



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



The Voice

September
2007
Articles translated
into six languages

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

Resource helps immigrant parents connect to schools

By PAM MCGAFFIN
Special to *The Voice*

September brings the first day of school, a time of great pride for parents who watch their children take steps toward adulthood.

But these same parents may experience their share of nerves over how they can help their children adjust to a new environment and succeed in school.

For parents who aren't familiar with the customs of American schools, the first day can bring even more anxiety.

A wealth of information exists to help immigrant families make the transition to Seattle Public Schools, but all that guidance is lost on parents who can't read.

The school district makes available to parents three booklets in seven to eight languages that address everything from attendance policies to the six best ways for parents to support their child's education.

To help those parents who can't read, Neighborhood House — in collaboration with the district and with funding from the City of Seattle — initiated a nine-month project to produce audio CDs of school district materials.

Among them are excerpts from the booklets, "An Introduction to Seattle Public Schools: A Guide for Bilingual Families," "Get Involved in Your Child's Education" and "Getting School Ready."

CDs for both elementary school and

middle- and high-school families were recorded in Somali, Vietnamese, Oromo, Tigrinya, Amharic, Spanish, Cambodian and English. The CDs were produced by Jack Straw Productions, a nonprofit audio arts center in Seattle.

"The goal of the project is to make school information accessible to more families," says Danielle Eidenberg-Noppe, family involvement coordinator for Neighborhood House.

In addition to making the CDs available this summer to parents in its Head Start and kindergarten readiness programs, Neighborhood House has the audio files on its Web site at http://www.nhwa.org/get_help/community-resources.php. The school district is also distributing the CDs.

Eidenberg-Noppe said she hopes to expand the project to include recordings in Laotian, Chinese and Tagalog.

It's all part of a larger effort by the district, the city and several community organizations to build connections between immigrant families and their children's schools.

"For the student, just seeing their parents in the building helps bridge the gap between the home culture and the school culture," she says. "And parents gain confidence around what they can do to support their children's education."

Pam McGaffin works for Moore Ink, a public relations firm that partners with Neighborhood House.

United Africa Day celebrates connections



PHOTO BY CRAIG ANGEVINE

Members of the Amandanyo World Music Band entertain the crowd during the event.

By UNIQUE SAUNDERS
Voice reporter

We make eye contact. I smile. He does not return the smile, but instead approaches me. After a brief greeting, he asks, "Where are you from? Have you ever been to Africa?" I tell this stranger no, but that I would love to visit some day, and he begins to tell me about the beauty of the different countries that form the continent of Africa.

Members of Seattle's African community filled the gymnasium of the Rainier Community Center last month for the 2007 United Africa Day Festival.

Making connections and educating attendees about Africa were the primary focus of this year's event. People from different backgrounds celebrated their various cultures as well as explored the differences and similarities among them.

The African Communities Network has organized United Africa Day nearly every year since its founding in 1999. The network's President Ahoua Kone said the festival was started to unite Africans as African-Americans.

All immigrants and refugees must learn to adapt to the American lifestyle and are united because of it, he said. Through the ACN and its events, native Africans and their families are given the opportunity to bond with one another and network to build

a life in the United States.

People wandered into the gymnasium after enjoying an authentic African meal catered by Hebet Catering and Mohamed Ibrahim and filled silver bleachers facing the stage.

Others stood, mingling with one another and listening to what sponsors offered at information booths.

The Amandanyo World Music Band played throughout the event, and a slideshow ran behind the band. Images of Nigerian male and female models flashed followed by scenic pictures from the Ivory Coast and Eritrea. African culture was being shared and embraced by all attendees as well as those who put on the event.

"We need to make connections," suggested Said Farah, the stranger who had approached me. "Africans and African-Americans need a special connection. Some African-Americans have never seen Africa. They hear about it, but have never seen it."

Farah, a Somali native, said he hoped to educate other attendees about the "beauty of Africa," because sometimes Americans just see the negative aspects of African countries, he said.

The event bridged the gap between people from all circles of life. Someone from any background could find something

Please see "Africa" on page 2

Immunizations can keep children safe in school

PUBLIC HEALTH — SEATTLE & KING COUNTY

Keep children from kindergarten to high school safe this upcoming school year by making sure all of their immunizations are up to date.

"Immunizations are a very safe and effective way to keep children healthy and performing at their best and to prevent dangerous diseases in our community," said Dr. David Fleming, Director and Health Officer for Public Health — Seattle & King County.

Besides increasing the risk of getting a disease, a child who is not fully immunized may be excluded from attending school or childcare during an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, possibly lasting weeks.

An infected child can also spread an illness to others, like those with a weakened immune system, pregnant women or infants.

New school requirements

Some school grades have new vaccine
See "Immunizations" on page 4

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"It's pretty phenomenal to get a perfect review. We're held accountable for more than 1,700 performance standards."
— Neighborhood House Child Development Director Kathee Richter on the NH Head Start program's flawless federal review.

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Health Notes

A column devoted to your well-being

Fruits and veggies — more matters!

By KATHLEEN PEREZ-HUREAUX
Special to The Voice

We all should eat at least five fruits and vegetables a day. Why? We all know they contain important vitamins, minerals and fiber. Recently we also learned that they contain phytochemicals.

Phytochemicals are disease-fighting substances that may help to control blood pressure and lower our risk of many other chronic diseases.

September is harvest time, a perfect time to try eating new and more fruits and vegetables. Apples, pears, grapes, squash of many kinds, broccoli, carrots and potatoes are all fresh and waiting at the market. Visit your local farmers market or shop the weekly specials at the grocers for fresh and frozen fruits and veggies.

Look for those 10 for \$10 specials and you will find lots of varieties.

Here are 3 tips that make eating vegetables easier:

Cut them up! Cut up apples pears, oranges, carrots, broccoli.

Sneak them in! Grate or cut carrots into small pieces add to tomato sauce or casseroles. Add chopped spinach to soups.

Drink them! Make a smoothie with vanilla yogurt, half a banana and any fruit in season. Add a couple of spoons of frozen spinach or baby carrots. Toss in the blender with a bit of water.

This makes a delicious smoothie.

15-Minute Vegetable Soup

2 cans low-sodium chicken broth
1 small can diced tomatoes
Pinch of dry basil, onion powder or other spices you like
1 cup small dry macaroni—elbows are good
3 cups mixed frozen or fresh cut vegetables (try carrots, potatoes, and broccoli)
Salt and pepper to taste

Combine chicken broth, diced tomato, basil and onion powder. Bring to a simmer and add pasta and vegetables. Add salt and pepper. Simmer 10 minutes more. Let the soup sit for 5 minutes before serving. Serves 6.

Kathleen Perez-Hureaux is the chronic care manager for Puget Sound Neighborhood Health Centers. You can reach her at 206-461-6935, ext. 170.

Are you prepared? Take the disaster-readiness quiz

AMERICAN RED CROSS

The American Red Cross and the City of Seattle Office of Emergency Management are partners in helping all public housing residents become better prepared.

The City of Seattle's newest program, called Seattle Neighbors Actively Prepare, is a simple, flexible process designed to help neighborhoods plan and prepare for any potential emergency.

The need for citizen preparedness has never been greater. People need to be able to take care of themselves and their families for a minimum of three days.

Seattle Neighbors Actively Prepare educational programs are being scheduled throughout the city at numerous community centers, schools and similar venues.

More information about the program can be found on the Office of Emergency Management Web site at <http://www.seattle.gov/emergency>.

Earthquake Readiness Quiz

Living in Seattle means you live on a fault line. An earthquake could take place any time without warning whether you and your family are ready or not.

How would you fare if an earthquake happened today?

___Yes ___No During the earthquake should you stay inside until the shaking stops?

Answer: Your mind is screaming "run outside" but because of building codes it is safer to be inside your home. Very few

buildings collapse, but many have bricks and façades that fall near doorways and sidewalks. Go under a sturdy table, between pieces of furniture or crouch along an inside wall.

___Yes ___No Do you have enough water on hand to last three days?

Answer: Water is frequently disrupted after earthquakes, but it is absolutely essential for life. The Red Cross recommends that you store one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days. This will provide enough water for drinking and sanitation. Be sure to include water for pets. Cleaning and filling two liter soda bottles is an easy and affordable way to store water.

___Yes ___No Do you have back up medicine and a back up medical plan?

Answer: You won't know when an earthquake will hit, so try to have a month's supply of medicine in reserve and keep a list of important prescriptions. Staff at emergency shelters might be able to replace medications.

If you require power-operated medical devices, have a back-up plan for power outages. If you rely on a doctor, determine ahead of time what you will do if clinics are closed or inaccessible.

Contact the Seattle Office of Emergency Management at 206-615-0287 or the American Red Cross at 206-709-4528 to learn more about what you can do to be ready for the next disaster.

Brighter, better community center serves Greenbridge



PHOTO BY MIKE MOORE, MOORE INK PR

U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott (left) and King County Councilmember Dow Constantine (second from left) join youth and others during the Wiley Center grand opening ribbon cutting.

By PAM MCGAFFIN
Moore Ink

People seeking services in Southwest Seattle now have a much more inviting place to get the help they need.

The newly remodeled Jim Wiley Community Center in White Center was celebrated in July with a grand re-opening attended by government leaders, residents, partner agencies and friends.

The center, at 9800 Eighth Ave. S.W., is in the heart of the redeveloping Greenbridge public housing community on the site of the former Park Lake Homes. When completed in 2012, the neighborhood will include a mix of affordable housing, parks, trails, shops and services.

"The Wiley Community Center is what America's social net should really look like," said U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott at the grand opening.

Neighborhood House — which shares the building with the YWCA, Boys & Girls Club and Highline Community College —

provides counseling, classes, employment help and other services at Greenbridge to area seniors, immigrants and low-income residents.

In addition to classrooms, offices and a computer lab, the environmentally-friendly "green" building features a gymnasium, whimsical public art, a large outdoor plaza and a kitchen that serves thousands of meals for children.

The remodeled building is less confusing for the public and more comfortable and functional for those who work there, says Colin Sexton, community learning manager for Neighborhood House.

"Having all staff in a common space has been helpful for Neighborhood House's expanding services," he says. "For 10 years, programs have been split between two separate buildings. Residents who come in now know how to find us. It's made our services more visible and accessible."

Pam McGaffin works for the public relations firm Moore Ink, a partner of Neighborhood House.

Neighborhood House expands services to seniors

By VOICE STAFF

Neighborhood House is offering services to more low-income Seattle and King County seniors and disabled individuals thanks to \$350,000 in federal grants.

The three-year Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development are being used to enhance Neighborhood House's programs in three public housing communities: Greenbridge/Park Lake II Homes, Yesler Terrace and Jefferson Terrace.

Neighborhood House is providing case management services and organizing

monthly activities for seniors and people with disabilities. The program links residents of these communities to services that keep them living independently in their homes while connecting them with their neighbors and communities through activities and events that promote healthy living.

The services are intended for residents who are disabled or 62 years or older.

For more information about eligibility or if you are interested in participating in the program, please contact Yohannes Hagos at 206-461-4522 in Seattle or 206-461-4554 in King County.

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.

Africa

Continued from front page

at the event that related to their culture and lifestyle. There was music, dancing, performances and food.

Sebhat Tenna of the ACN says it is not an easy task uniting the different African groups in Seattle. He says children are the one binding force amongst the groups.

Children of refugees and immigrants, regardless of where they come from, struggle to learn and integrate themselves into the American lifestyle.

African Communities Network member Tigist Negash says she enjoys coming to the festival because of the environment. She says the event is free of religion and free of politics. It's just people uniting and sharing of themselves.



One to grow on

Garden tips for community gardeners

What's the dirt on composting anyway?

By ANZA MUENCHOW
Special to *The Voice*

As I pull the weeds that threaten to choke out my vegetable garden, I wonder, "To throw them in the compost or not to compost, that is the question."

I know that a good hot compost pile will kill off most of the seeds and roots of the weeds, but what if you are using the slow composting method?

Then you need to be more selective about the yard waste materials you use.

I try to remove the seed heads of annual weeds before I compost the whole plant. For some perennial weeds, I remove the roots, especially for Canadian thistle, quack grass or bindweed (also known as morning glory) which can thrive in a cold compost pile.

Check for these invasive roots when you turn your compost and remove them. Don't let them become established in your garden by spreading your infected compost.

I also avoid diseased plants like tomatoes with blight and club root on the brassicas (broccoli, kale, choy, etc.). I think it is best to try to avoid composting powdery mildew on the dying squash plants and cucumbers.

So now you have a pile of selected garden waste (weeds, leaves, grass clippings, bean vines, etc.) but how does this yard waste become a crumbly, rich compost that can improve your garden soil?

Here is the scoop on compost.

Compost just happens. Any pile of yard waste will decompose eventually. To make compost happen faster, keep these guidelines in mind:

Mix dried "brown" materials and fresh "green" materials, usually layering 6 inches of greens then 6 inches browns.

"Green" items include grass clippings, fresh manure, fresh weed leaves and stalks. Examples of browns are dried leaves, straw, shredded paper, etc.

Keep a water hose nearby and sprinkle with a lot of water as you pile up these materials, especially in the summer months.

The pile should always be as damp as a wrung out sponge. You may also want

to cover the pile to keep it from getting soggy wet in the winter months. Incorrect moisture content is the main culprit when compost piles are not decomposing as fast as they should.

Don't add soil to the compost pile, because it will compact it and reduce air flow. Air is such an important part of the composting process. There are enough soil-born microbes found on the roots and leaves of the collected materials to "work" on the compost, so don't add a layer of soil, as older composting guides recommend.

Smaller pieces of material will compost faster, so you may want to chop up any larger stalks. Think of adding pieces the size of your finger or smaller. We use a machete and a chopping block, especially on anything very woody.

Lastly, keep aerating the compost pile by turning it over once a month or so. It will decompose without turning, but the process is much slower.

Planting a winter cover crop is an excellent way to reduce weeds in a garden and enrich the soil at the same time. Plant nitrogen-fixing "green manure" like fava beans, vetch or field peas and these will choke out weeds, loosen and enrich your soil.

The rains actually compact soil and having a cover crop will protect soil from compacting. Sow these while the weather is still warm (late September), so that they have time to germinate. They then grow slowly as the days become short and the temperature drops.

Keep watering well this month and until the fall rains start. Water your soil (and its microbes), not the leaves of your plants.

Check your soil to see if it is damp a few inches below the surface. A deep soaking a couple times a week is better than a quick sprinkle every day. When the rains start, the microbes and earthworms will become more active and their work will enrich your soil for next year's plantings.

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>.

Auburn kids ride safely in style thanks to UW student



PHOTO BY DENISE LIM

Neighborhood House Community Learning Manager Colin Sexton fits an Auburn youth with a bicycle helmet at a giveaway that took place in late July.

By VOICE STAFF

Auburn children are safer on their bicycles, thanks to a University of Washington Medical School student.

As part of her coursework, UW student Denise Lim organized a bike helmet giveaway in late July that reached more than 60 youth from ages 1 to 13.

With the help of staff members from Neighborhood House and the Valley Medical Fire Authority, Lim fit low-income youth at the Burndale Homes Community Center with new helmets and passed out reflectors and bicycle safety information.

Many of the youth who participated in the giveaway are involved in the Neighborhood House youth tutoring program at Burndale Homes.

Center Coordinator Terrah Goeden said the response to the giveaway was spectacular.

"The children are very excited about their shiny, new helmets and sometimes wear them when they aren't even riding their bikes," she said.

Lim said that during a survey she did of the community, she noticed many Auburn bicyclists were not wearing helmets. Seattle

has had a bicycle helmet law on the books since 2003, but there is no similar regulation in Auburn.

When she approached the cyclists and spoke with them, she learned that many did not own a helmet.

She decided to take action.

By researching the Auburn School District's free summer lunch program, Lim found out about the King County Housing Authority community Burndale Homes, home to many low-income immigrant families from Russia and Ukraine.

Lim then contacted safety education organizations and obtained 45 donated helmets to give away.

Local hospitals, clinics and the fire authority provided brochures and other educational materials about bicycle safety in Russian along with safety reflectors and training for fitting the helmets.

Cash donations were used to purchase the additional 15 helmets.

During the fittings "we stressed the significance of staying safe and injury free," she said. "By providing materials in the correct languages, the families are more likely to read and learn from the information,"

Library seeks volunteers for Homework Help program

SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Seattle Public Library is seeking volunteers for its Homework Help program at the Columbia, Delridge, International District-Chinatown, NewHolly, Rainier Beach and South Park branches.

Homework Help volunteers work with elementary, middle and high school students after school, helping them understand their homework assignments, develop effective study skills and master approaches for solving math problems.

Many of the students enrolled in the Homework Help program are recent immigrants or refugees who are learning English.

Volunteers are asked to commit to working with students for two hours per week throughout the 2007-08 school year.

The orientation for new Homework Helpers will take place this month.

Qualities of successful Homework Helpers include:

- A desire to support the education of elementary, middle and high school stu-

dents along with previous experience as a teacher, tutor, parent or youth volunteer.

- An understanding of the techniques of active listening and strong interpersonal communication skills, including a sense of humor.

- Ability to interact with students who are new English speakers and new to the country.

- Patience, flexibility and a willingness to use a variety of methods to promote understanding and academic learning.

- Foreign language skills are a plus, volunteers who have a conversational ability in Amharic, Cantonese, Mandarin, Oromo, Somali, Spanish, Tigrinya or Vietnamese are especially welcome.

- Math, grammar and reading skills. Understanding of higher-level math (algebra, trigonometry and calculus) is helpful.

- Respect of diverse lifestyles, cultures, religions and values.

For more information, contact Anne Vedella, volunteer services coordinator, at anne.vedella@spl.org or 206-386-4614.



Community notes

Consider an IDA account

Do you wish for your own home? An education?

You can make your dreams come true with an Individual Development Account.

How does it work? Every dollar you save is matched with three more dollars. The money can be used to purchase a home or pay for college tuition.

The program is reserved for individuals who are at least 18 years old and living in King County. Participants must have earned income and meet income and net worth guidelines.

Over two to four years, you must save \$2,000, which will be matched with a maximum of \$6,000. To reach this goal, you only need to save at least \$10 per month, attend financial trainings and meet with a case manager at least twice a month.

To find out more, attend an orientation on Thursday, September 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Hopelink's Bellevue office, at 14812 Main St. Call Maria at 425-943-7579 to register.

Worker retraining available

You could be eligible for job training and tuition assistance through the Worker Retraining Program at Seattle Central Community College.

Learn more at a free orientation, held every Thursday at 2 p.m. in room 4180 on Seattle Central's main campus, 1701 Broadway.

Park in the garage at the corner of Harvard and Pine.

Training is available in biotechnology, information technology, opticianry, carpentry and more.

Fall quarter classes begin Sept. 24. Call 206-587-6310 or visit <http://www.seattlecentral.edu> to get started.

Hopelink offers free money management classes

HOPELINK

Hopelink's adult education department is offering free money management classes starting in September to any interested adults. These classes focus on improving credit, making use of tax credits, saving for major purchases, steps to home ownership and more.

The classes are:

- Financial Foundations – Wednesday, September 12 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Building assets, setting financial goals, prioritizing expenditures, making step-by-step plans to reach financial goals.

- Banking & Budgeting – Wednesday, September 19 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Choosing a bank, creating a household budget, setting financial goals, teaching children about money, handling financial emergencies and learning new ways to save money.

- Credit Management – Part I is Wednesday, September 26 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Part II is Wednesday, October 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Two-part class covering establishing and maintaining credit, reading a credit report, avoiding identity theft

and more.

- Taxes & Insurance – Wednesday, October 10 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Earned income tax credit, child tax credit, tax resources, home, life and auto insurance you need, the best deals on insurance.

- Homebuyer's Education I – Tuesday, October 23 from 6 to 8:45 p.m. (note: beginning and ending times differ from other classes). Advantages and disadvantages of home ownership, preparing and qualifying for buying a home, down payment assistance programs.

- Homebuyer's Education II – Thursday, October 25, from 6 to 8:45 p.m. (note: beginning and ending times differ from other classes). Steps to home ownership, credit issues, negotiating home price, home inspection, loan closing, more.

All classes are held at Hopelink's Bellevue Center at 14812 Main St. You may register for as many of the classes as you wish. A Spanish-speaking interpreter will attend all classes, and free childcare is available to parents who register in advance. For more information or to register, please call 425-943-7579.

Women's summit planned

BY VOICE STAFF

The Seattle Women's Commission will convene its fourth biennial summit at Seattle University's Pigott Hall, 901 12th Ave. in Seattle, on Saturday, October 6, 2007, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Keynote speakers will include Washington state Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos and Kristen Rowe-Finkbeiner, author of the award winning book "The F-Word: Feminism in Jeopardy—Women, Politics, and the Future" and co-founder and executive director of MomsRising.org.

The summit will bring together women and men from the greater Seattle area to discuss issues that matter to Seattle women. It will include dynamic workshops, facilitated discussions and an interactive

resource fair.

The summit will help participants develop skills to advocate effectively for women's issues through trainings on communication, advocacy and leadership.

Workshop sessions will highlight a variety of issues of importance to women including economics, leadership, health, advocacy and violence against women.

The information shared at the Summit will guide the Seattle Women's Commission on its annual work plan and directly inform its policy recommendations.

The role of the Seattle Women's Commission is to identify and recommend policy, legislation, programs, and budget items concerning women to Seattle's mayor, City Council and city departments.

Immunizations

Continued from front page

requirements this fall.

- Sixth graders who are 11 years of age and older and have not been vaccinated against tetanus in the last five years should receive the tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine.

- Children entering kindergarten, first and sixth grade will need to get their varicella vaccine for chickenpox or document that they have had the disease.

- Three doses of hepatitis B are now required for children entering kindergarten through 10th grade.

- Two doses each of measles, mumps and rubella are required for children entering kindergarten through 12th grade.

State law requires children to have specific immunizations before they attend school. For a complete list of required school immunizations, visit Public Health's Back to School Immunizations web pages: <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/immunization/school.htm>.

Where to get immunizations

Regular health care providers provide childhood immunizations. For information on special back-to-school immunization clinics in King County as well as Public Health immunization clinic sites, addresses and phone numbers, visit the Back to School Immunizations web pages or call

the Public Health Communicable Disease Information Line at 206-296-4949.

Public Health centers provide childhood vaccines on a sliding fee scale. No child is turned away without receiving the required vaccines due to an inability to pay.

Parents should check immunization records to confirm that immunizations are up to date. Parents are requested to bring immunization records with them to the doctor's office.

Risks of not vaccinating

Parents or legal guardians have the right to choose not to immunize their children, based on medical, religious or philosophical reasons.

Parents or legal guardians must sign the appropriate box on the Certificate of Immunization Status form to exempt their child from receiving vaccines required for school entry.

There is a significant risk, however, when choosing against vaccination. If exposed to a vaccine-preventable disease, a child may become infected or may be excluded from attending school or childcare during the outbreak.

Providing effective and innovative health and disease prevention services for over 1.8 million residents and visitors of King County, Public Health - Seattle & King County works for safer and healthier communities for everyone, every day.

Neighborhood House Head Start gets perfect federal report card



PHOTO BY MIKE MOORE, MOORE INK PR

Head Start students in the Rainier Vista community crack open the books.

BY PAM MCGAFFIN
Special to The Voice

When youngsters enter Neighborhood House's Head Start preschool classrooms this fall, they'll be benefiting from a program that received a spotless report card from the federal government.

Neighborhood House's Head Start and Early Head Start programs received a perfect score in a federal review conducted earlier this year, putting it in an elite group. Of those monitored over the past year, only 9 percent nationwide were found to be in total compliance, according to federal Head Start spokeswoman Tara Wall.

Neighborhood House was one of only three programs to get a perfect score in the four-state region, which encompasses Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska.

"It's pretty phenomenal to get a perfect review," said Kathee Richter, child development director at Neighborhood House. "We're held accountable for more than 1,700 performance standards."

Head Start is a federal program that provides comprehensive services for low-income and disabled children and their families, including preschool, child development, nutrition, health, and family support.

Parents receive training in how to help their children develop and learn, and are linked with community services and resources that meet their needs.

Neighborhood House's Head Start program serves 172 children, ages 3 to 5, at four Seattle Public Housing communities: Rainier Vista, New Holly, Yesler Terrace and High Point. Its Early Head Start home-visiting program serves 74 children, aged 3 and younger, as well as pregnant women and families.

Ninety percent are refugee or immigrant families, representing 14 different cultures, Richter said. Nearly all of the families are at or below the federal poverty level.

Neighborhood House is a 101-year-old, Seattle-based non-profit organization dedicated to advancing self-sufficiency for low-income, immigrant and refugee families, most of them living in and around King County's major public housing communities. It has been offering Head Start for more than 35 years.

Federal reviews are done once every three years, Richter said. Over the course of a week, a team of reviewers conduct interviews and monitor different aspects of the program, including early childhood education, health, safety, disability services, family services, program design, and management of the \$2.3 million budget.

Three years ago, Neighborhood House's Head Start program had only one "not-too-serious" finding, Richter said.

Among Head Start programs in the region, the average number of findings is four. The most common deficiencies nationwide are in the areas of finance and record-keeping.

Richter said Neighborhood House staff and leadership have worked hard over the last 10 years to get the program to where it is today. Leaders toured other programs, hired experienced staff, provided training and created new support systems.

The perfect score doesn't mean Head Start staff won't continue to strive for improvements, she said. "We know our program isn't perfect. There are always things to improve. But it's nice to know that we're 100 percent in compliance."

Pam McGaffin works with Moore Ink, a public relations firm that partners with Neighborhood House.

NH Head Start enrolling now

Neighborhood House is NOW ENROLLING for its Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

If you're a low-income family living near Yesler Terrace, Rainier Vista, High Point or NewHolly with a child aged 0 to 5, this program could be for you.

NH offers home visits for children to age 3 and a school-based program for children from 3 to 5 years old.

Call 206-461-8430, ext 247 for information about Head Start enrollment and 206-760-9330, ext 10 for information about Early Head Start. Neighborhood House also serves children with disabilities and special needs.



Reader's viewpoint

Readers of *The Voice* share their ideas

Yesler Terrace community council seeks input

By KRISTIN O'DONNELL
Special to *The Voice*

The Yesler Terrace Community Council has a transition team which is working to determine the future organization and leadership of the Community Council.

We want a group which can include every person in our community who wants to be part of making decisions for and determining the priorities of the council.

We need a council which goes beyond sharing information and voting on issues. If we are not working together, if we are not strong, our neighborhood will not survive.

Working together is challenged by our lack of a common language and culture, but working together will be more effective when we bring together the varied organizing and negotiating skills of our many cultures. We will learn from one another. We will work together and with our community allies to get what we want and need.

The Council now has an attorney, Laura Whitaker. She will help us reach our goals — we must and we will decide what those goals are.

Yet another Citizen Review Committee

meeting was held in August. We continue to work on core values. In September we will talk about core values some more. We should have a fine set of them when the committee winds up this fall. It is likely that we won't have time to consider what will get built at Yesler Terrace and maybe beyond.

There were also two informational meetings on redevelopment for people who live in communities near Yesler Terrace last month. August can be a fine time for meetings like this — few people attended. More people may have attended if the proposed "expanded planning footprint" of Yesler Terrace had been more clearly called out in the community mailing. We are continuing to talk about replacing Yesler Terrace units post-redevelopment somewhere that isn't Yesler Terrace. Some might call replacement — in another place — displacement. Bad word, displacement.

Kristin O'Donnell is the president of the Yesler Terrace Community Council and a member of the Citizens Review Committee.

Voice subscribers who live in Seattle Housing Authority communities can read more about the Yesler Terrace redevelopment on page 7 of the SHA News section.

Help others breathe easier

Volunteer with the American Lung Association

THE AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION

The American Lung Association of Washington is now accepting applications for the Master Home Environmentalist fall 2007 volunteer training.

Classes will be held from Sept. 18 to Nov. 20 at the association's Seattle office, 2625 Third Ave.

This free 35-hour training meets Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., and occasional Saturdays.

Master Home Environmentalist volunteers:

- Learn to recognize indoor health hazards that contribute to allergies, asthma and chemical sensitivities
- Find low or no cost solutions to reduce these problems
- Teach others about health hazards in their homes
- Conduct home environmental assessments

You don't need to be an expert or environmentalist to become a Master Home Environmentalist — just be interested in learning about lead, mold, dust, household chemicals and other pollutants and excited to share this information with other community members.

Volunteer applications are due September 10, 2007.

For an application or more information, contact Casey Coulombe at 206-441-5100 or by e-mail at casey@alaw.org. You can also visit the American Lung Association of Washington's Web site at <http://www.alaw.org>.

Founded in 1906, the American Lung Association of Washington's mission is to assure lung health for the people of Washington. For more information about the Lung Association of Washington's anti-tobacco, asthma and air quality programs or special events, call 1-800 LUNG USA.

Free genetic testing to be offered at Sickle Cell walk

By VOICE STAFF

Free testing for sickle cell trait and an appearance by Seattle Seahawk Bobby Engram, whose daughter has the disease, will be featured at the second annual Walk for Sickle Cell Disease on Sunday, Sept. 2, at Seward Park.

The Northwest Sickle Cell Collaborative — a partnership of health care providers and advocates — will offer the tests during the event, scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. The fee to register for the walk is \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors and youth 17 and under.

No advance sign-up is necessary for the blood tests, which involve a simple finger prick with little discomfort. Those under the age of 18 must have the consent of a parent or guardian.

Test results will be provided by mail or phone, and genetic counseling information and referrals will be available as needed.

Millions of Americans go through life unaware that they carry the gene for sickle cell, a potentially debilitating disease they could pass on to their children.

The disease affects the hemoglobin, or oxygen-carrying part of red blood cells, which become hard and crescent-shaped. Unlike normal donut-shaped cells, sickle cells jam up and block blood vessels, causing pain, anemia and sometimes organ damage, infections and other complications. There is no cure.

For more information or to register for the walk, visit the Web site at <http://www.nwsickleccl.org> or call 206-987-6972.

Nora Gibson and Juan Martinez confirmed as new SHA Commissioners

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mayor Greg Nickels has appointed Nora Gibson and Juan Martinez to serve three-year terms on the Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

Both appointees were confirmed by the city council on Aug. 13.

Gibson and Martinez will replace SHA Commissioners Jennifer Potter and Bettylou Valentine, both of whom served on the commission for two terms or more.

"We are very excited at the prospect of working with both Ms. Gibson and Mr. Martinez," said SHA Executive Director Tom Tierney. "They both have impeccable qualifications, and I am sure they will add important skills and perspectives to our board."

Gibson is executive director of ElderHealth Northwest, the largest adult day health program in the Pacific Northwest.



Nora Gibson

ElderHealth operates five adult day centers, two of which are located in Seattle Housing Authority buildings. Gibson's 30-year career has

focused on providing community-based long-term care for aging adults.

At the City Council committee hearing on Aug. 7, Gibson said the need for creative solutions to meet the needs of low-income elderly residents is becoming

more urgent.

Her vision for a healthy future for SHA would include assisted living floors in some buildings along with partnerships to build smaller, clustered housing for elders.

Gibson is affiliated with a number of professional organizations and is currently a board member of the National Pioneer Network, the Brain Injury Association of Washington, Alzheimer's Association and Washington Adult Day Services Association.

Juan Martinez is the state field director for the Washington Tax Fairness Coalition where he works with community, education, labor, faith and human services organizations to advocate for a progressive tax system that will benefit working families. Martinez also spent five years working for the Department of Social and Health Services, where he worked as a case manager for a range of people seeking services. He also brings labor and political organizing experience.

Martinez has worked with U.S. Congressman Jim McDermott and served as the president of Local 843 Washington Federation of State Employees. Martinez also serves on the board of directors of the Seattle Central Community College Foundation.



Juan Martinez

Menu labeling, trans fat ban to begin in 2008

PUBLIC HEALTH - SEATTLE & KING COUNTY

People will be able to make more informed food choices and have a safer food supply as the result of an action by the King County Board of Health to require menu labeling in King County chain restaurants and to eliminate artificial trans fat in all King County restaurants by 2008.

"Our rising health care costs, our growing number of obese, diabetic and chronically ill residents and a lack of information to inform choices that improve our health, all prompted the Board of Health to take action," said board member and Seattle City Councilmember Sally Clark.

Since last December, the King County Board of Health has considered options to halt and potentially reverse the growing obesity trend in our county, said Issaquah Mayor and board member Ava Frisinger.

"We resolved that banning trans fats and requiring chain restaurants to menu label were important options we could implement," she said.

Board of Health Member Dr. Bud Nicola said that menu labeling has the support of more than 65 percent of King County residents, who want to know how healthy, or unhealthy, restaurant meals are.

"People with diabetes who track their intake of carbohydrates, people with high blood pressure who watch the sodium content of foods and people who are overweight or obese who are calorie or fat counting,

will all see direct benefits in their ability to manage their condition," he added.

More about menu labeling

The new law will require chain restaurants with more than 10 national locations to display calorie, fat, sodium and carbohydrate information on menus by August 1, 2008.

If the restaurant uses a menu board, the calories will be posted on the board in the same size and font as the price information. The remaining nutritional information will be provided in a plainly visible format at the point of ordering. Only standard menu items will need to be labeled — occasional "specials" will be exempt.

King County will be the second jurisdiction in United States to require menu labeling in some food establishments.

More about artificial trans fats

Trans fats will be eliminated in all King County restaurants in two phases. Fry oils and shortenings with artificial trans fats will not be permissible after May 1, 2008. Restaurants must find alternatives for margarine and all other products containing trans fats by February 1, 2009.

Artificial trans fats have been used widely in the restaurant and processed food industries because they have a high smoking temperature and keep food stable over a long shelf life.

Industry trends have been to find alternatives to the use of trans fats, so there are non-trans fats options available from distributors and in processed products.

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THE MARKETPLACE OF THE VOICE

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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.

Kids celebrate community
WESTWOOD HEIGHTS TRANSFORMED
See page 3



SHA NEWS

September
2007

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

SHA raises deposit amounts, changes transfer policy

By JEFF ARNIM
Seattle Housing Authority

As the cost of repairs to vacated Low Income Public Housing units continues to increase, Seattle Housing Authority management has elected to raise the amounts of the security deposit residents must pay.

Starting Sept. 1, security deposits will be charged at \$250 for a one-bedroom unit, \$350 for a two-bedroom, \$450 for a three-bedroom and \$500 for a unit with four or more bedrooms.

The revised amounts apply both to new residents and to residents transferring from one unit to another.

"If a resident had paid a security deposit of \$150 for a one-bedroom unit, then the resident transfers to another one-bedroom, he or she would be required to pay the \$100 difference between the \$150 deposit originally paid and the new amount of \$250," explained Property Management Administrator Cindy Sribhibhadh.

The changes affect only security deposits, which were last increased two and a half years ago. Other deposits, including those for satellite dishes, water beds, gardens and fences remain unchanged. The lock-out fee will also stay the same.

As of Aug. 1, Seattle Housing Authority also modified the voluntary transfer policy for Low Income Public Housing program participants. Although the policy has changed, residents will still be permitted to move to a different building for any reason. Residents wishing to transfer will be treated the same as any housing applicant and will no longer be charged a transfer fee.

Residents now have the option to apply and be placed on waiting lists for up to two specific Low Income Public Housing buildings.

Residents who choose to do so will be considered and processed as new applicants. Any resident who was approved for a voluntary transfer before Aug. 1 will still be processed, but no new requests will be accepted under the old policy.

Although the new option does not allow a resident to choose a specific unit, he or she can still select a preferred building, without paying a fee. The option is available to residents of both family communities and high-rise buildings.

Residents interested in applying to be housed in another building should complete and submit Seattle Housing Authority's pre-application. This can be obtained and

Please see "Policies" on page 2

Careful planning precedes work at Center Park



PHOTO BY TINA AYRES

Center Park residents listen to a presentation about the type of construction work that will take place when their building is renovated as part of the homeWorks project.

By SVEN KOEHLER
Seattle Housing Authority

After two years of ongoing construction, when most people hear the name homeWorks they think of replacing old plumbing with new copper pipes.

But some buildings, like Center Park, already had this work done years ago, so homeWorks is focused on other ways to improve the way the building works for all the people who live there.

Construction at Center Park will involve intense remodeling in every apartment. Besides wall and floor repairs and a new paint job in every unit, each will get a new kitchen designed with an eye toward making them easier to use for all residents.

Seattle Housing Authority is proud that Center Park, built in 1968, is one of the first apartment buildings in the United States to be constructed specifically to serve people with physical disabilities.

While all the new kitchens will meet ADA accessibility standards, a percentage of them will be outfitted with even more built-in accessibility features, like space for wheelchair maneuverability under the sinks and cook tops and lower counter heights.

Each apartment will be under construction for about three weeks.

Since it would be extremely difficult to use the apartments during the work, residents will temporarily relocate to specially-designated "hotel units" within the building. This is similar to the process employed at Ballard House, where professional movers helped residents pack and transport their households back and forth within the building while their units were being refurbished.

The planning to minimize the effects of construction is a collaborative effort.

Property Manager Bill Drummond explained that he and other building man-

agement staff met with each resident individually to discuss the project and to learn about their particular needs in a confidential environment.

"With the information gleaned from these meetings, we should be able to diminish the impact tenants will experience," he said.

For example, the key to independent living for many residents with visual impairments is a carefully structured home environment where everything is in its place. The Housing Authority will make sure that someone who relies on knowing their unit's layout by memory will have a unit with a similar configuration so items can be put into their familiar places.

Armed with information about the construction, residents are getting prepared.

Center Park resident Jim Bush said, "Among residents, there is a sense of anticipation — the fact the building is getting done is a 'positive' — along with a considerable amount of trepidation (over) the fact there's going to be a lot of disruption, especially with the moving of people from unit to unit."

Residents have already seen some of the benefits of homeWorks in person, as the remodeling of the building's office was completed in the spring. But Bush noted that information about when work starts in each unit would be especially valuable. Residents learned they will soon receive their own personalized calendar showing when the three-week long remodel is scheduled in their unit.

While the contractor will begin work early this month, the first construction in the apartments will not start until October and continue until spring 2008.

Meanwhile, work crews will be starting on the other building improvements such as exterior repairs, roofing and the installation of the new ventilation system.

Proposed budget for 2008 shows small increase

Funding for Voice included in proposal

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Seattle Housing Authority has drafted a 2008 work plan and budget that will be presented to its Board of Commissioners this month. Passage of the new budget, which will cover January to December 2008, is scheduled for late October.

Summaries of both documents will be available after Sept. 5 on the agency's Web site, <http://www.seattlehousing.org>.

Housing Authority staff and board members invite residents and community members to attend the 2008 budget and "Moving To new Ways" annual plan public hearing. The Seattle Housing Authority will discuss the plan and budget and hear public comments.

The meeting is scheduled to precede the monthly Board of Commissioners meeting and will take place at 3:30 p.m. on Sept. 17 at SHA's central office, 120 Sixth Ave. N.

The proposed budget shows an increase in revenues of about \$9.5 million for activities funded by the MTW grant, which includes the Low Income Public Housing Program, the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) and funding for LIPH capital improvements. This grant will total about \$101.7 million for 2008, compared with \$90.9 million in 2007. These revenues are increasing as a result of congressional action on the federal budget since the last election. This increase will help the agency keep pace with increasing maintenance demands in our public housing buildings, rising construction costs and inflation.

Approximately \$4 million will be added
Please see "Budget" on page 2

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Senior Housing achieves 100 percent occupancy



PHOTO BY CLAIRE McDANIEL

Seattle Housing Authority maintenance and admissions staff members applaud their achievement of 100 percent occupancy in SSHP buildings.

By CLAIRE McDANIEL
Seattle Housing Authority

In early August, the Seattle Housing Authority achieved an impressive goal: Every Seattle Senior Housing Program unit was leased and occupied at the same time, resulting in a zero percent vacancy rate.

The program's 23 buildings, established by a bond passed by Seattle voters in 1981, provide housing for people over 62 and for a small number of disabled adults.

The program's staff took some time out last month to celebrate the achievement of a very rare milestone. Management recognized that it was the result of an extraordinary team effort.

Judi Anderson, senior property manager, was first to address the crowd. She thanked the maintenance staff for working hard to prepare the apartments for occupancy. She noted that in 2003 the program had 55

vacancies.

"We slowly brought it down and we were averaging about 10 or 11 a month," she said. "So I looked at the vacate board and saw where we were and I said, 'We can do this!'"

Next to express gratitude was Bob Kane, trade/vacates supervisor for the Housing Authority.

"I want to recognize that this is a big group effort and we couldn't have done it without everybody's hard work and dedication," he said. "It really shows that we are dedicated, have good customer service, are dependable and do the job right."

Cindy Sribhibhadh, property management administrator, acknowledged the staff for working with the applicants so efficiently and effectively. Don Ashlock, housing operations director, also thanked the group.

"This is a great event!" he said. "I'm really proud of everybody."

Budget

Continued from front page

to the Section 8 program in order to fund all of the vouchers that Seattle residents are entitled to. Housing Authority staff members intend to maximize the number of vouchers leased out over the next year.

In addition, staff will review occupancy standards in this program with the intent of allowing families to qualify for larger units. Occupancy standards in nearby counties are more generous than SHA's, which is resulting in some participants leaving Seattle.

The Housing Authority will continue to monitor the housing market so that the amount of rent a voucher will cover continues to match rising rents in the area.

Within the Low Income Public Housing Program, budget levels are staying about

the same, with small increases for inflation. Funding for The Voice is secured for the year. One program is being cut from the proposed budget. It is a program through the Nature Conservancy that provides art activities for youth and children in Rainier Vista and Yesler Terrace.

A major highlight of the proposed 2008 budget is the continuation of the homeWorks project. During 2008, staff members expect to complete Phase 1 of homeWorks, continue Phase 2 and begin Phase 3. This program is renovating essential structures in 22 of SHA's residential high-rises.

The new MTW plan and budget builds on the agency's past work. Some of the plans for 2008 include the following:

- Build 232 new public housing and workforce rental units in the second phase of High Point.
- Begin construction of community facilities in High Point and support the completion of the Boys and Girls Club's new facility at Rainier Vista.
- Re-open the Housing Choice Voucher waitlist.
- Sell the remaining 40 to 45 Scattered Sites units included in the approved reconfiguration plan and replace them in more accessible locations.
- Begin developing master plan alternatives and start environmental review for future redevelopment of Yesler Terrace.
- Generate nearby replacement options for Holly Court.
- Plan for the redevelopment of properties purchased in 2007 near Villa Park and the former Lake City Village site.
- Possibly develop and implement self-sufficiency requirements for public housing tenants who are able to work.

If you have any question about the hearing or the annual plan, contact Andria Lazaga at 206-615-3546 or by e-mail at alazaga@seattlehousing.org. If you need special accommodations or translation assistance, please contact Lazaga by Sept. 10.

Policies

Continued from front page

submitted online, or printed from the Seattle Housing Authority Web site (<http://www.seattlehousing.org>) and mailed in. Copies of the pre-application form are also available at resident managers' offices and at Seattle Housing Authority's PorchLight facility, 907 N.W. Ballard Way.

The change in the voluntary transfer policy resulted from regulatory requirements associated with Seattle Housing Authority's homeWorks project, which is revitalizing high-rise Low Income Public Housing buildings throughout the city.

To meet the standards of the tax-credit funding that finances the project, Seattle Housing Authority is not allowed to charge an administrative fee on transfers for residents living in tax credit units.

Rather than require some but not all residents to pay a fee, Seattle Housing Authority chose to change the previous policy and eliminate transfer fees altogether.

Shelly Yapp joins SHA as Chief Financial Officer

By VIRGINIA FELTON
Seattle Housing Authority

Shelly Yapp has been the chief financial officer at Seattle Housing Authority for just two months now, but already the white board in her office is covered with notes about goals and projects.

She stepped into her new job just as work on the 2008 budget went into high gear. This has provided many opportunities to get perspective on SHA's financial situation and get to know her staff and staff throughout the agency, Yapp said.

Yapp came to the Housing Authority from the Seattle Center, where she was in charge of redevelopment. Before that, she was executive director of the Pike Place Market.

She has also served as deputy mayor under former Mayor Charles Royer and as budget director for King County, where she worked with former SHA Executive Director Harry Thomas.

"My Seattle Center job gave me an appreciation for what it takes to do development activities successfully — how they are financed, planned and carried out," she said. "That experience helps me appreciate what is needed for SHA to be successful with both redevelopment activities and real estate transactions and how to ensure that SHA has proper financial systems in place for managing these activities."

Yapp also noted that her Pike Place Market experience gave her a genuine appreciation for the concerns that low-income residents have about their housing.

During her tenure at the market, it was threatened by a group of investors from New York who wanted to change it.

"When I was working on this problem, I heard from a lot of elderly residents who lived in low-income housing at the Market. They were really afraid they would lose their housing," she said. "It made me really angry that the New York investors were putting them through this — I was totally motivated by the opportunity to advocate on their behalf. I knew I was fighting on the side of right."

Yapp said her experience overseeing five low-income buildings at the market gives her an appreciation for SHA's role in managing and maintaining its many properties.

The opportunity to work at SHA was attractive to Yapp because she sees the agency as a traditional public entity, but with an entrepreneurial focus.

"I think that's a combination that makes an agency vital, as well as fun and exciting to work with," she said.

She understands her own mission at Seattle Housing as providing financial in-



Shelly Yapp

formation to managers in the most useful form possible.

"For example, our financial management needs to support our development activities, so that the project managers are better able to manage their operations. This also applies to our housing operations managers," she said.

Yapp has already formed a work group to look at what financial information is routinely provided to managers and to suggest changes. She also plans to develop a set of policies that will guide SHA's financial structure into the future.

"I believe that SHA would be well-

More SHA news in cover section

Read about the newly-appointed members of the Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners on page 4 of the section entitled "The Voice."

served with clear policies that guarantee sound financial practices will be in place well into the future. This includes policies about debt service and capacity, reserve levels and our use of various kinds of borrowing," she said.

Yapp added that "homeWorks is a great example of the kind of project that good financial management can play a role in. Not only is homeWorks improving living conditions for residents, it is also allowing those buildings to operate more efficiently and economically. It provides an opportunity to preserve housing into the future and to use our financial resources in a very effective way."

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.

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

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

Neighbors invited to get involved in training

By DORENE CORNWELL
Special to The Voice

The Creating Neighborhood Connections project is planning a series of workshops centered in Northeast Seattle called Getting Involved in Your Neighborhood.

Some of your neighbors are learning disaster awareness information, practicing their presentation skills and preparing a great program. This fun series of workshops will require four Saturdays of your time. The series will begin in October and more information about the dates, time and location will be available by the first week in September.

We are looking for participants and taking sign ups now. This project is funded by a City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Small and Simple Matching Fund.

Workshop participants will get to photograph their neighborhood and make collages and maps that represent the area. They'll be able to tell their friends about valuable resources and learn from other participants about their favorite places and activities. At the same time, participants will get to explore their own passions and share them with others.

The program will give you the chance to learn about the City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods Small Sparks Program.

The Small Sparks program teaches people of any background how to write a grant request for up to \$250 to fund community-building projects. The grant application is just one page. The Getting Involved Workshops offer the opportunity to learn a few simple points about budgeting and about the rules for Small Sparks.

In the past Seattle Housing Authority

residents have won Small Sparks grants to have an Easter egg hunt, toss paper airplanes off a SHA high-rise, hold a game night in their building, do disaster preparedness workshops and to hold a community tea party. Even if you do not have a theme idea now, sign up for our workshops, come and get inspired.

If you think people in your building would like to know more before signing up or just want to schedule a disaster preparedness event with one of our eager new disaster preparedness speakers, representatives of this project would be happy to attend residents' council meetings or other activities to tell you more about these events and our project.

The Getting Involved in Your Neighborhood workshops will be held in Northeast Seattle and residents from that part of the city will be offered priority, but we invite people from all over the city to apply. The application will involve answering a few short questions about why you are interested in this project. It can either be completed on paper, on the computer via e-mail or through a short interview.

We really want to make it easy to participate.

Lunch will be served, and door prizes will be provided. There is also money available for people who need translation or interpretation, assistance with transportation or other accommodations.

For more information or to sign up, contact Dorene Cornwell at 206-524-8746 or by e-mail at dorenefc@aol.com or Jim Bush at 206-860-7275 or by e-mail at jmb-sea@aol.com.

Dorene Cornwell is a resident of Center Park.

Center Park gets together to celebrate summer



PHOTO BY JEFF ARNIM

Center Park residents enjoy their summer barbecue.

SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The public housing residents of Center Park had some summer fun this past month, coming together to enjoy good food and great company at their community barbecue.

More than 50 residents followed their noses to the high-rise's community building, filling themselves with hot dogs, chicken, burgers — of both the regular and veggie varieties — and salads, along with a host of refreshments.

As residents provided serving assistance and helped offer up beverages, staff from the Housing Authority and community police officer Mike Bonet, from the Seattle Police Department, worked together behind the grill and at the serving table to keep residents smiling and make sure their plates were full.

If the outstanding turnout, the smiles and the laughter were any indication, the barbecue was a great success, and everyone had an enjoyable time.

"We think they did, judging from the full plates," said Center Park resident Jim Bush. They not only enjoyed themselves, but also went home full.

"Housing brought so much food, they were practically begging people to take some home with them—and many people did," explained Bush. "We also had a couple of people tickling the ivories, both with a regular piano and with a portable keyboard. It made for a good musical interlude, I think."

Sponsored by the resident council of Center Park and the Seattle Housing Authority, the event was organized by the council with assistance from community builder Marcia Johnson.

Center Park residents now look forward to the next big community event, where they will celebrate the extensive remodeling and refurbishing their building is soon to experience as part of the Seattle Housing Authority's homeWorks high-rise revitalization project.

Westwood community celebrates transformation

By CLAIRE MCDANIEL
Seattle Housing Authority

Residents celebrated the transformation of the Westwood Heights neighborhood from one of the city's most undesirable places to live into a neighborhood that is beautiful, vibrant and diverse at a community block party last month.

The party brought together residents of Westwood Heights, Westwood Heights Addition, Westwood Heights Addition East, Longfellow and Westwood Courts along with staff members from the Seattle Housing Authority and its partner organizations.

Guest speakers included SHA's Executive Director Tom Tierney, Housing Authority Commissioner Sybil Bailey, Community Crime Prevention Coordinator Benjamin Kinlow and Westwood Heights resident Claudia Hinton.

Hot dogs and hamburgers barbecued on an open grill, steel drum music and a children's bicycle parade completed the



PHOTO BY VIRGINIA FELTON

In a neighborhood where it was once unsafe to walk the streets, children enjoy a bike parade.

festivities.

Additionally, speaker Katie Talcott, housing programs director for the Lutheran Alliance to Create Housing, expressed her appreciation for the changes she has seen as a close neighbor.

"Over 10 years ago SHA had a vision for what this neighborhood could be like," she said. "It took a lot of heart from a lot of people to make that vision a reality, and it has been a privilege to be a part of it."

Emergency training available

By CAROL DUNN
American Red Cross

The American Red Cross serving King and Kitsap counties is conducting a series of free classes for Seattle Housing Authority residents on how to become a community advocate for disaster preparedness.

The goal of the classes is to increase disaster preparedness awareness and to demonstrate how helpful being prepared for disasters can be.

"The number of problems caused by last year's power outage should serve as a reminder that there are circumstances in which there will be few sources of assistance available," says JenRenee Paulson, community disaster educator for the Red Cross. "Yet most residents still have not taken steps to be able to handle long term disruptions in water, power or heating.... Those individuals who do prepare have a much smoother transition to recovery after a disaster."

The Housing Authority, the local Red Cross and the Seattle Office of Emergency Management have already worked together to hold nearly 80 disaster education presentations at SHA locations.

The new classes will cover teaching

styles and presentation skills. The goal is to teach people to talk about disaster preparedness. Course material includes detailed information on almost every type of disaster and recommendations on how to prepare and respond to them.

Interpreters for limited-English speaking or hearing impaired residents can be provided upon request.

After the training, class attendees will receive continued guidance and support from the local Red Cross Community Disaster Education program including brochures, assistance making presentation materials, the ability to request to co-present with a Red Cross volunteer and mentoring.

If you are interested in participating in these classes, contact the SHA community builder who works in your community. Let your community builder know if you need any special accommodations.

If you are unsure who you need to contact, contact Marcia Johnson at 206-239-1530 or by e-mail at MMJohnson@seattlehousing.org.

The Red Cross trains 60,000 people each year in life-saving skills. For more information about your local Red Cross and disaster preparedness, please visit <http://www.seattleredcross.org>.

HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY



Reader's viewpoint

Readers of *The Voice* share their ideas

Youth voices needed in neighborhood planning



PHOTO BY GEORGE NEMETH

Youth from the Westside Builders Team with High Point Community Builder Samantha Gotkin (at right).

By KHATSINI SIMANI
Special to *The Voice*

For too long major decisions in communities around Seattle have been made without input from the youth.

Communities like High Point, that are still in formation and undergoing construction are in desperate need of input and perspective from young people. As the High Point community rebuilds homes and relationships, selects neighborhood representatives and makes new connections with all types of people, youth should be included and helping to drive development.

We are the future and present leaders. Everything that goes on around us affects us. So why not be involved?

Being young is not just about reckless fun and ignorance. We as youth have a responsibility to share our perspectives with the community, put forth and build our leadership skills in a positive way.

The Westside Builders, a group of interns ranging in ages from 12 to 23 is meeting four days a week with High Point Com-

munity Builder Samantha Gotkin to discuss ways to improve High Point.

As interns, we are required to meet for a minimum of 15 hours a week. Most of the time however, we are outside of the office, whether we're cooking for a community potluck, passing out flyers for "A Night Out Against Crime" or hanging out and getting to know each other — something even adults could do more often!

Having a youth community building team shows that we are already breaking stereotypes. But it's when we turn our interests into actions to help our community that we start to see positive changes in our neighborhood.

A community takes the unity of all peoples, cultures, religions and backgrounds. It does not come right away. A community takes time, interaction and collaboration from all ages. It is long past time for the youth be heard. The Westside Builders are changing that.

Khatsini Simani is a High Point community building intern. Her column includes input from the entire community building team.

Scholarship event opens doors for High Point youth

By MARCUS STUBBLEFIELD
SafeFutures Youth Center

Over 50 High Point youths, parents and community members flocked to the first ever Gates Millennium Scholarship event at the SafeFutures Youth Center in July.

The event was an attempt to reach out to populations that have not been well-represented among the scholarship's applicant pool.

It also aimed to bring together boys from junior high and high school, accomplished men of distinction and current scholars in a forum that would help young men attain their potential.

The scholarship helps students pay the cost of tuition, fees, books and living expenses for their college career. It covers all of the recipient's unmet need based on the financial aid award package provided by their college or university.

Statistics show that young men of color are not applying for the scholarship, so a concerted effort is being made to reach out to potential candidates, scholarship officials said.

The Gates Millennium Scholars Program was created in 1999 with an initial fund of 1 billion dollars from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It aims at reducing financial barriers to pursuing higher education for African-American, Hispanic American, American Indian/Alaska Native and Asian Pacific Islander American students.

Recipients are encouraged to become future leaders, as the scholarship provides them the opportunity to obtain a bachelors, a masters or a doctoral degree.

The scholarship also focuses on increasing the presence of these minority groups in the fields of education, engineering, library



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAFE FUTURES YOUTH CENTER

High Point youth took part in a scholarship event at SafeFutures Youth Center.

science, mathematics, public health and the general sciences.

The High Point event included scholarship staff from Washington D.C. and local Gates Millennium scholars speaking to young men from the community about the chance they have to get four years of college paid for.

Tony Nguyen, who will be a high school junior this September, was one of the youth who participated in the event.

Currently Nguyen has a 2.7 grade point average. After the workshop he found out that he needs a minimum of 3.0 GPA to qualify for the scholarship.

"I will work harder next year to increase my GPA, because I want to go to college," he said.

Nguyen is one of many minority males who is an at-risk youth struggling in school and looking for a better future through higher education.

To qualify for the scholarship, students must be eligible for the Federal Pell Grant and submit the federal student aid form, known as the FAFSA, by January 2008.

A scholarship application and references are also required. For more information on how to apply for a Gates Millennium Scholarship visit the Web site at <http://www.gmsp.org>.

High Point association trustees start to meet

By SAMANTHA GOTKIN
Seattle Housing Authority

The High Point Neighborhood Association trustees held a retreat with other community leaders last month to create a vision for the new association and develop ideas for neighborhood committees.

The trustees, elected in a community-wide election in June, discussed the by-laws, the process for appointing additional trustees and ways to communicate with the neighborhood.

The trustees are working to identify additional community leaders to help inform and direct the decisions and work of the association.

"That was the best meeting we ever had," reported Brittany Darden, youth intern and former High Point resident.

Four community building youth interns attended the retreat to offer their perspective on community issues and the development

of the neighborhood association.

The youth suggested that the association create an intergenerational committee to focus on promoting relations between youth and seniors as well as a youth committee to support the leadership and involvement of youth with the association and the neighborhood.

The retreat provided the opportunity for community members to learn about each other's backgrounds, experiences, ideas, and concerns as well as to identify common priorities.

Five neighborhood committees were proposed including a welcome committee, an intergenerational committee, a youth committee and committees on pedestrian, bicycle and traffic safety and multicultural education and communication.

Neighbors who are concerned about or interested in any of these topics are invited to join a committee. Committee chairs will be chosen at the next Neighborhood As-

sociation meeting.

The trustees view their role as one of working with the entire High Point community to make the neighborhood better, address community issues and make decisions about how to best use community funds.

For the High Point Neighborhood Association to be successful and representative of the entire community, its trustees need everyone's participation.

There are many ways to become involved with the neighborhood association — attend monthly meetings, join or lead an association committee, help plan a neighborhood party or activity or share your concerns and ideas with the trustees.

Association meetings will be held the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at the High Point Library. Everyone is welcome and snacks are provided.

The next meeting will take place on Sept. 13.

Community notes

Community Center needs you

The High Point Community center will be hosting a focus group event for High Point Community leaders on Saturday, September 22.

The center staff would like to recruit leaders of the various community groups in the neighborhood (whether defined by cultural identity, language, origin of birth, etc.) to join them in a discussion of how to best perform outreach to their community.

"We have found that the typical, American-style of marketing may not be the most effective to reach certain groups," said center representative Brian Judd. "This is their chance to let us know what kind of communication works best."

Fifty dollar stipends are available to participants, but advance registration is required. For more information or to register, call 206-684-0644.

RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

Four residents are winners in landscaping contest



PHOTO BY SCOTT FREUTEL

Navy, left, and Rina Kheav, daughters of Ry Kheav, in their mother's garden, which won the Rainier Vista Landscaping Contest "Best Backyard Garden" award.

By SCOTT FREUTEL
Seattle Housing Authority

Many gardeners, with seed catalogs in hand, "think big" at the beginning of the gardening season. By mowing-and-weeding-and-watering time, though, many of them find themselves shaking their heads at their overambitious planting schemes, and vow to do more with less next year — that is, to "think small."

Because the yards at Rainier Vista are small, doing more with less is a built-in condition of having a garden or even a nicely planted, neatly kept green space. For some residents, keeping the weeds at bay is all the gardening they feel they need to do.

But other residents accept the challenge of turning their small plots into inviting spaces, of growing flowers and vegetables, of helping to brighten the entire community. On Aug. 8, four residents, all of them women, were named winners of the Rainier Vista Landscaping Contest.

Ry Kheav was honored for Best Backyard Garden. Hay Srey's back yard was named Most Creative. Hoa Khuc's efforts were honored as Best Overall. And Edna Thornton's yard was deemed Best Kept.

Because Kheav was at work at the time

of the ceremony, her daughters Navy, 21, and Rina, 17, accepted the award on her behalf.

Judges were residents Kathy Smith, from the Snoqualmie Building, and Dang La, from McBride Court, assisted by Seattle Housing Authority Resident Manager Denise Wright and Property Manager Dean Weitenhagen.

In a brief ceremony honoring the winners, Weitenhagen recognized their hard work and creativity in balancing vegetables and flowers in such limited spaces and in creating beauty for all the community to admire — and copy.

"There's been a significant improvement in 'curb appeal' thanks to your efforts," he said as he handed the winners printed acknowledgements, gift certificates from Lowe's and two-pronged hoes that looked as though, properly handled, they could take care of any gardening chore short of pruning.

Weitenhagen said that he's sure that as other Rainier Vista residents see what can be made of a small plot with a small outlay of time and labor, many will follow suit — and that next year's landscaping contest will be crowded with many contestants and nominees.

Take a listen to the learning going on at Rainier Vista

By SCOTT FREUTEL
Seattle Housing Authority

If you wander the halls of the Neighborhood House Rainier Vista Center on a Tuesday evening you will see, or more precisely hear, three different approaches to learning.

On a recent visit to the technology center on the main floor, six women from East Africa sat quietly in front of computers, learning the basics from Neighborhood House Computer Lab Technician Tsegaye Gebru. As needed, Gebru switched from English to Oromo, Somali, Amharic or Tigrinya to explain the workings of computers.

Soon, he'll be showing his students how to use the Internet and how to send and receive e-mail. Then, if they're interested, he will teach them word processing and other software programs.

The noise level down the hall was considerably higher. There, a dozen youngsters, most of them middle school students, were learning math skills. They were being tutored by three volunteers — Sean Apple, Rozanna Fang and Lyn Hallowell. Apple is an applied math student at the University of Washington; Fang is a student of French at UW. Hallowell, an instructor at Pierce College, developed the curriculum being used with these students in tandem with Ed Ford, another Pierce College instructor who also volunteers as a program tutor.

And the noise level upstairs, where kindergartners were being read to and introduced to their ABCs and their numbers, was higher still. Their tutor was Sado Guled, who with her sister Sahra takes charge of these youngest learners. The sisters are UW students.

All this learning, quiet or boisterous, is thanks to Horn of Africa Services and its tutoring program, which is underway at Rainier Vista and at Yesler Terrace.

According to Eskinder Sarka, executive director of Horn of Africa Services, which has an office at the Rainier Vista Neighborhood House, the program was created after a survey of East African residents showed that their number one preference was for a program that would keep their kids off the streets, teach them the basics of math,

English and science in a culturally-relevant way, and, ultimately, help their children to pass the Washington Assessment of Student Learning exam.

Started a year ago last June, the program serves an ever-changing mix of adults and very young children. Currently, between its Yesler Terrace and Rainier Vista sites, it serves about 70 school kids.

The program welcomes volunteer tutors regardless of their background. However, according to Sarka, the program directors make a special effort to recruit college students who are themselves of East African origin.

"They provide good role models for the kids," he said, "to show them that it's possible for them to go to college too."

Sarka points out that the program is not limited to residents of Seattle Housing Authority communities. "Anybody who wants to come participate is welcome," he said, whether they or their parents hail from East Africa or not, and no matter what language they speak. "Parents can know that their children are being well looked after and are learning things that will help them in school — and the parents themselves can learn computer skills in a friendly and supportive environment."

The curriculum for the school-age children in the program goes beyond reading, math and science. Classes are being added in photography and in multimedia/movie production.

Sarka said he and others involved in the program coordinate their efforts with Seattle Public Schools, which provides some funding. Among students in the tutoring program, improvement in grades and in attitudes toward learning have already been noted.

For information about the Horn of Africa Services tutoring program at Rainier Vista, call 206-723-2061. For information about its Yesler Terrace program, call 206-760-0550. The Horn of Africa Services main office is at 4714 Rainier Ave. S., Room 105. The office telephone number is 206-760-5071.

Community notes

Get your hands dirty!

Join your neighbors to help landscape Dakota Park on the corner of 29th Avenue and Dakota Street

The festivities will take place on September 15 and 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Those attending will be spreading topsoil and planting trees and shrubs. Tools will be provided, but please bring your own gloves.

Refreshments will be served!

For more information, call Denise Wright at 206-721-2980. For information in Chinese or Vietnamese, call Naomi Chang at 722-4010 ext. 2.

Moon festival planned

A moon festival celebration is planned for Chinese and Vietnamese residents of Rainier Vista and their children on Sept. 25 from 4 to 7 p.m. in the McBride Court Community Room.

The festival will include a potluck meal, bingo, raffle prizes and more.

Community builder's RV hours cut

By SCOTT FREUTEL
Seattle Housing Authority

Naomi Chang, Rainier Vista's energetic community builder, is now splitting her time between Rainier Vista and residents who live in Seattle Housing Authority's Scattered Sites.

While the first phase of the Rainier Vista redevelopment is finished, it will be several years until Phase II is completed.

Meanwhile, the fact that there are fewer residents means that there is less rent revenue for staff support. Part of the solution to this budget deficit, SHA officials say, is to pay half of Chang's salary from the RV budget and half from the Scattered Sites budget.

Ann Levine, who as community builder coordinator is Chang's supervisor, is quite

clear about the value of Chang's work at Rainier Vista.

"This is a critical time at Rainier Vista, when residents are beginning to play greater and greater leadership roles. The work that Naomi is doing now is laying the foundation for how residents feel about their community," she said. "Unfortunately, Rainier Vista's budget has required a shift in resources. Though we will have to temporarily scale back some of Naomi's work at RV, we are committed to continuing to support resident leadership in community committees.... We also intend to continue to assess what residents' interests are, create and support opportunities for them to collectively address issues they have identified."

Additionally, Chang will continue to build relationships with non-English speaking residents and break down barriers

between residents so that they can meaningfully participate in joint activities and committees, Levine said.

As Rainier Vista is built out, as more residents are added, the community builder position will be restored to full-time.

In the meantime, Chang will spend half her time engaging residents of SHA's Scattered Sites portfolio — small apartment complexes and a few single-family homes dotted across the city — in activities and leadership opportunities in their communities.

Chang was born in Vietnam and speaks Vietnamese and Chinese. She came to the United States in 1984 and lived in Salt Lake City before settling in Seattle. Before coming to work at SHA (and Rainier Vista) in July 2005, she worked with a nonprofit health care educator.

NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

NewHolly tutoring programs gear up for fall

By JEFF ARNIM
Seattle Housing Authority

Summer vacation is over and back-to-school time has arrived.

With homework and research papers replacing free time and sunshine, now is a great time for parents and students to take a closer look at the three youth tutoring programs available to help NewHolly students succeed in school.

Atlantic Street Center

The Atlantic Street Center serves NewHolly students between the ages of 12 and 18.

"We provide one-on-one and group tutoring, depending on the child and their academic needs," explains Youth Development Program Coordinator Roderick Booker. "Students can receive help in all the major reading, math and science areas."

The programs take place at the NewHolly teen center. Times and dates for this year's tutoring program were not available at press time.

Tutors in the program include the Atlantic Street Center's youth development staff, along with volunteers from Seattle University, the University of Washington, local churches and other nonprofit organizations.

To enroll their children, parents should come to the NewHolly family center to fill out the registration form and questionnaire. Students can be enrolled on the same day completed paperwork is processed. Those with questions can reach Booker at 206-329-2050, ext. 168, or through e-mail at roderickb@atlanticstreet.org.

Catholic Community Services

The Youth Tutoring Program administered by Catholic Community Services serves the children of NewHolly residents, between grades one and 12.

Students study one-on-one with tutors and receive help with reading, writing and homework. They also work through the Youth Tutoring Program language arts and math skill-building curriculum.

"The tutors are age 16 and up. Some are high school students and many are working professionals with graduate degrees who have tutored with us for a decade or more," says Teresa Miller, the program's education coordinator.

Tutoring takes place in the Learners Building at NewHolly on the first floor, just down the hall from the Seattle Public Library. Students have regular appointments twice each week for one hour, and drop-in help for enrolled students is available as well.

"Those who want help getting on the waiting list should contact me," says Miller. "But the list is currently very long. We are hoping to expand our space and be able to take on more students." In the meantime, she points out, "The library offers free drop-in homework help across the hall for any interested student."

For more information, residents can call 206-725-7942, e-mail holly@ytpseattle.org, or visit the office between 12 and 3:30 p.m. on weekdays.

Vietnamese Friendship Association

This fall, the Vietnamese Friendship Association will be working with Vietnamese youth between the ages of 10 and 18 living in NewHolly.

The after-school tutoring program starts Oct. 9 and runs Tuesday through Thursday, from 3 to 5 p.m. Assistance is available in the core areas of math, science, reading, writing, WASL and other subjects as time allows, as well as guidance on SAT testing and college applications.

The program's tutors are college-level work study students, volunteers and VFA program staff, with tutoring taking place at the South Seattle Community College's NewHolly Learning Center, above the library.

Interested parents should call 206-760-1573 or send an e-mail to vfaseattle@gmail.com. Residents that are not of Vietnamese descent living in NewHolly public housing will be put on a waiting list and enrolled as space allows.

Family Fun Fest features back-to-school resources



PHOTO BY CECILIA MATTA

Volunteers from Children's Hospital and Cascade Bicycle Club Education Foundation fitted kids and grown-ups with new helmets, promoting bike safety.

By CECILIA MATTA
Voice reporter

From backpacks and bike helmets to barbecue and book clubs, the Family Fun Fest at Van Asselt Community Center offered food, fun and free resources to the community last month.

An estimated 700 neighborhood residents came out for the lively gathering, sponsored by NewHolly Neighborhood Campus, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Atlantic Street Center, the Seattle Public Library and World Vision.

Without a doubt, the two biggest attractions were the free backpacks and bike helmets.

Kerry McVey, a Seattle Housing Authority volunteer, called the turnout "bigger than in the past, probably due to the backpacks."

Volunteers served a steady stream of kids and parents, handing out 750 backpacks by 1:30 p.m.

According to Sang Lim, World Vision's Program Manager, the backpack giveaway "could not have happened without the community coming together."

Bartell Drugs, Boeing Bluebills and Office Depot provided the backpacks and school supplies, Lim said.

Families could collect one backpack for each school-aged child accompanied by a parent. Using a "passport," kids could then visit activity stations to earn crayons, notebooks and other supplies by completing activities like a ring toss and ball pitch.

To promote bicycle safety, Children's Hospital and Cascade Bicycle Club Education Foundation teamed up to provide 250 free bike helmets and a personal helmet fitting. Kids and grown-ups sat patiently as volunteers fitted helmets for them and emphasized the importance of wearing them whenever they ride their bikes.

Among the NewHolly residents who came out for the event was Amal Mohamed, joined by her sister, cousin and their kids.

Amal has been a NewHolly advisory board member, and she helped organize the Halal and vegetarian food for the event, "so everyone would have good food choices."

To foster community-building, event

organizers, led by Joy Bryngelson of Seattle Housing Authority, Randy Smith of Van Asselt Community Center and their team of dedicated volunteers, provided tables for groups to recruit participants and volunteers.

Keeping with the back-to-school theme, Seattle Public Library youth volunteers encouraged kids to sign up for their book clubs.

To help kids look sharp, six barbers from the Seattle's GP Institute of Cosmetology, sponsored by World Vision, served a steady line-up of clients for free back-to-school haircuts.

NewHolly residents Mary and TJ Seib-



PHOTO BY CECILIA MATTA

Etienne Cakpo, left, leader of Gansango, played the djun-djun, cylindrical bass drums, accompanied by Kane Mathis, right, playing the Kora, a 21-string African gourd harp.

ert were engaging as they hosted a table recruiting volunteers for the NewHolly Community Council and six different committees.

Friendly and informative, they described their desire "to promote traffic safety and crime prevention in our neighborhood." Among their current projects is managing a city grant for safety and welcome signs for NewHolly and the new Chief Sealth Bike trail.

DJ Commander Whitehead emceed the musical entertainment, offering a wide range of live and recorded selections.

From drummer Bob Frazier to African music performed by "Gansango," percussion provided the background rhythms of the day.

Friendly people, good food, pleasant weather, pulsing music and community resources all came together for the seventh successful Family Fun Fest.

Lee House opens on Sept. 5

By VOICE STAFF

After several years of hard work by volunteers, the Harry Thomas Community Center at Lee House will finally open its doors.

A community open house is scheduled on Wednesday, September 5 from 5 to 7 p.m. A short program will begin at 6 p.m.

The house sat on the property before it became Holly Park in the late 1930s. It was then used for offices and community space into the 1990s. Because it was such an important part of the neighborhood's history, the Housing Authority decided not to tear it down.

Instead, builders Polygon Northwest and Bennett-Sherman, along with countless community members, donated their time and resources to restore the house.

The lower floor, which has two large rooms and a kitchenette, will be rented out for community meetings, parties and other events.

Neighborhood House will occupy the top floor of the building with a staff of 15

rotating through the offices.

"We're very excited to be part of this new center," said Neighborhood House Development Director Ray Li.

While the Lee House will be home to two specific Neighborhood House programs, the Parent Child Home Program and CASA START, all community members in need of information or social services are welcome to stop by.

The Parent Child Home Program provides home-based services to children between 2- and 3-years-old using a research-proven model.

This program prepares young children for school success by increasing language and literacy skills, enhancing social-emotional development and strengthening the parent-child relationship.

The CASA START program assigns full-time case managers to middle school-aged youth identified as high risk for school failure, criminal activities, drug abuse or gang involvement.

YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

Art is for everyone



PHOTO BY CRAIG ANGEVINE

Minyou Wen and her grandmother, Mrs. Lin, hone their drawing skills during a visit to the Nature Consortium art classroom at Yesler Community Center. Although Minyou is still a bit too young to partake in such classes, the center cordially invites everyone in the community to take a look and see what they are up to. The Nature Consortium offers a variety of classes ranging from fashion design to ceramics for local youth ages 5 to 19. A continually updated schedule of the classes can be viewed online at <http://www.naturec.org/calendar.htm>.

Notes from the manager

By JUDI CARTER
Senior Property Manager

Now that school has started again, it might be a good time to sort through those clothes that are still good but no longer fit your children.

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

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

Do you have a plan for getting out of your home quickly if there were to be a fire in one of your rooms? What would you do if there were an earthquake and the roads were not passable? How would you check to make sure your children were safe if they were at school?

You should also consider what you would do if the water pipes break cutting off water to your house, or how would you eat if there was no electricity and the stove didn't work. Keeping warm if a disaster occurred in the dead of winter is also a consideration.

Now is a good time to start planning what you would do with your family.

The Seattle Fire Department recommends that every household develop a fire escape plan. The whole family should practice the plan, so that everybody will know what to do if a fire starts in your apartment.

Speaking of fires, now that the weather is starting to cool down, it is critical that you make sure everything is at least 8 inches away from your heaters before they are turned on.

Cleaning the dust away from the top of the heater with a slightly wet cloth and vacuuming the coils out will prevent the dark lines that sometimes show up on the walls above the heater when it is first turned on.

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

We now have several sets of keys, a cell phone or two, a necklace and assorted other items in our lost and found. If you lost any of these items, please check to see if it is in our collection.

Guiding principles to be adopted for redevelopment

Planning concepts also on September meeting agenda

By STACY SCHWANDT
Voice editor

After months of meetings, the citizens group charged with steering plans for the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace is poised to adopt guiding principles for the project.

A vote on the principles will take place on Sept. 26 at the Citizens Review Committee's monthly meeting.

"We feel very strongly that the guiding principles will serve as the foundation of the redevelopment," said former Seattle mayor Norman Rice, who chairs the committee.

After the vote, committee members will consider the concepts planners will use as they design the future community.

Yesler Terrace is a 68-year-old public housing community in the heart of Seattle. Over 500 low-income families live on the site. Redevelopment is expected to begin in 2010.

The committee's guiding principles center on four areas: social equity, economic opportunity, environmental stewardship and sustainability and one-for-one replacement housing, which covers how the low-income housing should be rebuilt.

A draft version of the principles is available on the Seattle Housing Authority's Web site at <http://www.seattlehousing.org/Development/yesler/GuidingPrinciples.html>.

The principles call on the Housing Authority to create a culturally- and economically-diverse community, while continuing to prioritize the provision of housing and services for those in need.

They suggest an expansion of the boundaries of Yesler Terrace, if necessary, and call for phased redevelopment to minimize impacts on current residents.

They also call for guaranteeing current residents a home at Yesler Terrace as long as they remain eligible under current rules.



PHOTO BY VIRGINIA FELTON

Yesler Terrace Senior Property Manager Judi Carter (at right) talks about the future redevelopment with community members at a community open house held in August.

Committee members still have some disagreement over the principles, which they will likely settle at the September meeting.

This includes whether principle covering one-for-one replacement housing will instruct SHA to pursue, to the greatest extent possible, redevelopment plans that would keep the bulk of the land in public control.

Housing Authority officials expressed concern over that provision at the August meeting.

"I think the best chance of increasing the number of units of low-income housing here on site and elsewhere is the sale of some pieces of property," said Housing Authority Executive Director Tom Tierney.

Committee members expressed a variety of viewpoints on this subject, but decided to postpone debate until the next meeting.

Also at issue is a principle that calls for the replacement of any publicly-regulated low-income housing outside of Yesler Terrace that is lost during redevelopment.

Committee members expressed an interest in seeing all housing

with rents below market rate replaced, regardless of whether it is publicly-subsidized.

"The City has an unofficial policy that if a governmental entity is removing low-income housing, that it be replaced," said Adrienne Quinn, director of the City's Office of Housing and a member of the committee.

However, committee member Sue Sherbrooke pointed out that the principle also instructs the Housing Authority to replace housing "without sacrificing existing limited local funding, such as trust fund or levy dollars."

"We would have to use (these) dollars to replace non-subsidized housing," she said.

After these concerns were raised, the committee again decided to postpone debate until the following month.

"I think we will have a further robust discussion on these two issues, and I think it's necessary," Rice said.

The Citizens Review Committee will meet from 5 to 8 p.m. on Sept. 26 at the Yesler Community Center, 917 Yesler Way.

Join the All Families festival

VOICE STAFF

Join your neighbors for the Celebrating All Families festival.

Fun, food, music, games, art activities, information sharing and networking will fill the afternoon. Come to meet and greet, make new friends, and establish your community as a great place for families of all kinds to live together and share a common spirit of respect and support.

Mixed-race, single parent, gay and lesbian-parented and adoptive or foster families are especially invited.

The event will take place on Sept. 8 at the Rainier Valley Unitarian Universalist Center, 835 Yesler Way, from 1 to 4 p.m.

A musical program will include the marimba group Nzira!, polka band Polkamotion, singer-songwriter Jess Grant and jazz singer Shirley Cooper, along with room for dancing and baked goods and beverages for sale. There will be a sing-along, games and art activities for kids.

Admission is free; children under 18 should be accompanied by an adult.

The Celebrating All Families Festival is being organized by Rainier Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation and co-sponsored by Yesler Community Center, Neighborhood House and Yesler Terrace Community Council.

For more information call Rosemary Adang at 206-722-4880 or by e-mail at admin@rvuus.org.

