acres) to the developers for more than \$10 million.

If the agreement is approved by the King County Council, the project is expected to receive its Master Use Permit by July 2008.



## Reader's viewpoint

Readers of *The Voice* share their ideas

### Judge ruled correctly on sign rule case

By KEITH GORMEZANO  
Special to *The Voice*

As a former property manager, I concur with the April 2006 Superior Court ruling that the Seattle Housing Authority cannot prohibit tenants from posting signs on apartment doors because when SHA leases an apartment, they give up their "right to possession" to the apartment doors just as they give up the rest of the apartment.

I know as a former apartment and property manager that it has always been considered the industry trade standard that apartment doors belong to the tenants.

I think the Housing Authority's appeal of the verdict, which was heard last month by the state Supreme Court, was a waste of resources.

In my moderate income senior (and disabled) SHA-operated building, several tenants have posted notices on their doors addressed to SHA employees telling them not to enter without the tenant being present. I wonder why?

Others have posted a list of U.S. soldiers killed in the Iraq war, a flyer supporting Lt. Ehren Watanda, wreaths and holiday decorations, personal items and religious affirmations (such as "All that I have is through Christ.")

While the sign rule only affects Low-income Public Housing communities (basically SHA high-rises and Yesler Terrace), I'm sure that similar signs in those communities would be banned.

The Housing Authority has said one reason behind the rules is that they don't want "clutter" in the common areas. This position is hogwash.

In my building, there are four *duplicate* signs posted next or near to each other by management.

One reminds tenants and visitors not to smoke. The second reminds us to shut the front door and not let in strangers (with candy?) or the visitors of other residents. The third is for the date of the next fire alarm test. And the fourth tells us that the resident manager is going on vacation.

Maybe they ought to walk the talk first. If there is any "visual clutter," SHA management or mismanagement is the cause.

Furthermore, the Housing Authority regularly gives notices to individual tenants by taping them to their doors.

This indicates that SHA does not see the outside of the door as a common area like a utility pole; they think taping notices on the door is the same as leaving them under the door. They are assuming that only the tenant the notice is directed against would turn it over and read it.

If their position is that the front of the door is the same as a utility pole, then isn't SHA violating tenant privacy rights and the public disclosure act by letting others read what they have posted?

James Fearn (the legal counsel for SHA in this appeal) has told me that residents are clients of public institutions and therefore the agency cannot disclose anything about residents to any third party. So why are the rules different for them?

This decision is important. Unlike the private sector, if we don't like the way our public housing management (or should it be manglement?) is treating us, we don't have other alternatives. The supply of low-income and senior/disabled housing is extremely limited. Most of us live in it as a matter of financial necessity.

This appeal wastes financial and legal resources that could be used instead to benefit SHA tenants.

From having successfully done my own lawsuits, I estimate that the Superior Court and State Supreme Court appeals costs on SHA's side will probably exceed \$125,000.

Shouldn't SHA be spending this money on something worthwhile?

*Keith Gormezano is a resident of the Seattle Senior Housing Program building Phinney Terrace.*

Editor's note: The appeal was heard by the Supreme Court after press time and a ruling is not expected immediately. Coverage of the appeal will appear in next month's issue

## Shelly Yapp named chief financial officer at SHA

### SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Michelle (Shelly) Yapp has been selected to be the Seattle Housing Authority's Chief Financial Officer.

Dick Woo, who has held this position for the past several years, has left SHA to take a management position in finance for King County's Human Services Division.

Yapp brings over 25 years of public sector management, financial and policy experience to SHA. Most recently, she held the position of redevelopment director and executive advisor for the Seattle Center. During her tenure there, she was responsible for capital financing of the Seattle Centers' projects, managed over \$600 million in private investment and development at the Seattle Center and successfully completed the redevelopment of McCaw Hall.

"Shelly Yapp brings tremendous general management and financial management ex-

perience to Seattle Housing. I am sure she will be a great addition to our team," said SHA Executive Director Tom Tierney.

Yapp has also served as executive director of the Pike Place Market Preservation & Development Authority, as deputy mayor to Mayor Charles Royer and as the budget director for King County.

As King County budget director, she was responsible for the development and management of the county's \$500 million operating and capital budget and was on the executive finance committee directing investment policies and practices for over 50 county funds.

She has a Bachelors degree in Economics from the University of Washington, where she graduated Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa and has served as a member of the Board of Regents.

She will begin work at the Housing Authority on June 18.



## Diabetes a growing problem

### PUBLIC HEALTH - SEATTLE & KING COUNTY

Diabetes now affects more than 8,400 King County adults, according to a report released by the health department in late April.

"Many people can avoid developing diabetes by maintaining a healthy weight and increasing their physical activity," said Dr. David Fleming, director and health officer for Public Health - Seattle & King

County.

He added that health inequities are a particular concern. Other findings in the report included the fact that African Americans are 2.6 times more likely to be affected by diabetes than whites. Pacific Islanders, Asians and American Indians/Alaskan Natives are also more likely to have the disease.

The full report can be found at <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/datawatch/>.

## The Voice now has an advertising section

By STACY SCHWANDT  
Voice editor

Turn the page, and you will see that for the first time in our 26-year history, The Voice now has an advertising section.

In partnership with Pacific Publishing, we have added two pages of classified and display advertising to the back of this section of the publication.

We have room for up to four pages of advertising, and we hope this exciting new venture will continue to grow.

All of our content will remain the same; we'll just be offering this new feature to our loyal readership.

Many thanks go to Keith Gormezano, a Seattle Housing Authority resident who made the initial connection with Pacific Publishing.

The advertisements will be for everything from job opportunities, to educational services to childcare available.

We're even offering a free person-to-person advertising section for Voice readers

who have something they'd like to sell or are looking for something specific to buy.

Just clip out the coupon on page 7 and mail it in before the 18th of the month, and your ad should appear in the next month's issue.

Pacific Publishing staff members will be in charge of selling the advertising, and businesses and service providers interested in purchasing an ad can contact them directly.

Help wanted ads can be purchased by contacting Mark Manion at 206-461-1318, and all other ads can be purchased by calling Phyllis Date at 206-461-1302.

Pacific Publishing is a Seattle-based newspaper publisher and commercial printer. It is the publisher of the Beacon Hill News, South District Journal, Queen Anne News and Magnolia News among others.

We hope you enjoy this improvement.

Feel free to share your comments with me by e-mailing [stacys@nhwa.org](mailto:stacys@nhwa.org) or calling 206-461-8430, ext. 227.

# JOB FAIR

At Safeco Field The Puget Sound's Largest Employment Event

## Tuesday, June 12th

**10am to 3pm • FREE ADMISSION!**

Come join The Puget Sound Employment Guide at the Seattle Job Fair at Safeco Field and find that career you've been looking for! Meet with employers who are eagerly seeking motivated individuals to fill all types of positions.

### Dress professionally and Bring lots of resumes!

Dozens of leading Puget Sound employers have immediate needs in a variety of industries and many will be conducting **ON-SITE INTERVIEWS!**

**JOB FAIR AT SAFECO FIELD SPONSORED BY:**

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**Employment Guide**  
[www.Employment-Expo.com](http://www.Employment-Expo.com)

Heitz

Look For Our Weekly Newspaper Distributed Throughout the Greater Puget Sound

Parking available in the Safeco Field Parking Garage South of the stadium. For detailed directions, visit us online at [www.Employment-Expo.com](http://www.Employment-Expo.com)

**Companies in attendance will include:**  
Verizon Wireless, Ever's Glass, Flexcar, Home Depot, Wells Fargo, Pepsi Bottle Group, Fred Meyer, Premier Blue Cross, In's, Safeway, Princess Cruise Lines, EcoStar/Dish Network, LESEA (Law Enforcement Support Agency), Ironwood Communications, American Family, DSH, Snohomish County Corrections, Gee Automotive, Iron Mountain, ACC, Schwab's Fine Foods, United, Shuttle Express, Printevia, Barrow Penrose, Sophie Design, Northwest Laborers, Internal Revenue Service, US Customs/Border Patrol, Sunshine Delivery,  
**AND MANY MORE ADDED DAILY!**

For more details, directions and a complete list of companies, visit us online at:  
**[www.Employment-Expo.com](http://www.Employment-Expo.com)**

# CLASSIFIEDS

THE MARKETPLACE OF THE VOICE

## MISCELLANEOUS

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

OFFICIAL COURT NOTICE

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

Price, et al. v. City of Seattle, et al. ) No. CV03-1365L

**TO: ALL REGISTERED OWNERS WHO PAID TO REDEEM THEIR VEHICLES FOLLOWING IMPOUND BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE ONLY FOR DRIVING WITH LICENSE SUSPENDED (DWLS) VIOLATIONS BETWEEN MARCH 20, 2000 AND DECEMBER 27, 2002.**

This notice concerns the proposed settlement of a class action alleging that the City of Seattle unlawfully impounded vehicles for DWLS violations. The settlement provides for reimbursement of fees paid by registered owners to redeem their vehicles from impound. This settlement was negotiated by Class Counsel, Adam Berger of Schroeter Goldmark & Bender, 810 Third Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98104.

#### SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

- The City will establish a \$1.3 million settlement fund for reimbursement of towing, storage, and administrative fees paid by class members to redeem impounded vehicles. If the total of filed claims exceeds the size of the fund, all reimbursements will be reduced *pro rata* to fit within the limits of the fund.
- The class is limited to owners whose vehicles were impounded solely for DWLS violations as stated on the SPD Vehicle Reports accompanying the impound and who redeemed their vehicles from impound.
- Class members must submit verifiable claims to class counsel in order to obtain reimbursement.
- Class counsel will ask the court to award up to \$325,000 in attorney fees and costs from the fund.
- 85% of any money remaining in the settlement fund after payment of claims and fees will revert to the City and 15% will be used by the Seattle Municipal Court to defray the costs of individual participation in the court's DWLS diversion program.

#### HOW TO FILE A CLAIM

- Claim forms must be submitted to Class Counsel by **August 31, 2007**.
- Claim forms may be obtained at [www.sgb-law.com/impoundclassaction](http://www.sgb-law.com/impoundclassaction), or by calling the Impound Class Action hotline at 1-800-424-5259.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION AND PROCEEDINGS

A final fairness hearing on the proposed settlement will be held at the U.S. District Courthouse in Seattle at 9 a.m. on July 9, 2007. You may submit written comments in support of or opposition to the settlement by filing with the Clerk of the Court, with copies to Class Counsel and counsel for the City (Stafford Frey Cooper, 601 Union Street, Suite 3100, Seattle, Washington 98101), by June 25, 2007.

For further information, go to <http://www.sgb-law.com/impoundclassaction>, or call the Impound Class Action hotline at 1-800-424-5259.

**DO NOT TELEPHONE THE COURT REGARDING THIS NOTICE.**

DATED: May 1, 2007

BY ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

## RECRUITMENT & TRAINING



### UNEMPLOYED? UNDER EMPLOYED?

Or Are Your Unemployment  
Benefits Exhausted

#### Seattle Central Community College Worker Retraining Program WE CAN HELP!

- Training in high-wage, high-demand fields, such as Dental Hygiene, Information Technology, Marine Carpentry, Marine Deck and more!
- Career exploration, job search support.
- Tuition funding, transportation assistance, childcare

You may be eligible. Call today!  
(206)587-6310 • [seattlecentral.edu/wrp](http://seattlecentral.edu/wrp)

Summer Quarter-June 25  
Fall Quarter-Sept. 24



Seattle Central Community College complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, age gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, or status as a veteran or Vietnam-era veteran.

### You May Qualify for Our Moderate Income Program!

RATES STARTING AT \$1,195\*

Come see how you may qualify to live in our retirement community with our moderate income program.

#### Rates Include:

- Monthly apartment rent
- Utilities (except phone)
- Scheduled transportation
- Anytime Dining<sup>SM</sup> meal program
- Full activities program

#### What is the Moderate Income Program?

- Discounted rent for qualified seniors
- Qualification is based on income, not assets.

#### Do I Qualify?

- Individual annual income under \$27,250
- Couple's annual income under \$31,150



Call for More  
Details and a  
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# CLASSIFIEDS

THE MARKETPLACE OF THE VOICE

## RECRUITMENT & TRAINING

### CAREGIVERS WANTED

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No Certification Required. But a Heart is! Med avail., Matching Retirement Plan, Vacation Pay, Hourly Shifts to 24 hr Shifts Avail.  
**Minorities and Seniors Encouraged to Apply**

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## RECRUITMENT & TRAINING

### MANPOWER IS NOW HIRING FOR STARBUCKS!

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

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**\$10.00/hr**

All Shifts Available

Call Manpower at

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or submit resume to

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### NOW HIRING SEAFOOD PROCESSORS

#### OCEAN BEAUTY SEAFOODS INC.

in Ballard is looking for seafood handlers & processors.

- Extended Hours • Weekends
- O/T Opportunities • Med/Dent Ins.

Great Opportunity with strong employer.  
 Drug/Background check required.

Apply at Ocean Beauty Seafood, Inc. • 1100 W. Ewing St. Seattle, WA 98119  
 between 8:00-4:00 PM or apply online at [www.oceanbeauty.com](http://www.oceanbeauty.com)

**WE WILL TRAIN EXCELLENT BENEFITS**

or e-mail [donna.kees@oceanbeauty.com](mailto:donna.kees@oceanbeauty.com)  
 Women & minorities encouraged to apply. EOE



### Got Stuff to Sell? Turn it into CASH!

A Community Garage Sale is a wonderful way to pool lots of items for sale & attract lots of buyers!

So why not pool your resources & submit a FREE Garage Sale Coupon below.



## CLASSIFIEDS

### Items for Sale

Learn QuickBooks (financial accounting software) to get ahead/ manage your finances. Free copy of Simple Start (starter edition). Fully functional with some limitations. [bb822@scn.org](mailto:bb822@scn.org)

### Autos For Sale

2000 Chrysler Cirrus LX  
 Low miles, loaded, clean, must see to believe. \$4800.  
 206-527-6115

### Services

Need to set up QuickBooks for your business? Tutor you so you can manage it instead of the other way around? BBB Member.  
[a\\_better\\_temporary@hotmail.com](mailto:a_better_temporary@hotmail.com) (206) 789-8328

## Market place coupon

Do you have a couch or other item you want to sell? Take advantage of the free person-to-person classified advertising in The Voice by filling out your 24-word ad below. Remember, write only one word per line and don't forget to include your telephone number in your ad! Mail your ad before the 18th of the month and it will be included in the next month's issue.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Write your ad here (one word per line)

\_\_\_\_\_  
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Check the classification: Items for sale Autos for sale  
 Items wanted Services

Mail to: PPC, 4000 Aurora Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98133 Fax: 206-461-1285  
 E-mail: [classmgr@nwlink.com](mailto:classmgr@nwlink.com) w/subject line "The Voice"

# TRANSLATIONS

TRANSLATED ARTICLES FROM THE VOICE

## City forming board on immigrant, refugee issues

### Город создаёт совет для иммигрантов и беженцев

В Сиэтле создаётся совет для консультативной помощи мэру Грегу Никелсу (Greg Nickels) и городскому совету Сиэтла по проблемам иммигрантов и беженцев, как часть плана действий, способствующих удовлетворению нужд этой группы населения.

«Как вы знаете, город Сиэтл действительно своеобразный город, - сказала Мерилин Литлджон (Marilyn Littlejohn), работающая в офисе мэра. - Иммигранты и беженцы составляют 17 процентов от общего количества населения и эта цифра увеличивается с каждым годом.»

Создание совещательного совета только один из нескольких пунктов трёхлетнего плана действий, разработанного обществом иммигрантов и беженцев. План вовлечения возник в прошлом году, когда мэр призвал к улучшению

услуг для людей, не владеющих в совершенстве английским.

Совещательный совет предполагает начать свою работу в этом месяце в составе 15 членов. Скорее всего, собрания совета будут проходить в различных местах города, чтобы способствовать привлечению большего количества людей к участию в заседаниях совета.

«Предстоят определённые сложности с созданием этого совещательного совета,» - сказала Литлджон и при этом добавила, что её офис будет работать со всеми обществами иммигрантов, чтобы определить их пути вовлечения в совет, который будет соответствовать всем их нуждам.

«Общество иммигрантов состоит из многих обществ иммигрантов в Сиэтле, - сказала она. - Мы должны заставить это работать, чтобы люди почувствовали, что у них есть представительство.»

Для дополнительной информации о совете звоните 206-233-3894.

## Magaalada waxay sameysay guddi ka baaraandega Qaxootiga iyo soo galootiga City forming board on immigrant, refugee issues

Magaalada Seattlewaxay sameysay Guddi la taliya Diqa Magaalada Greg Nickels iyo a Seattle Guddoogeda oo ku saabsan Qaxootiga iyo Soogalootiga taasoo ka mid ah ficil qorshe oo la doonayo in lala kulmo Jaaliyadaha.

“Sida aad ogtahayba Magaalada Seattlewaxay ka mid tahay magaaloooyinka kala,” sidaas waxaa yiri Marilyn Littlejohn, oo u shaqeeya Xafiiska Duqa. “Dadka soo galootiga ah ama Qaxootigaba waxay ka dhigaysaa 17 boqolkiiba dadka deegaanka iyo lambarrada kor u kacayo sannad weliba.”

Samaynta Guddiga la talinta arromp badan oo saddex sano qorshe ah oo soo baxay kuna saabsan Daddka Qaxootiga iyo Soogalootiga ah Jaaliyadaha mashruuciisa. Mashruucaas wuxuu bilaabmay sannadkii hore markii Duqa ugu yeeray si wanaagsan loo dhaqo dadka deegaanka oo luqadooda Ingiriiska ay haddidan tahay.

Guddiga La talinta waxaa laga sugayaa inay kor u qaadaan bishaan waxay heli doonaan dad gaaraya ilaa 15 xubnood kuwaasoo sida la jecayl yahay ka imaanayaa meelo kala duwan oo magaalada ka mid ah dad fara badasn oo Qaxooti ka maid ahina ka mid noqon doonaan shirka.

“Isugeynta la taliyeyaashaan wuxuu leeyahay ku dayasho,” Littlejohn baa yiri ku daridda xafiiskeeda wuxuu u shaqayn doonaa qof kasta Soo galootiga ka mid ahi si uu u caawimo Jaaliyadda si loo helo waxa loo baahna yahay.

“Dadka Soogalootiga Jaaloyaddeda waa dadka ugu badan Seattle,” Ayey tiri. “Waa inaan samaynaa shaqo oo dadkaan ka qayb gelaya wakiilo ka ah.”

Wixii dheeraad ah oo ku saabsan Guddiga wac 206-233-3894.

## THÀNH PHỐ CHO THÀNH LẬP BAN CỐ VẤN VỀ VẤN ĐỀ NGƯỜI DI DÂN VÀ TỊ NẠN

### City forming board on immigrant, refugee issues

Thành Phố Seattle đang thành lập ban cố vấn để đưa ra các khuyến cáo đến cho Thị Trưởng Greg Nickels và cho Hội Đồng Nghị Viên Thành Phố Seattle về các vấn đề của người di dân và người tị nạn, như là một thành phần của ban hành động được đưa ra nhằm làm chắc rằng các nhu cầu của những cộng đồng trên được đáp ứng.

“Như quý vị biết thành phố Seattle là một thành phố đa dạng,” bà Marilyn Littlejohn, nhân viên làm việc trong văn phòng thị trưởng, đã nói như thế. “Người di dân và người tị nạn góp phần vào 17 phần trăm số dân và con số này càng tăng theo mỗi năm”.

Thành lập ban cố vấn là một trong những tiết mục trong chương trình hành động 3 năm mà trong đó có dự án liên đới với người di dân và người tị nạn. Dự án này bắt đầu năm rồi khi ông thị trưởng đã kêu gọi để có phương cách tốt hơn để phục vụ người dân thành phố có khả năng nói tiếng Anh hạn hẹp.

Ban cố vấn kỳ vọng được thành lập xong và hoạt động vào tháng này, sẽ có khoản 15 thành viên. Có lẽ ban này sẽ họp ở các địa điểm khác nhau trong thành phố, để chắc rằng sẽ có số đông người di dân được đến tham dự các cuộc họp của ban cố vấn.

Sẽ có nhiều thách thức khi thành lập ban cố vấn,” bà Littlejohn đã nói, thêm vào đó, văn phòng của bà sẽ làm việc với các cộng đồng di dân để giúp tìm ra những đường lối để tham gia vào ban cố vấn nhằm đáp ứng được

## City forming board on immigrant, refugee issues

### ለተፈናቃይና ለስደተኛ ጉዳዮች ከተማው ቦርድ አቋቋመ

የተፈናቃይና የስደተኛ ጉዳዮችን ተግባራዊ በሆነ መንገድ ለመስራትና እነዚህ ኮሚኒቲዎችም አስፈላጊ ነገሮችን ማግኘታቸውን ለማድረግ ኒክልስና ለሲያትል ከተማ ቦርድ ማማከር እንዲቻል ቦርድ ተቋቁሟል።

ከሚኖሩ ቢሮ የምትሰራው ሚሪሊን ሊትልጆን እንዲህ አለች። “እንደምታውቁት የሲያትል ከተማ የተለያዩ ሰዎች የሚኑሩበት ከተማ ነው,” በተፈናቃይና በስደተኝነት የሚኖሩ ወደ 17 ፐርሰንት ሲሆኑ በየመቱም በመጨመር ላይ ይገኛል።

ይህን የመማከር ቦርድ ለመመስረት ለሶስት ዓመት በተግባር ከሚውሉት እቅዶች መካከል አንዱ ሲሆን የመነጨውም ከተፈናቃዩና ከስደተኛ ኮሚኒቲዎች ኢንጌጅመንት ፕሮጀክት ነው። ይህ የእንጌጅመንት ፕሮጀክት የጀመረው ባለፈው ዓመት ውስጥ እንግሊዘኛ ተናጋሪ ኗሪዎችን በይበልጥ ለመርዳት ሚኖሩ ባደረጉት ሃሳብ ነው።

የመማከር ቦርድ የሚጀምረው በዚህ ወር ሲሆን ወደ 15 አባላት ይኖሩታል። በተነፋቃይነት የሚኖሩትን ሁሉ ለማገልገል ቦርዱ በተለያዩ ቦታዎች በመገናኘት ስብሰባ ያደርጋል።

ሊትልጆን እንዳለችው “ይህን መማከር ቦርድ አንድ አድርጎ ለመምራት ትግል ይኖረዋል” በማለት የሷ ቢሮ ከእያንዳንዱ የተነፋቃይ ኮሚኒቲ አባል ጋር እንደምትሰራና ከቦርድ አባላት እንዲሳተፉ ጥረት እንደምታደርግ ገልጻለች።

እሷ እንዳለችው “የተናፋቃዩ ኮሚኒቲ ብዛት ያለው የሲያትል ኮሚኒቲ ነው። እያንዳንዱን ውክልና እንዳለው ለማሳወቅ ይህን በተግባር ማሳየት አለብን,” ብላለች።

ስለቦርዱ ተጨማሪ መረጃ ለማወቅ በስልክ ቁጥር 206-233-3894 ይደውሉ።

các nhu cầu của họ.

“Người di dân có nhiều cộng đồng nhỏ ở Seattle,” bà nói. “Chúng tôi phải thực hiện điều này bằng được để người dân cảm thấy họ có được sự đại diện”.

Muốn biết thêm chi tiết về ban cố vấn, xin hãy cho số 206-233-3894.

## City forming board on immigrant, refugee issues

### ምምሕዳር ከተማ ስያትል ብዛዕባ ጉዳይ ስደተኛታት ዘማኸር ቦርድ ክቕወም እዩ።

ምምሕዳር ከተማ ስያትል ናይ ስደተኛታት ጉዳይ ዝምልከት ቦርድ ብምቕም ንክንቲባ ስያትል ሚስተር ኒክልስ ሲቲ ካውንስልን ዘማኸሩ ክምስርት እዩ እዚ ስጉምቲ እዚ እተውሰደሉ ምክንያትን ዓላማን ስደተኛታት ብዝለዓለ ንምሕጋዝ እዩ።

“ክምእትፈልጠዎ ከተማ ስያትል ዝተፈላለዩ ዓሌታትን ካብ ዝተፈላለዩ ሃገራት ዝፈለሱ ስደተኛታት ዝነብሩላ ከምኻና ትብል ማርሊን ሊትል ጆን ሰራሕተኛ ቤት ጽሕፈት ናይ ክንቲባ ኒክልስ ስደተኛታት ኣብዛ ከተማ ብዝሓም 17% እዩ እቲ ቁጽሮም እዉን ኣብ ነብሲ ወክፍ ዓመት እናበዝሑ ይመጽእ ኣሎ።

ኣድቫይዞር ቦርድ ኣማኸርቲ ቦርድ ምቕም ኣደ ናይቲ ናይ ሰለስተ ዓመት ናይ ስጉምቲ እማመ ኮይኑ ብመሰረት ናይ ስደተኛታት ምውሳኔ ፕሮጀክት ዝዓለመ እዩ። እዚ ናይ ምውሳኔ ፕሮጀክት ዓሚ ስርሑ ጀሚሩ ክንቲባ ኒክልስ ንእንግሊዝኛ ዘይዛረቡ ዜጋታት ብዝበለጸ ንምግልጋል ብዘልዓሎ ጉዳይ መሰረት እዩ።

እዚ ኣድቫይዞር ቦርድ ኣብዚ ወርሒ ኣዚ ስርሑ ክጀምር ትጽቢት ይግበረሉ ኣሎ ኣባላቲ ድማ 15 ክኾኑ ኣዮም ኣብዝተፈላለዩ ኣከባቢ ናይታ ከተማ ድማ ኣኼባ የካይዱ ምእንቲ ስደተኛታት ኣብቲ ናይ ቦርድ ኣኼባታት ብብዝሒ መታን ክሳተፉ

እዚ ቦርድ እዚ ኣብ ኣደ ጌርካ ምጥርናፍ ኣጸጋሚ ክኸውን ይኽእል ኣዩ ትብል ማርሊን ብተወሳኺ ቤት ጽሕፈታ ምስኩሎም ናይ ስተደኛታት ኮሚኒቲ ብሓባር ብምስራሕ ብከመይ ኣብዚ እኼባታት ክሳተፍሉ ዝኽእሉ መንገዲ ብምንዳይ

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ብዝበለጸ ኣብሬታ ንምርካብ ብዛዕባ እዚ ዝቕወም ቦርድ ንምፍላጥ ኣብዚ ዝስዕብ ስልኪ ቁጽሪ ትድውሉ 206-233-3894.

**Khmer translator out**  
The Voice's Khmer translator is on vacation. The Khmer translation should return next month. Sorry for the inconvenience.

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.

**Youth learn about culture**  
SOMALI/OROMO GROUP GAINS STEAM  
See page 7



# SHA NEWS

June  
2007

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

## SHA looks at resident communications

*Seeks input from readers on the value and effectiveness of The Voice*

By VIRGINIA FELTON  
SHA Communications Director

As Seattle Housing Authority staff begins budgeting for next year, we are looking at our current communications activities to see whether we are spending our communications funds wisely and effectively.

This could mean changes for The Voice, and we are interested in hearing from you about what you value in this newspaper.

For over 20 years, our primary means of communicating with residents about SHA activities has been through this paper, which is published by Neighborhood House under contract with SHA.

Most housing authorities do not have a newspaper similar to The Voice. Many produce their own newsletters, which are sometimes written and distributed by property management staff.

As communications director, I have long felt that contracting with Neighborhood House for The Voice has been a good way to give residents a greater say in the paper.

Voice Editor Stacy Schwandt has consistently encouraged SHA staff who contribute articles to evaluate issues from a resident's perspective.

She also leads an active resident advisory committee that aims to ensure readers have the opportunity to communicate directly with one another by writing articles, columns and letters to the editor.

I believe that this collaboration has improved the quality of communications.

However, as SHA continues to deal with declining federal financial support, I am trying to evaluate whether the cost of producing The Voice can continue as part of SHA's budget.

It is important for SHA to make information available to residents on a regular basis. Here are some topics that Seattle

Housing Authority needs to communicate about regularly:

- Possible policy changes affecting residents
- Changes to residents' leases
- Construction taking place in SHA buildings (e.g., homeWorks)
- Public hearings or meetings that residents may be interested in
- Changes in SHA management and maintenance personnel

Beyond these basics, SHA has communicated via The Voice about larger issues such as community redevelopments and federal funding.

In addition, The Voice provides Neighborhood House, other social service organizations and SHA itself with a way to spread news about programs that provide valuable resources to readers.

It also provides a place for all of us to celebrate the events and people who are making a difference in your communities.

There are a number of other ways SHA could communicate with residents, but few of them are as comprehensive.

We could produce smaller newsletters specifically for each community. We could include essential information in our rent statements. We could make greater use of bulletin boards in each of the buildings. Or, SHA could try to hold more frequent meetings in the various communities to exchange information with residents.

One very specific challenge we face in communicating with residents is the difficulty of reaching people who do not speak English as their primary language.

Although The Voice prints several translated articles each month, many residents are not readers, so written communication is not always effective, even if it is in a resident's native language.

As I look at various alternatives for resident communication activities, it would be very helpful to hear from readers of The Voice.

What are your ideas and opinions? If you were me, how would you tackle this challenge?

What topics are most important to you? Is The Voice an important means for you to learn about your communities? If not, what do you think is needed?

Please give me the benefit of your comments and suggestions.

You can reach me by mail at Virginia Felton, Seattle Housing Authority, 120 Sixth Ave. N., P.O. Box 19028, Seattle, WA 98109-1028, by e-mail at vfelton@seattlehousing.org, or by phone at 206-615-3506.

Thank you.

## The Job Connection expands its services in North Seattle



PHOTO BY SAMUEL PIERCE

The Job Connection staff working in North Seattle include (from left to right) Jenny Lee, Larry Hill, Jenny Goto and Wubnesh Habtemariam.

### SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

In early 2003, the Job Connection opened in north Seattle by co-locating with the non-profit Resident Services in the Lake City Way high rise.

Since opening its doors, the demand for services has increased.

Recognizing that limited coverage wasn't enough to meet the growing demand, Laura Lakings-Becvar, Seattle Housing Authority's employment services coordinator, committed to expanding the staff and the hours of operation.

Now, four staff members are available five days a week.

"We recognize the need to have services available five days per week and to have multiple languages available through this office," she said. "We are fortunate to have staff who speak four languages in addition to English so that we may accommodate residents who speak English as a second language."

The staff covering the Lake City Way office include Jenny Lee who speaks fluent Vietnamese. Lee, who has been with the Job Connection since 2000, will offer case management services on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wubnesh Habtemariam speaks fluent

Amharic, Tigrigna and French and has also been with the Job Connection since 2000. Habtemariam will offer assessment, case management and placement services on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is also available as needed and through the Yesler Terrace office.

Larry Hill has worked in the Jobs Plus program and the Job Connection program since 1999.

As a placement specialist, Hill has developed a large portfolio of employer contacts that span across a wide range of occupations. He will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Every other Thursday the office will close at 1 p.m.

Jenny Goto has been with SHA since 1988 and also worked in the Job Plus program. Goto will provide office support and administration of assessments to the North Seattle office. Goto will also be available on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Every other Thursday the office will close at 1 p.m.

The best way to apply for services is to call the Job Connection office at 206-363-1471. If there is no answer, please call the Yesler Terrace office at 206-344-5837 or the Rainier Vista office at 206-722-4010.

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## SHA assesses translation, interpretation needs

By SCOTT FREUTEL  
Seattle Housing Authority

Seattle Housing Authority does business with an amazingly varied community of people from landlords to residents to applicants for housing. Nowhere is this better demonstrated than in the number of languages spoken by tenants.

A recent analysis indicates that nearly

one-third of current households in SHA's housing programs speak a language other than English. Among them, these households speak at least 25 languages. Many of the people who live in these households are classified by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development as having limited English proficiency.

As part of a new mandate from HUD, Please see "Translation" on page 2

## Olive Ridge gets a new entry



PHOTO BY JUAN MEDINA

Construction workers prepare the new Olive Ridge entryway.

By SVEN KOEHLER  
Seattle Housing Authority

Making a grand entrance just got easier at Olive Ridge.

The homeWorks crew has changed the way residents enter their building. This includes a new entry canopy over the front door, a reconfigured drive and a new telephone entry system.

More than just a covered place to wait to be picked up by a vehicle, the canopy is an architectural element that creates a more welcoming look to the building, similar to what you might find at a hotel.

Olive Ridge underwent a thorough exterior renovation a few years before the homeWorks project began. The new canopy matches the new façade's colored stucco and has sky lights to lend some natural light to the entrance.

Resident Alice Clark appreciates the possibility of getting out of the rain while waiting for her ride.

"I used to wait inside the lobby, but I like the fresh air. There's enough room under the roof for me to wait outside and still see whose coming," she said.

While at first glance the canopy seems like the biggest deal, some residents see the reconfiguration of the drive as the most useful change.

"People were always parking and blocking the drive. It made it hard for the Access bus or Hopelink vans to extend their ramps," recounted resident Kathy Panciera.

The old drive was a narrow circular lane.

"We've been asking management to do something about it for years," Clark said.

That old drive has been converted into a pull-out on the curb of the road. Now, vans

can simply pull off the side of the road to pick up or drop off passengers. The concrete sidewalk in front of the building has been re-poured, and a larger walkway now leads to the building.

While the end product is certainly welcome, the construction did involve some impacts. During the excavation for the concrete footings, a broken sewer pipe was discovered deep underground. Luckily, it was repaired with minimal interruption in service.

Another impact was the temporary relocation of the entry to the side of the building while the front door was fenced off.

A wheelchair ramp and temporary walls were constructed through a utility room to make entry easier for the four-month duration of construction. The alternative entry had to be secure, so the card reader was temporarily relocated from the front door.

In addition, the doorbell panel at the front door was blocked by the construction. Those old panels are being replaced by a telephone-based system in every homeWorks building that had doorbells.

Olive Ridge residents used their new telephone entry system for the first time from this temporary location. It will be relocated to the front of the building when the new entry is in full operation.

Besides the revamped entry, other work at Olive Ridge has similarities to the rest of the homeWorks buildings, such as a new e-call system, roof-top building ventilation and renovated community areas. However, the domestic water pipe replacement was done years before, along with the exterior. In addition, this is the only building in the homeWorks construction project that is not involved in the Tax Credit program for financing.

## New staff member joins SHA, writes for Voice

### SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Jeff Arnim recently joined the Seattle Housing Authority as the organization's technical communications specialist.

He manages SHA's Web-based communications and performs a variety of other functions for the office, including writing for *The Voice*.

"I'm proud to be part of an organization that improves people's lives in a meaningful way," he said. "The opportunity to make a difference in our community here is tremendous."

Other SHA communications staff members who regularly write articles for *The Voice* include Virginia Felton, Scott Freutel and Claire McDaniel.



Jeff Arnim

## Corrections

### SHA commitments listed inaccurately

Some of the specifics about SHA's commitments to the tenants of the Douglas Apartment were inaccurate in last month's issue of *The Voice*.

SHA has committed to providing a maximum of \$2,462 in relocation assistance. This does not mean that each household is guaranteed this amount. The specific amount of relocation benefits depends on each household's circumstances.

While most residents would be welcomed back to the renovated apartments, SHA would expect to apply its usual screening criteria and would not invite back tenants who had caused problems there. The Housing Authority expects that the apartments will remain affordable to people earning less than 80 percent of median income, with some apartments affordable at lower levels. Residents of these apartments should rely on SHA's direct communications with them

for the specifics on these issues.

### Photo caption wrong

Due to an editing error, the photo caption that accompanied an article about residents lobbying efforts was incorrect. The residents met with staff members of senators and representatives in Seattle. Shakti Hawkins is from Rep. Jim McDermott's office.

### DVD provider misnamed

Due to an editing error, the person who secured a DVD/VHS player for Phinney Terrace was misnamed. It was resident B.J. Wilson.

### Organization name incorrect

The name of the Vietnamese American Economic Development Association was printed incorrectly in last month's issue.

*Editor's Note: The Voice strives to be an accurate publication, and we apologize for our mistakes and correct them as soon as they are brought to our attention. If you spot an error, please e-mail stacys@nhwa.org or call 206-461-8430, ext. 227.*

## Translation

### Continued from front page

public housing agencies, including SHA, must demonstrate that they are providing appropriate language assistance to people who are not proficient in English.

Housing authorities must also evaluate periodically whether their efforts to do this are effective.

As a first step in updating its policies under this new mandate, SHA is polling its staff to find out what resources they currently use to help people find translators and interpreters as needed.

So far it seems the languages for which translators and interpreters are most often requested are, in order, Vietnamese, Somali, Tigrigna, Amharic, Spanish, Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin), Russian, and Cambodian. Housing Authority staff also received requests for interpreters in Oromo, Laotian, Korean, Arabic and Farsi.

The chief resource SHA staff turned

to is the telephone Language Line, which provides real-time interpretation in a wide variety of languages. Another is the Dynamic Language Center, a woman- and minority-owned business that provides both interpretation and translation in scores of languages.

Dynamic Language Center also provides sign language interpreters.

According to James Fearn, SHA's General Counsel, the agency is working to find the right balance in providing services to LEP people — a balance that provides the greatest number of people translation and interpreting services at a cost the agency can afford.

"HUD doesn't demand that we provide, say, a translation into every language of every document residents and applicants may need or want to know about," he said recently. "But we are required to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to limited English proficient persons while not incurring undue financial burdens."



## Letters to the Editor

*Readers of The Voice speak out*

### TO THE EDITOR,

In her response to last issue's article on the newest member of the SHA Board of Commissioners, "Housing Authority weighs in on role of commissioners," Virginia Felton obviously misunderstood both the residents' expectations and Commissioner Yusuf Cabdi's role in that March meeting. She was not at that meeting and really should not speak for what residents expect.

Much to his credit as a new member of the board, Cabdi called the meeting as an opportunity to introduce himself to residents beyond his immediate community contacts.

Residents present did not expect exclusivity from the commissioner.

However, there are historical events pertaining to that "resident" seat that do beg

to be addressed. Felton may have forgotten that that seat was established when residents and community activists petitioned Olympia for the creation of a second "resident" seat specifically to address the predicament the Seattle Senior Housing Program had been placed in following acquisition of the Morrison Hotel, among other things.

The problems that motivated that group were far more significant than landlord-tenant issues and to suggest otherwise demeans the sincerity of those activists and the gravity of the issues.

It cannot be denied that Commissioner Cabdi is a resident or that he brings a resident's perspective to the post. Yes, we expect that of him, and we are encouraged by his willingness to hear us.

Bette Reed

President, Blakeley Manor Council

### 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 about anything you've read in this publication, feel free to contact Editor Stacy Schwandt at 206-461-8430, ext. 227 or by e-mail at stacys@nhwa.org.

You can also mail submissions to: The Voice, Neighborhood House, 905 Spruce St. #200, Seattle, WA 98104. Please include your name and contact information on your submission.

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

# POINT OF VIEW

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

## Vending machine funds questioned SHA considering an alternative system

BY STACY SCHWANDT  
Voice editor

After years of controversy over vending machine commissions used to pay for resident activities, the Seattle Housing Authority is considering a different approach to supporting community events in its high-rise and senior buildings.

Though final decisions have not yet been made, Housing Authority officials said they may shift to supporting resident activities directly from the general fund, absorbing the vending commissions into this budget.

The 59 vending machines in SHA high-rises and senior buildings are owned by Summit Vending, an Everett-based company with about 5,000 machines in the area.

Summit stocks the machines, monitors the product sales and calculates the commissions, which are a percentage of gross sales.

Currently, the Housing Authority passes the commissions on quarterly, with some deductions, to the buildings in which the vending machines sit.

The money can be spent on summer barbecues, holiday parties, common room televisions or other items that improve life in the community as long as the buildings' tenants or councils vote on the use.

Residents began questioning their commission checks and the accounting behind them more than two years ago.

Cedarvale resident Rick Harrison, then treasurer of his building's community council, said he raised a red flag with the Housing Authority in 2005 when the building's first quarter payment dropped to \$16.64 from \$109.31 the quarter before.

"That was how I first stumbled onto it," he said. "When we started talking to other buildings, we found out they had suffered huge losses, also."

Raymond Vincent, president of the Bell Tower Community Council said his building was one of those that noticed some problems.

But whereas Vincent said the Housing Authority worked with Summit Vending to address his concerns — Bell Tower has received reimbursement checks two or three times, he said — Harrison has never been satisfied with the accounting of the sales.

In October 2006, he filed a public records request with the Housing Authority, asking for a number of documents including the quarterly sales reports from Summit.

He quickly noticed that the snack machine in his building didn't show up on Summit's reports.

In response to his inquiry, SHA officials figured out that eight machines were missing from the sales reports, and they contacted Summit.

By November, Summit had done an internal audit and provided sales reports for the machines, which they said were installed between 2005 and 2006.

They sent a check for \$656.25, the total commission they said was owed to SHA. The Housing Authority then distributed the money to the buildings.

But Harrison questioned Summit's claim that the Cedarvale snack machine was installed in the fourth quarter of 2005. He said he was excited when he moved into the building in 2004, because it had a snack machine stocked with Ruger's wafers, one

of his favorites.

Upon further questioning, SHA said Summit discovered a machine swap in December 2005, which meant that a machine installed in the third quarter of 2004 did not get included in the audit. Summit is currently auditing this machine, SHA said.

When questioned by The Voice, Nickolas Streeter, customer service representative for Summit Vending, could not give a definitive explanation as to why the machines were unaccounted for, speculating that they may have been left behind from previous vending contracts or that there may have been confusion on the part of his collectors.

According to Harrison, there are still machines that do not show up on any audits, including one in Jackson Park.

Harrison also takes issue with Summit's gross sales reports, pointing out that there are numerous months where no sales were reported for a given building, but no indication that the missed revenue was made up somewhere else.

"We don't trust those numbers for very good reasons," he said, adding that the gross sales figures, which are supposed to be actual sales figures without any deductions, aren't divisible by the amount the products cost.

Cedarvale has a soda machine in which all of the flavors cost \$1, but Summit's gross sales reports for the machine have been numbers like \$88.60 and \$76.25, he said.

"That's a pretty good common sense question," Streeter responded, but added that there is always a small margin of error on the part of the person counting the money and that money is left behind in the machines to make change.

He went on to say that his company would never compromise its lucrative vending contracts with school districts by skimming money from their SHA accounts, which are not top performers.

"The last thing we're going to do as a company is to steal from SHA, especially with numbers so low," he said. "To steal 2 percent of nothing is nothing — it's not going to make much of a difference for us."

Former SHA Chief Financial Officer Dick Woo, who recently left to take another job, said that from a cost-benefit analysis it is not worth the SHA staff time to ensure the Summit's accounting is flawless.

The average quarterly commission for all of the buildings totals only \$3,000.

Furthermore, Director of Housing Operations Don Ashlock said the finance department has sunk months' worth of time into responding to Harrison's concerns, at the expense of more important work.

"This is not a (big enough) thing for SHA to be putting that much attention into," he said. "Our focus is on providing low-income housing. We have bigger fish to fry."

Harrison has been working with attorneys from Starbucks, who provide pro bono legal services to low-income people. He is considering a lawsuit.

Other Housing Authorities do not pass vending commissions onto tenants, said Community Services Division Administrator John Forsyth.

"We are literally giving the money away to the residents," he said. "At this point, it's costing us money to give that money away."

## Westwood Heights resident named volunteer of the year

BY CLAIRE MCDANIEL  
Seattle Housing Authority

Vivienne Finan, a Westwood Heights resident of four and a half years, got a pleasant surprise in May when she was named Volunteer of the Year by Home Care Association of Washington for her volunteer work with the Highline Hospice Bereavement Program.

For the past 12 years, Finan has been the one of the backbones of the bereavement program, Ann Tamminen the Hospice bereavement coordinator said.

Her work with family members who have recently lost a loved one has included making phone calls and personal visits. Those she has worked with have expressed their appreciation of her warmth and caring, Tamminen said.

Vivienne "brings good listening skills, a sense of humor and a good perspective to her work," she added. "If a group member has a special need, Vivienne often follows up with him or her after a group ends."

In addition to her bereavement work, Finan has supported the program by volunteering to help with mailings, serving on panels for training new bereavement volunteers and representing the agency at health fairs.

Finan has also been a member of the Highline Hospice's volunteer advisory board and is one of the most regular attendees at the monthly volunteer meetings, often bringing food to share.

Before volunteering at the Highline Hospice, Finan volunteered with a hospice in Brunswick, Ga. for eight years.

"I knew that there were hospice programs around in Washington and there was a notice in my church bulletin that



PHOTO BY CLAIRE MCDANIEL

Vivienne Finan was named volunteer of the year by Home Care Association of Washington.

they needed volunteers at Highline, so I thought, well, I might as well get back into it," said Finan.

Although she is humble, Finan says she finds her work at the Hospice rewarding.

"When someone loses an individual, in a couple of months, other people think they should be over it. They don't want to hear it anymore," she said. "They don't want to hear that you're in misery or anything. But, it takes a long time to get over it. The purpose of having a bereavement program is a volunteer will follow with a particular person for a year or longer. It just gives them someone to talk to. It's rewarding to know that you're able to help somebody and that they feel comfortable with you."

### Look for more high-rise and SHA news in cover section

Inside the cover section of The Voice, you'll find news about Denny Terrace, the STAR Center, the RAC sign rule lawsuit and much more.

That's the section titled "The Voice". Go there for more great stories!

## RAC election on June 26

BY JM BUSH  
RAC Secretary

The Resident Action Council is a community organization made up of residents from all Low-income Public Housing communities owned by Seattle Housing Authority. This includes 28 high-rises and Yesler Terrace.

We will be holding an election for officers on Tuesday, June 26 at 2 p.m. at Center Park, 2121 26th Ave. S.

Candidates include the following people. (Those with an asterisk next to their name are the current office holders.)

President — Doug Morrison\*, Rick Harrison. Vice President — Kristin O'Donnell. Secretary — JM (Jim) Bush\*, Gordon Geisbeck. Treasurer — Mahfooz Junejo, Lynda Musselman. Ombudsperson — Regina Owens\*, Lois Gruber.

All candidates will make a short presentation before the voting takes place.

### Jefferson Terrace Juneteenth

Join the 6th annual celebration on June 15 starting at 4:30 p.m. at Jefferson Terrace. There will be music, dinner and stories about Juneteenth traditions.

# HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY

## High Point residents select trustee candidates

*Elections taking place now*

### SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

High Point residents selected 16 candidates to run for High Point Neighborhood Association trustee positions in this month's elections.

Trustee candidates from voting group A include Mary Castillo, Jennifer Cobb, Andrew Mead, Abdirahman Mohamed, Marlena Okimow, Penny Robinson, Presalyn Simani, Joyce Taylor Williams, Joni Vanderburg and Coree Walker.

Residents who live in this voting group with elect two trustees.

Candidates from voting group B include Steve Barham, Jean Campbell, Willie L. Carter, Douglas McQuaid, Yon Noy and Liz Nguyen.

Voting group B, which has significantly more residents because it includes Elizabeth House, will elect three trustees.

All trustees will serve three-year terms.

Residents can meet the candidates at a forum at Viewpoint Park on Saturday, June 9 from 1 to 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Residents aged 18 and over can vote in the Neighborhood Association elections, which are taking place from June 3 to 14.

Ballots were mailed to every household early this month.

Completed ballots may be returned by mail or dropped off at official election sites located at Elizabeth House, Seattle Housing

Authority's Impact Property Management office and the High Point Community Center.

Completed ballots also may be turned in at the annual elections meeting at Elizabeth House on June 14 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Association elections will be final and complete at the close of the annual meeting.

The Neighborhood Association was created to provide an opportunity for all High Point residents to come together to celebrate the community, plan neighborhood events and address common concerns.

Trustees serve as the Neighborhood Association's Board of Directors, overseeing its business, engaging residents in community activities, representing neighbors' concerns and allocating association funds.

For election purposes, existing trustees divided the currently-occupied sections of High Point into two voting groups. Residents are electing trustees from within their voting group.

In a letter sent to every household in early May, the three existing trustees invited residents to nominate themselves or their neighbors for the open positions.

A nominations meeting was held on May 10. Nearly 30 High Point renters and homeowners came together to nominate fellow residents.

County, Microsoft, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundations and individuals.

The community phase of the fundraising campaign will be kicked off when construction starts in April.

There are some important things you can do to help us get the building built on time and on budget.

Talk with your neighbors about the Neighborhood Center. Join them and other friends to do things to raise money for the center. Every little bit helps, including car washes and bake sales. The fundraising campaign can bring the new High Point community together.

Campaign meetings and events will be a chance for residents to meet each other and make new friends and professional connections. People caring for others and working together is what will make this campaign a success.

Recently, a Green Team was formed to talk about how the center can reflect the High Point community's green and energy-efficient landscaping and homes.

The team is a group of volunteers interested in figuring out how the building can teach about sustainable living and the conservation of resources.

To get involved or learn more contact Peter Wolf, High Point Capital Campaign Director at 206-461-8430 or by e-mail at peterw@nhwa.org.

*Karla Tentschert is a Neighborhood House volunteer and Peter Wolf is the High Point Capital Campaign Director.*

## Coming soon: the High Point Neighborhood Center

BY KARLA TENTSCHERT AND PETER WOLF  
*Special to The Voice*

Residents of West Seattle's High Point community know something exciting is going on in their neighborhood.

Construction of the High Point Neighborhood Center will start in 11 months.

The 18,500 square foot center will have resources and programs for everyone. The building, which will be located in the Commons Park, will be built to high environmental standards.

It will have inviting spaces where people will gather for meetings and celebrations and private offices where individuals can get important services for themselves and their families.

The neighborhood center, which will be owned and operated by Neighborhood House will have programs in multiple languages for people of all ages.

Half of the building will be for Neighborhood House's Early Head Start, Head Start programs and case management services. Other organizations, including South Seattle Community College, SafeFutures, West Seattle YMCA, Youth Tutoring Program and Seattle Housing Authority, will take the rest of the space.

The center will open in April 2009.

The building will cost \$10 million. The campaign to raise this money is in the beginning stages and has raised \$7.4 million in donations and grants from the State of Washington, the City of Seattle, King

## Park to be dedicated

*Former resident Judy Fay honored*

BY SCOTT FREUTEL  
*Seattle Housing Authority*

Judy Fay no doubt walked by a certain patch of land on Southwest Raymond Street between 31st and 32nd Avenues many times in her 30-plus years as a resident of High Point. And no doubt she never gave it a second look or a second thought.

On Monday, June 25, Fay will surely be giving that patch a good look and serious thought, for she'll be standing on it while dignitaries, guests, friends and former neighbors sing her praises and unveil a bronze plaque dedicating the greenspace as Judith Fay Park.

The triangle of land, about two-thirds of an acre, will be kept as open space in perpetuity. From the park's eastern tip, visitors can take in dramatic views of Seattle.

The event will begin at 5 p.m. with the program starting at 5:30. Food will be served, and everybody is welcome.

Fay lived in High Point from 1975 until 2006. She participated in the community's life to a remarkable degree. She served on the design advisory committee charged with helping to decide what the new High Point community should be like when its redevelopment was little more than a notion.

She similarly advised on the design of the new High Point branch of the Seattle Public Library.

For 10 years she served on the Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners — one of two resident commissioners. She served as president of High Point's resident management corporation and volunteered with the National Council on



*Judy Fay*

Aging, Neighborhood House and other nonprofits. She also worked in a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center.

A little over a year ago Fay retired and moved from High Point to Oregon to be near her family. In saying farewell to her, SHA Executive Director Tom Tierney noted Fay's "vision and heart" in helping to lead the transformation of High Point.

"Judy is leaving the entire city a marvelous legacy, both in the physical changes she helped bring to High Point and in the community she nurtured there," he said. "She has served SHA and its low-income residents extraordinarily well."

Tom Phillips, SHA's senior development program manager, who oversees construction at High Point, said recently that the park's dedication was just a small way of acknowledging Fay's innumerable contributions to the High Point community.

"She worked hard to make this the community it's become," he said. "She was involved every step of the way all across the process of redeveloping High Point."

## Open letter from Khmer Association leader to governmental officials

**\*\* original Khmer text is on translation page \*\***

BY YON NOY, PRESIDENT OF KHMER ASSOCIATION OF HIGH POINT  
*Translated by Saray Thach, IDHA*

Most residents living in High Point have a request to our governmental officials about our safety. We have recognized the following problems:

- Vehicles and Drivers: Parked vehicles block the view of drivers and pedestrians. Drivers often do not pay attention to the speed limit and drive fast inside High Point.

- Streets: The streets are narrow and many people drive fast. There are no crosswalks at the playground at 31st Avenue Southwest and Southwest Graham Street and on Southwest Morgan Street for the children to cross safely. Crosswalks will prevent people from driving fast.

- Safety: Many people feel threatened and unsafe in the alley behind Walgreens. Small problems need to be prevented so they don't grow into big problems (prevention is better than treatment).

In 2006, police have issued more than 800 traffic tickets on 35th Avenue Southwest. Traffic problems in this area are con-

tinuing and have caused many accidents and killed one person last September. In the nighttime, people are especially concerned about their children going out in the dark.

We would like the government to solve the problems we have mentioned.

- Workshops: Educate parents and families about prevention, help neighbors to know each other and help each other and work in solidarity between ethnic groups. (Families need a leader and parents need to be in charge of their children.)

- Traffic: The government needs to pay more attention to the traffic problems. (Before we have a new community, we need safe roads.)

- Prevention: We are forming a Safety Patrol and invite people to volunteer. There will be a training in early June. (Cambodian proverb: walking in the rain with an umbrella is better than walking in the rain without an umbrella.)

Note: For more information on traffic and pedestrian concerns or on the Safety Patrol, please call Rose Long at 206-923-3266 or Saray Thach at 206-331-2741 (Vietnamese and Cambodian).

# RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

## Tips for elders who wish to stay healthy

By DANG LA  
Special to The Voice

Translation by Naomi Chang

When people reach their 60s, they become concerned about their lives. Everybody wants to live longer. So how can elders maintain their health in order to have a long life?

A proverb says that a person is afraid of being inactive, a brain is afraid of being useless. Exercise is better than any medicine; we don't need to find any better prescription. By doing exercise in the early morning and throughout the whole day, you will have enough energy. By taking a long jog after each meal, your life can last to age 99. Every elder needs to do appropriate exercise and needs to persevere.

In addition to noticing more about the way they live and eat, elders need to assert self-control. As the saying goes: The more vegetables you eat, the farther away illness will go. If you want to have a long life, you ought to reduce your meal size every night.

Eating too fast will cause indigestion and hurt your stomach and intestines. Don't cut your hair when you are full. Don't take a shower when you are hungry. Do not allow yourself to become too fat, but maintain a solid body.

These are all things to tell everybody.

Elderly people need to eat more vegetables and fruit and not eat greasy food. Don't make yourself too full in the evening. When eating, elders need to chew small portions and swallow slowly to aid in digestion.

Follow these tips in pleasure.

Don't put too much pressure and direct too much anger on yourself. Somebody said the more you smile, the younger you look. The sadder you look, the more gray hair you will get. Smiling all day long makes you always look young. Don't let anything bother you so that you won't feel old.

All this advice will help everybody maintain lives of dedication and optimism.

Also give up smoking and stop drinking. Cigarettes and alcohol are your health's enemies. They are very harmful to elders.

When elders who smoke or drink do exercise, they can't do strenuous exercise. Elders who smoke or drink must avoid stress and emotional fluctuation because their cardiovascular systems are weak.

This is the Year of Boar, the year of "Ding Hai." The weather keeps changing. Sometimes it is cold, and sometimes it is hot. A person with cardiovascular disease will easily get sick. Specialists say "Ding" in five lines belongs to "Negative Fire" in the five internal organs belonging to the heart. "Hai" belongs to "Positive Water."

In the year of "Ding Hai," "Fire" is on the top, "Water" is on the bottom, and they can't mix together. "Positive Water" is against "Negative Fire."

This tells us that there will be a lot of people with cardiovascular disease this year. To stay healthy, we need to control the way we eat, wake up and go to bed, so that we do these things at the same time everyday.

Everything should be open and relaxed. This will keep any accidents from happening.

Dang La is a resident of Rainier Vista.

## 谈老年人養生

D.LA

當人生步入晚年,上了六十歲以後,就更關切自己的壽命。人總是希望長壽,那麼老年人怎樣保養才能延年益壽? 諺語有云:人怕不動,腦怕不用。運動好比靈芝草,何必苦把仙方尋? 早起做早操,一天精神好。飯後百步走,活到九十九。這些都說明,老年人每天都要適量運動,而且要持之以恆。

除此要注意飲食起居,生活有序。俗語說:青菜可口,疾病遠走。人願長壽安,要減夜來餐。吃得急,嚥得慌,傷了胃,傷了腸。飽不剪頭,餓不洗澡。不求虛胖,但求實壯。這些話告訴人們,老年人要多吃青菜,水果,少吃脂肪類食物,晚飯切勿飽吃,食飯要細嚼慢嚥,才能有利消化。其次要保持樂觀,切忌惱怒。常言道:笑一笑,十年少。愁一愁,白了頭。笑口常開,青春常駐。遇事不惱,長生不老。這些話都是告誡人們對待生活要採取積極樂觀的態度。此外還要注意戒煙,戒酒,煙酒是健康的大敵。對老年人危害更大。運動要注意不要過量,過劇烈,可避免產生麻煩。更要戒大喜大悲,老年人心血管功能減弱,若情緒急劇變化勢必給心臟增加負擔導致心肌梗塞或腦溢血。

今年是丁亥年,是豬年,天氣不穩定,時冷時熱,心血管疾病的患者較易發作。專家認為:丁在五行屬陰火,在人的五臟屬心。亥屬陽水。丁亥年:火在上,水在下,為水火不濟。而且陽水剋陰火。所以今年心血管疾病的患者會特別多。養生一定要做到:飲食有節,起居有常。並且要恬淡虛無,真氣從之,精神內守,才能避免意外的發生。

## Mastering the computer pays off — with a computer

By SCOTT FREUTEL  
Seattle Housing Authority

For 15 Rainier Vista residents from China, Hong Kong and Vietnam and 10 from East Africa, the hard work of learning to use a computer has paid off not only in new skills but in the receipt of an actual computer.

Since January, these residents have been learning such basic computer skills as keyboarding, word processing and how to navigate the Internet safely.

(The East African students have been learning English as a second language at the same time.)

Classes were originally scheduled once a month, but at the students' request were changed to once a week.

The classes were taught by Tsegaye Gebru, Neighborhood Networks Coordinator for Neighborhood House and Naomi Chang, Rainier Vista Community Builder, assisted with interpretation.

In the class for Chinese-speaking residents were Chanh Au, Kam King Chan, Jin Qiu Chen, Nga Dam, Hung Miew Duong, Bich Hua, Thuyen Huynh, Chau Khong, Dang La, Lily Li, Chau Luong, Hao Ly, Nu Tran, Dung Tu and Wan Ming Zhao

These students will be starting an intermediate class soon.

In the class for East African residents, who speak Oromo and Amharic and who are learning English while they're learning computer skills, were Hussein Abdo, Ali Abdulfata, Ali Ahmed, Nejash Ahmed, Ali Amina, Aman Anaji, Sahile Ayantu, Ali Chale, Ali Gamada and Adam Monir.



PHOTO BY SCOTT FREUTEL  
Ayantu Sahile, left, and Amina Ali take a moment's break from their computer class at Rainier Vista to display the certificates they were recently awarded for completing an introductory computer class.

At the graduation ceremony held at Rainier Vista last month, each of the participants was presented a newly refurbished computer donated by Digital Bridge Training Academy in cooperation with the YMCA of Seattle.

Each also agreed to sign up for and take an intermediate class after graduation.

One of the students, Chau Khong, who lives at Gamelin House, said through an interpreter that she was happy to take the class because she wants to stay in touch with a sister via e-mail.

"I would sometimes ask my grandchildren how to use the computer, but they're too busy to help me," she said. "They just showed me how to turn it off. This class has taught me what I wanted to know."

Another student, Jin Qiu Chen, who lives in Genesee House, listened to Khong's explanation and nodded his head.

Through an interpreter he said, "I just didn't know anything about computers, and I thought it was time to learn. I took the class to learn new skills, including typing, so I can spend time sending e-mails."

## Boys & Girls Club makes temporary move

### RAINIER VISTA BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

The Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club, a community landmark since 1976, temporarily relocated from its Rainier Vista site on May 11.

The club moved to the Rainier Valley Community Center, in order to make way for the demolition of the current facility, which will be replaced by a brand new Boys & Girls Club building with an EX3 (Explore, Experience, Excite) Teen Center in 2008.

Past and current program participants joined together last month to say goodbye to the building with a barbecue meal and a celebration.

The club's temporary home at the Rainier Valley Community Center will allow the club to remain in the neighborhood where it will continue to serve the hundreds of children and families who rely on it.

The club is continuing to provide after-school van pick-up transportation service for kids.

Parents using the school transportation system were asked to contact the school's transportation center and request a change of drop-off location from 4610 Viburnum Court S. to the Rainier Community Center at 4600 38th Ave. S.

Demolition of the existing Boys & Girls Club will take place this spring, followed by site preparation.

Construction of the new club will begin this fall and should take between 12 and 14 months.

Look for the grand opening of the new, state-of-the-art Boys & Girls Club facility in the fall of 2008.

To find out more about the center, call 206-725-4197. The Rainier Community Center's general line is 206-386-1919.

### Community notes

#### Traffic safety meeting planned

The next Rainier Vista traffic and safety meeting will be held on Monday June 4 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Neighborhood House community room, 4410 29th Ave. S.

All residents who are interested in getting involved are welcome.

#### RV landscaping competition

Rainier Vista renters are invited to take part in a backyard landscaping competition taking place all this month from June 1 to 29.

The competition will be assessed by Seattle Housing Authority property management staff on June 29. The three most inviting backyards will be honored as winners of the competition.

Prizes include gardening tools and other useful objects.

For more information about the competition contact Denise Wright or Dean Weitenhagen at 206-721-2980.

# NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

## Holly Park replacement housing completed



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Stone Way apartments, owned by Housing Resources Group, includes 35 units of Holly Park replacement housing.

By **JEFF ARNIM**  
Seattle Housing Authority

Replacing more than 800 units of low-income housing in Seattle is no easy task, but Seattle Housing Authority fulfilled its promise this month by doing exactly that, as part of the revitalization of the former Holly Park housing project.

As of the beginning of May, all of the 871 low-income housing units originally located at Holly Park have been replaced and made available at NewHolly and throughout the city to individuals and families earning below 30 percent of area median income.

Relocation of the original Holly Park residents affected by redevelopment was completed back in April 2002.

It was not necessary for all of the new units to be completed in order to provide housing for the original Holly Park tenants who needed it.

The final step in the replacement process was achieved last month with the completion of three new buildings — the Stone Way Apartments in Wallingford, Broadway Crossing on Capitol Hill and One Community Commons in West Seattle — and the opening of their doors to eligible low-income residents.

The Stone Way Apartments feature 35 units available as replacement housing, including eight one-bedroom apartments, 17 two-bedroom units and 10 three-bedroom residences.

Ten two-bedroom Broadway Crossing units are available, along with seven two-bedroom apartments at One Community Commons.

The other 819 units of replacement housing — including 400 on the original Holly Park site, now redeveloped as NewHolly — are sited amongst 31 locations in a diverse

range of neighborhoods across Seattle.

The replacement housing process for Holly Park reflects Seattle Housing Authority's commitment to maintaining an equal or greater number of housing units for low-income residents before and after its HOPE VI-funded redevelopment projects.

"Meeting our replacement housing obligations is our highest priority," explains Al Levine, Seattle Housing's deputy executive director of development. "Seattle Housing is unique among housing authorities in the HOPE VI program in committing to one-for-one replacement housing for every unit. We take this commitment very seriously."

Although revitalization may result in fewer low-income households in a specific community, SHA has committed to maintaining or expanding the overall number of units available throughout the city to people making less than 30 percent of area median income.

These units are required to be specific, identifiable housing — Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers that can be used in the private sector do not meet this requirement — and must be guaranteed to be available to extremely low-income tenants well into the future, generally no less than 40 years.

The nature of these replacement housing units can vary from the typical perception of "public housing."

Instead of being owned and operated by SHA, units may be under the management of non-profit housing groups subsidized by the Housing Authority.

Such is the case with each of the three buildings opened this past month.

The Stone Way Apartments are owned by Housing Resources Group, while Capitol Hill Housing owns Broadway Crossing. The Delridge Neighborhood Development Association manages the One Community Commons complex.

### Neighborhood Night planned

Join your neighbors and learn more about the NewHolly community. Neighborhood Night will take place on Friday, June 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Campus Gathering Hall, 7054 32nd Ave. S. Weigh in on how NewHolly should spend its community fund. Learn more about the community council and neighborhood concerns. There will be a light dinner and entertainment for 3 to 11 year olds.

## Clean-up projects underway in NewHolly

By **STACY SCHWANDT AND AMY HUANG**  
Voice reporters

On the wooden play equipment in Shaffer Park are four-letter words scrawled in marker along with a number of phrases calling people names.

Nearby, the mosaic tiles that once brightened signs decorating a vegetable patch have been smashed down.

Broken bottles line the edges of the heavily-used park, making NewHolly resident Catherine Glavan embarrassed to bring guests by to spend time there.

"Unfortunately, the kids themselves are doing (the vandalism)," she said. "The equipment in this park is for 6- to 10-year-olds, but it's the 13- to 16-year-olds who introduce an element of rebellion to it."

Glavan is a member of the NewHolly Clean-up Committee, which meets monthly to work on keeping the neighborhood looking good.

In addition to planning Earth Day clean-ups and other projects, the committee is planning a "sanding party" for Shaffer Park sometime in July, where neighbors and kids will be invited to share pizza, sand away the bad words and hopefully build a sense of ownership in the park.

After the sanding is completed, the Seattle Housing Authority will stain the wooden equipment a darker color, hopefully making new graffiti impossible, Glavan said.

Fourteen-year-old Moris Moradkahan, who hangs out at the park, said he'd be willing to take part in the clean-up, but he isn't sure how effective it will be.

"It may take awhile (for the graffiti) to come back," he said. "But it would probably only be clean for a couple of weeks."

Moradkahan and his friends crowd in the park after school, playing a game called "hot lava attack" where someone is "it" and



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT

Isaiah Parker, 13, and Moris Moradkahan, 14, hang out regularly at Shaffer Park, where graffiti on the play equipment is becoming a problem.

no one can touch the ground. The kids leap across the wooden structure, weaving from its towers to bridges to its slides.

Isaiah Parker, 13, said he doesn't know who is writing the graffiti, but he added that he doesn't really think much about it.

"There's stuff written about me here," he said. "But I don't care."

When pressed, Moradkahan said the cuss words probably aren't a great influence on the littler kids who use the park.

"They copy it and they try to figure out what it means," he said.

Shaffer Park isn't the only concern on the clean-up committee's plate.

Other ideas include potentially creating an art installation wall near Bunker Park at 39th Street, where a large concrete wall has attracted graffiti.

Nearby neighbors have complained that the problem has spread to tagging on private property and bus stops, and they are eager to find a solution.

"We need to come together to build a stronger community," said committee member Aimee Quist. "It is important for all people to get involved."

The clean-up committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the NewHolly Campus living room.

## Resident lands great job

By **VAN VO AND LARRY HILL**  
Seattle Housing Authority

Congratulations to Hong Trang Thi Phan, a NewHolly resident who was recently offered a job at Hunter Douglas, a local manufacturer of custom window coverings and dressings.

Phan has been a hard and reliable worker since she moved to Seattle, but the jobs she has had were based upon seasonal fish harvests in Alaska and on holiday chocolate sales.

When the fish were all sold and shipped or the chocolate boom of Valentine's Day was past, her jobs went away.

Working closely with Job Connection staff, Phan expressed interest in applying for a full-time position.

We took her to Hunter Douglas to apply, and they said they would call her for an interview. We began the process of practic-

ing interview scenarios. Before long she was called in, aced the interview and began working the very next day.

She is now very happy to have a full-time job at a good company which is an easy commute from her home. Her position is stable and she will accrue full benefits shortly with no worries about slowdowns.

At home, Phan keeps very busy with her 7-year-old son and twin daughters and delights her friends with her hobby of cooking traditional gourmet Vietnamese dishes.

Be sure to say hi to her when you see her in the neighborhood!



Hong Trang Thi Phan

# YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

## Program teaches Somali, Oromo youth about character

By STACY SCHWANDT  
Voice editor

More than 35 Somali and Oromo youths worked quietly in the Jesse Epstein building at Yesler Terrace last month, studying Arabic and reading about the importance of building a strong character.

Their work was a part of a new program started by a Somali and Oromo parent group that aims to reach children with positive messages before they can start down the wrong path.

"Yesler is good and bad," said Fadumo Isaq, mother of three children in the program and one of its coordinators. "Many kids before they came here were good. Now they hang out on the streets and get into drugs and alcohol. We need to stop all that. We need to put it in their minds that those are bad things. That's why we need this program — to teach the children to respect their teachers, respect their parents and respect themselves."

The program, which began earlier this year, runs on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Somali and Oromo children between the ages of 7 and 20 are welcome to attend.

Each session includes a two-hour break where participants can use the gym at the Yesler Community Center. Girls have their own special time where they can play basketball in private without their veils.

Hassan Hassan recently graduated from Eastern Washington University and attends the program regularly to work with the boys, serving as a role model and helping them connect their parents' past to their future in the United States.

"They should have an identity, and they should know where they come from," he said.

As part of a recent Saturday's lesson, Hassan led the boys in a discussion of hypocrisy. With his guidance, they came up with examples of hypocrisy, such as parents who smoke but tell their children not to.

Ten-year-old Omar Farah read a passage from a worksheet that put the concept into an Islamic context. The group then discussed what they would do if they found \$5 on the ground.

"Are you going to do something good and really right when no one is looking?" Hassan asked. "That's the hardest part."

Across the room, a group of teenaged girls worked on reading and writing in Somali, Oromo and Arabic.



PHOTO BY STACY SCHWANDT  
*Students practice reading and writing in their native language during the Somali/Oromo youth cultural and character classes at Yesler Terrace.*

They said that they like the program because it provides them with a place of their own.

Sixteen-year-old Aliah Haji said that before it started, many of the girls didn't know one another. They spent Saturday mornings at home with their families, and many felt isolated, even at school.

"Some people might judge you about who you are, but here, you won't have any judgment," she said. "You won't hear cursing or anything, instead you'll hear some beautiful words."

For the parents who run the program, the opportunity for the children to celebrate their heritage is what it's all about.

"We try to give something to give those kids: hope, love, dignity and responsibility," said Program Coordinator Abdisamad Jama. "We must teach them by example the importance of compassion and caring when dealing with humanity."

Gurey Faarah, a Neighborhood House family support worker who helps to run the program, said many people are involved in making it a success.

In addition to numerous parents, he thanked Neighborhood House for advocating for the project, Seattle Parks and Recreation for the use of the gym, Seattle Housing Authority for providing the classroom space and NH's Project HANDLE for providing funds for educational material and a VCR and TV on which to show videos about making healthy choices.

change our generation as well as the next generation into a better one. We are learning respect, tolerance, acceptance with different cultures and beliefs.

### Somali version

Waxaanu nahay Somali immigaranti ah, waxaa nalayiraahdaa Faaduma iyo Faa'iza, Faaduma waa 14 jir dhigata fasalka todobaad, Faa'iza waa 12 jir dhigata fasalka lixaad dugsiga layiraahdo makaleer.

Waxaanu kaqaybqaadanaa borogaramada dhalinyarada Soomalida iyo Oromada ee Yesler Terrace. Waxaanu kabaranay progaraamkaas: xushmada, dhaqanwannaaga massulyada iyo sida looladhaqmo dadka aanu isku dhaqnanahay iyo kuwaka ee dhaqamada kaladuwan haysta.



## Reader's viewpoint

Readers of *The Voice* share their ideas

### Review Committee not making the grade

By KRISTIN O'DONNELL  
Special to *The Voice*

The Yesler Terrace Citizen Review Committee was formed to make recommendations on the future of Yesler Terrace. For the second month in a row, there was no opportunity for residents or the general public to ask questions or comment on the work of the committee. For the second month in a row, most of the people who came to the meeting left early.

At somewhat past the halfway point in a yearlong process of putting together guidelines for the future of Yesler Terrace, the community continues to ponder "core values." They are pretty much in agreement that Social Equity is a Good Thing. They are For Economic Opportunity. They agree that poor people need housing somewhere — maybe even where Yesler Terrace is now or somewhere in the vicinity.

It is not terribly surprising that the committee, appointed by the Housing Authority and consisting of a few Yesler Terrace residents, a lot of people who are involved in some way or other in providing services or advocacy to poor and marginalized communities, plus a very few others, pretty much agree on these values. There are no private developers on the committee and very few representatives of surrounding neighborhoods or business communities.

Later this month, the committee will be talking about Core Values some more.

What the committee has not talked about

very much yet are things which are more within the control of Seattle Housing Authority than Social Equity and Economic Opportunity. What will be built at Yesler Terrace? When? Where are the people who live here — and the people who will need subsidized housing in the future — going to live? If people have to move, will the Housing Authority cover the cost?

Would a rebuilt, denser Yesler Terrace repeat the mistakes of East Coast high-rise housing projects?

For poor public housing residents will "mixed income" mean richer people next door, across the street, in the next block, or six floors up, where the views are? Who gets to live under the helicopter flight path? Will new public housing units be smaller than those which now exist in Yesler Terrace? Will there still be gardens? Will there be bathtubs? More than one bathroom in large units? Will social services be available to residents who need them?

The Yesler Terrace Community Council came up with these questions — and more — at our meeting last month. Seattle Housing Authority Executive Director Tom Tierney and SHA planners will respond to our questions at our next meeting. Join us on June 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the conference room at the Jesse Epstein Building, 905 Spruce St.

*Kristin O'Donnell is a resident of Yesler Terrace, the president of the community council and a member of the Citizen Review Committee.*

## Notes from the Manager

By JUDI CARTER  
Senior Property Manager

As I was driving to work on a recent Monday, I thought there must have been a mass robbery. There were mattresses, TVs, washers, dryers and bags of junk on the sidewalks. All of the stuff was scattered to the wind and rummaged through.

In short, the community looked awful!

If you see people putting things on the curb, please tell them not to. If you don't know them but know where they live, please tell me their apartment number.

Money is short in this community. When the budget for garbage is used up, we still

have to clean up the mess. The money has to come from somewhere, like repairs or painting occupied units. Everybody suffers.

The city gives the Housing Authority clean up days four times a year. The next is in July and is listed on the orange calendar staff sent you at the beginning of the year. (You can ask the management office for another if you need it.) Please do not put extra garbage out before that date.

Thank you for doing your part to keep Yesler Terrace clean!

### Don't forget about Juneteenth

Join your neighbors for the annual Juneteenth celebration in the field behind the old community center from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, June 15.

This year's celebration will feature entertainment, a keynote speech, Alligator Awards, food, a book exchange, recognition of graduates and informational booths.

The Higher Education Project will be holding a raffle again this year to raise money for college scholarships for youth living in SHA housing. Tickets will only be one dollar and there will be many great prizes.

A food collection will also take place for the Neighborhood House Yesler Terrace food vault. Bring your non-perishable food items to help out.

### Students describe their experiences in the Somali/Oromo program

By FADUMA AND FAIZA ABDI  
Special to *The Voice*

We are Somali immigrants.

Faduma is 14 years old and a seventh grader, Faiza is 12 years old and a sixth grader at McClure Middle School.

We participate in Somali/Oromo Youth programs at Yesler Terrace. From this program we have learned personal skills, social skills, self-esteem, how to set and achieve goals. We learn that we have power and responsibility to make the right choice for ourselves. We appreciate those who make these programs for us. Thank you all!

Today is Saturday. Today we are all here to have a better future. We want to

