Neighborhood House gets federal funding for new High Point Neighborhood Center

By MOORE INK

Neighborhood House announced last month that it expects to receive nearly $600,000 in critical federal money for a West Seattle neighborhood center thanks in large part to Sen. Patty Murray’s commitment to the project.

The nonprofit social services organization learned today that $588,000 for the High Point Neighborhood Center was included in the $55 billion omnibus spending bill that passed both houses of Congress and is awaiting President Bush’s signature.

“Without Sen. Murray’s leadership we would not be able to make this dream come true,” said Mark Okazaki, executive director of Neighborhood House.

“The High Point Neighborhood Center will become a community resource that everyone from children to teens to seniors can lean on,” said Sen. Murray.

Social justice at the heart of People’s Summit

BY LYNN SEREDA

On Dec. 8 over 200 people participated in a gathering that coincided with the anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

The People’s Summit was organized by LELO (Legacy of Equality, Leadership and Organizing), which is a 35-year-old social justice organization based in Southeast Seattle. Besides organizing working class people of color, LELO has throughout the years been involved in housing justice, including advocating for SHA tenants in the HOPE VI communities to be offered jobs under HUD’s Section 3 program.

The purpose of the summit, according to LELO organizer Lynn Domingo, was to raise awareness of human rights and to create discussions around the issues of debt and poverty in immigrant and low-income communities, particularly communities of color.

Building coalitions and alliances is an integral piece of community organizing, Domingo said.

The gathering also gave the community an opportunity to get information from community organizations, which had dozens of tables providing resources.

Community members, including SHA residents and other concerned and active citizens, gathered to discuss issues ranging from HOPE VI/housing justice to organizing around the ICE raids targeting immigrant communities.

Community organizations such as Casa Latina, the Tenants Union, and Puget Sound SAGE facilitated a series of workshops, including Community Benefits and Living Wage. Casa Latina, the Tenants Union, and Puget Sound SAGE facilitated a series of workshops, including Community Benefits and Living Wage.

Photo Provided by Sha

How high is the water?

A resident wades through ankle-deep water in the parking lot at Jackson Park House and Village during the heavy rainstorm that hit the area Dec. 3. For information on how Seattle Housing Authority and King County Housing Authority weathered the storm, see the related stories in the SHA News and KCHA News sections.

AmeriCorps to tackle community service on MLK

By KCHA STAFF

The King County Housing Authority’s AmeriCorps members will devote the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday to making the civil rights leader’s dream into a reality.

Rather than taking the day off Jan. 21, at least 14 AmeriCorps members with KCHA will volunteer their time serving others and transforming community concerns into action.

The holiday marks a mandatory service day for AmeriCorps members, who can choose from more than a dozen community projects across the region. The projects include:

- Beautifying green spaces throughout King County that are overrun with invasive, non-native plants.
- Tutoring children from low-income families who reside in public housing.
- Cleaning up the grounds and washing emergency vehicles at the American Red Cross chapter that serves King and Kitsap counties.
- Organizing classroom supply donations for distribution to area schools.
- "It’s a day on, not a day off," said Pat Porter, KCHA’s AmeriCorps project director. "We are pleased to be able to join with more than 50,000 AmeriCorps members in a day of service to communities all across our country.”

Translation

In-home care providers

One to grow on

Get seeds now to prepare for next season

In-home care providers

What tenants need to know

Translations

What is the value of going to college?

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Page 2

“Of the most enriching factors about college I could describe is the diverse and amazingly knowledgeable people I am constantly surrounded by.”

-Margareth Iman, a college junior and Section 8 tenant, on the value of her education.

See story on Page 4

In this issue

Social justice at the heart of People’s Summit

BY LYNNE SEREDA

Section 8 tenant

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Photo provided by SBA

Mahfouz Junejo, a Green Lake Plaza resident, and Fai Mathews, a LELO member, share a laugh during the People’s Summit Dec. 8.

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Issue 1

February

2008

The Voice

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

Seattle, Wa 98104

Permit #8887

Nonprofit org. U.S. postage PAID Seattle, WA

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The Voice

A community-based newspaper serving the Puget Sound area since 1981
Super foods for fighting and preventing cancer

By Pam McGaffin
Special to The Voice

In the food realm, they are the good guys, protecting the body against dreaded free radicals and giving cancer cells the boot.

These “super foods,” as they are known, are powerful allies for any body, particularly one that’s fighting cancer; because they boost strength and immunity and help rid the body of toxins, say three naturopathic physicians at Seattle Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center.

Mark Gignac, Heidi Lucas and Paul Reilly work side-by-side with oncologists at the Capitol Hill clinic, the only cancer center in the Northwest to integrate medical oncology and complementary cancer therapies under one roof.

Here are their super heroes:

Vegetables are high in fiber and rich in antioxidants or the substances that protect cells from the damage caused by unstable molecules called free radicals. Free radical damage can lead to cancer.

Most vegetables also have a low Glycemic Index (GI), meaning they result in a gradual rise in blood sugar in the body as opposed to the spike produced by high GI foods like bagels and French fries. Low glycemic-index foods have been shown to help prevent certain diseases, which is water), stabilize pH, and provide a healthy flow of nutrients into the cells.

Healthy fats and oils — Every cell in the body needs fat to live. Fat is needed to maintain proper cell function and is the preferred fuel of muscle tissue.

Healthy fats and oils include omega-three fatty acids found in fish, nuts and seeds.

Colorful berries, such as raspberries, boysenberries, strawberries, dark cherries, blueberries and blackberries, contain a strong anti-cancer agent, ellagic acid, which causes cancer cells to self-destruct.

Green tea is a treasure trove of cancer-fighting agents and has been shown to prevent and even reverse some forms of cancer.

Clean water —OK, so it’s not really a food, but it helps to cleanse and dilute impurities in the body (two-thirds of which is water), stabilize pH, and provide a healthy flow of nutrients into the cells.

Vegetables contain many specific compounds that help fight cancer. Choose healthy fats and oils, including fish oil, olive oil, flax oil and even organic butter.

Seattle Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center, founded in 1997, medical oncology is supported by scientifically-based therapies, including nutrition, naturopathy, mind-body medicine, acupuncture, and Chinese medicine.

In addition to the nutraceuticals, the Center’s clinical staff includes two doctors board-certified in oncology and internal medicine, a nurse practitioner, a social worker and mind/body therapist, and two acupuncturists.

For more information, call 1-800-774-3144 or visit www.seattlecancerwellness.com.

SHA creating hundreds of accessible units

By SHA Staff

On Nov. 30, Seattle Housing Author- ity came to an agreement with HUD to create or adapt 263 housing units that will be fully accessible to people with disabilities.

The newly accessible units will be dis- tributed in buildings throughout Seattle. When the program is complete, a total of five percent of SHA’s units will be fully accessible.

The agreement goes beyond any legal requirement, reflecting Seattle Housing Authority’s long-standing commitment to serving the disabled in barrier-free housing.

In June 2006, HUD visited several SHA buildings, and found that some units considered to be barrier-free did not precisely reflect Uniform Federal Ac- cessibility Standards (UFAS). Although the variances were slight, and generally considered to fall within industry tolerances, HUD still determined that they did not meet UFAS standards.

RUCU, Yesler Terrace Community Council to host workshops

Series will address tenant, immigrant rights

By Mike Wold
Rainier-Unitarian Universalist Center

You and your neighbors are probably wondering what’s going to happen with the Yesler Terrace Redevelopment Project. Has SHA made all its plans?

The Yesler Terrace Community Coun- cil and Rainier Unitarian Universalist Center will discuss coalition building, community benefits that can be negotiated with developers, and legal levers that can bring developers to the table and hold them to the promises.

On March 15, LELO (Legacy of Equal- ity, Leadership, and Organizing) will help residents learn to recognize decision makers and to find multiple ways to part- icipate effectively and powerfully in the process.

The workshops are open for everyone to attend. Each workshop and the final forum will be conducted in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tigrigna, Somali, and other languages. Free childcare will be available.

The workshops are for the residents to get together and talk about what they think and what they want to advocate in the next stage of redevelopment plans.

Each of the presenting groups will al- low time for questions and for generating ideas.

The forum at the end will be a time to come together to form a strategy for being effective in the planning process, which will resume in the spring.

The workshops will be led by inde- pendent advocacy groups, and will take place at RUUC, in the old gym at Yesler Boulevard.

On Jan. 19, the Tenants Union will cover the basics of your rights as tenants under the law, including your rights to speak up in the SHA process without fear of retaliation.

On Feb. 2, Hate Free Zone will explain the legal rights of immigrants in Yesler Terrace, and how they can use those rights.

On Feb. 16, Planners Network from the UW School of Architecture will explain the planning, land use and urban design to help residents decide which options at Yesler Terrace fit their needs.

On March 1, Puget Sound Sage, which has been negotiating with the developer of the Goodwill site south of Yesler Terrace, will discuss coalition building, community benefits that can be negotiated with developers, and legal levers that can bring developers to the table and hold them to the promises.
January 2008

LOCAL AND NATIONAL NEWS - 3

The Voice

Learn skills for coping with disaster through city classes

By Claire McDaniel

Seattle Housing Authority

Seattle Housing Authority residents can take advantage of inexpensive classes offered by the City of Seattle to help them become better prepared for dealing with disaster.

The City’s Office of Emergency Management is offering three different emergency preparedness training classes in 2008 for Seattle citizens. Veteran Seattle Firefighter Tony Bennett will teach all three classes — Disaster First Aid, Light Search and Rescue and Fire Extinguisher and Utility Control. All classes will be held at Warren G. Magnuson.

Pre-payment is required and registration may be made by a telephone call to Elizabeth Mash at 206-233-7123. The registration form is also available at the OEM Web site at www.seattle.gov/emergency.

The course schedule is also available online on the Web site. Space is limited so register early. The specific building location and directions to the site will be provided in a confirmation letter.

According to JoAnn Jordan, public education coordinator for OEM, these classes are offered because OEM staff believes in the importance of trained community members.

“Often the best source of help following a disaster is your family, friends, neighbors or co-workers,” Jordan said. “We offer these classes so that basic skills such as how to use a fire extinguisher, how and when to control natural gas, and basic first aid and response skills can be safely done by Seattle residents when traditional emergency response agencies are overwhelmed by the disaster.”

Below are descriptions of what each training class involves.

Light Urban Search and Rescue Training for Citizens

This is a skills training program designed to instruct participants in safe and effective methods for simple search and rescue. The class is a hands-on program that focuses on:

- Basic rescue safety
- Five stages of rescue
- Search methods and markings
- First aid for water injuries
- Basic construction practices
- Utility safety and control
- Safely lifting heavy objects

Disaster First Aid Training

Class extremely important to be able to take care of yourself and others after a disaster. This 8 hour class includes a certified First Aid/CPR course. In addition, you will learn techniques dealing with multiple injuries resulting from a major disaster where 9-1-1 is overwhelmed and unavailable.

This class includes:

- Triage and prioritizing injuries
- Lifting and carrying techniques
- Treating broken bones
- Safety practices
- Practice using items that can be found around your home

Fire Extinguisher and Utility Control Class

It’s important to know how and when to control utilities after a disaster to minimize some of the damage due to gas leaks, broken water pipes and arcing electrical wires. This class will also teach participants how and when to control utilities such as natural gas, water and electricity. Since fire is the leading danger following an earthquake this course will also include hands-on training including live fire practice using small, portable fire extinguishers.

One to Grow on

Stock up on seeds now to prepare for next season’s crop

By Ana Muenchow

Special to The Voice

It is the new year, and I’m getting excited about the next season’s garden. Here in the Puget Sound basin, we can grow so many incredible vegetables, shrubs and trees. But to get the best production out of our crops, we need to use the local seed and tree suppliers to find the best “cultivars” for our growing conditions.

By cultivars I mean the specific genetic material in the species of plants we want to grow. Even when we plant tomatoes, we all know that some do better in Seattle than others. Forget the beefsteak varieties; try Stonemill or Early Girl, which are bred to do well with cool summers.

The typical grocery store seed displays may have seeds that grow well in the Midwest or south of us. Let me suggest some better seeds for our area.

Buy seeds locally

Several local seed companies have done much of the research needed to supply us with the cultivars that will perform the best for us.

Some good companies that come to mind are Abundant Life and Territorial Seeds in Oregon and Osborne Seeds in Mount Vernon.

They all have very interesting and informative free catalogues that you can find online. Abundant Life sells only organic seeds. Many of these are heirloom seeds, open pollinated. This means they are not hybrids. (They were not specifically crossed with another cultivar, which changes the following generation of seed.)

In 2003, Abundant Life had a fire in the Port Townsend headquarters; as you can imagine, it devastated much of the original supply. Their Web site is www.abundantlife-seed.org, and their address is Abundant Life Seeds, PO Box 157, Saginaw, OR 97472.

Territorial Seed is now the parent seed company, with a huge selection of seeds that are all tested to do well in the Pacific Northwest. They sell individual packets and bulk seeds. The descriptions in the catalogue are wonderful. They have mouthwatering turnips, delicate crunchy lettuce and all kinds of varieties of beans that will produce with utility safety and control.

They also have start plants and find their way throughout the Northwest. They sell individual packets and bulk seeds. They even have start plants that they can ship.

To obtain a catalogue from Territorial Seed Co. write to PO Box 158, Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or visit online at www.territorialseed.com.

Osborne Seed Company has expanded the organic seed market and is a respected grower.

For annual crops, you can always move them to another spot in your garden to avoid pests and some disease. Not so for the long lived trees and bushes. Definitely do the research and study your cultivars before you decide to invest in a tree.

For more information about Raintree Nursery, the address is 391 Butts Road, Morton, WA 98356. Or visit them online at www.raintreenursery.com.

Let those rain-soaked soils dry out before you head outside to dig. More next month on getting your 2007 garden started.

Anza Muenchow is a farmer and a volunteer with P-Patch. You can reach her by e-mail at anzam@whidbey.net, or online at johnnysseeds.com.

There are two seed companies in Maine that seem to have shown good results.

Try Johnny’s Selected Seeds at www.johnnyseeds.com or call 877-564-6697 to get information on their large collection of products.

Osborne Seeds and Garden Supplies, at www.fedcoseeds.com, is a funky little company with lots of organic seed choices for the crops that you plant one and expect to produce for years and years.

For annual crops, you can always move them to another spot in your garden to avoid pests and some disease. Not so for the long lived trees and bushes. Definitely do the research and study your cultivars before you decide to invest in a tree.

For more information about Raintree Nursery, the nursery is contacted through a telephone call to Mississippi, WA 98356. Or visit them online at www.raintreenursery.com.

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College is a valuable, life-changing experience

By Voice staff

College is a unique, rewarding experience—but don’t take our word for it.

Two recipients of the Dream Big Scholarship, which helped fund their college education, share their experiences: Michaela Chavez, a 2007-08 recipient, and Michelle L. Hatcher, a 2006-07 recipient.

Michelle Chavez, Aisan Husain and Abigail Luna, students at Seattle Central Community College, describe the rewards of college. There’s also a special information session about earning a college degree? Come to the “You Can Go to College!” Annual College Fair, held from 6-8 p.m. Jan. 30 at the Yesler Terrace Community Center, 917 E. Yesler Way.

The event is open to everyone with an interest in attending college.

It will allow participants to connect with current students and scholarship winners and get information on preparing for college. There’s also an additional special session for parents. Tickets must be provided.

For more information, contact Amy Kopriwa at the Yesler Youth Tutoring Program at 206-682-5590.

Unemployment rate went down in November

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

Washington’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.7 percent in November from October’s rate of 4.8 percent, according to the state Employment Security Department.

The lower unemployment rate was fueled by a seasonally adjusted increase of 5,200 non-agricultural jobs.

In November, industries with the largest job growth were professional and business services, with 1,600 new jobs, education and health services, up 900, transportation, warehousing and utilities, up 800, and manufacturing, with 800 new jobs.

The weakest major industry sector was information, down 300.

Since November 2006, 78,600 net new jobs have been created in Washington.

Overall, non-agricultural job growth increased by 2.7 percent, compared to a national rate increase of 1.1 percent.

To view the full report, go to www.workforceexplorer.com and click the “Current Employment Situation” link.

An estimated 160,500 people (not seasonally adjusted) currently are unemployed and seeking work in Washington.

A free job search assistance is available online at go2worksource.com and at local WorkSource offices.

Academic Advising/Counseling The STAR Center, which is located on the upper level of the Center Park Community Building.

Do you need help with in-home care?

People with disabilities don’t always receive adequate assistance from chore workers

By Joe Brum

SHA Resident

The issue of in-home care and who is eligible for the services is a significant one for many residents, especially with regards to chore workers.

It’s an issue that requires a considerable amount of work to resolve. The reason? Because there is a national issue that has been around for well over 20 years.

Here in the State of Washington, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) pays for in-home care through a variety of programs, including COPES.

These services are available to low-income persons of disability who need help with household chores and a variety of other tasks.

However, to be eligible for chore services, you must also need help with personal care, which includes getting in and out of bed, using the bathroom and getting dressed.

This means that anyone who simply needs help with his or her housekeeping (cleaning, laundry, etc.) cannot receive chore services through the state.

Obviously, this does not sit well for many people, especially those with vision impairments.

But there is nothing that can be done about it, because of funding shortages. The state Legislature has been extremely reluctant to adequately fund in-home services.

The other issue that’s related to in-home services has to do with the people who actually provide the services to clients (the “employers,” if you will). At this time, chore workers are not directly employed by the clients they serve; rather, they are generally employed by agencies that contract with DSHS to provide the services to eligible clients.

While this has taken the burden of paperwork out of the clients’ hands, it also takes a lot of the “supervisory” or hire/termination authority away from those same clients, leaving clients with little or no recourse when dealing with a chore worker who may not perform his or her job to a client’s satisfaction—or not do the work requested at all.

Why? There are many reasons, not the least of which is the fact that, because of the funding issue, people who are employed as in-home care providers are, in the opinions of many workers and the clients they work for, grossly underpaid for the work they do — and the reason for the “underpayment” is because DSHS, service providers and service recipients, have been unable to convince elected representatives of the need for more funding.

While many organizations such as the Alliance of People with disABILITIES (a disability-rights organization based in Seattle) and ADAPT (America Disabled for Attendant Program Today, a national organization working to increase funding for in-home services) have been working on these issues for over 20 years, more work needs to be done.

As a result, we will monitor this issue, attempting to learn more as developments occur and provide more information as it becomes available.

If you want more information on what the Alliance and ADAPT are doing on this issue, please visit the Alliance’s website at www.disabilitypride.org or ADAPT’s website at www.adapt.org.

If you don’t have your own computer with Internet access, come over to the STAR Center, which is located on the upper level of the Center Park Community Building.

Take METRO bus routes 4, 7, 8, 42 or 48 (please call METRO Rider Information at 553-3000 for route and schedule information; TTD users: please call 684-1739 and use one of our computers — we’ll even help you, if requested.

The fee for the SAT is $41.50. Those who cannot afford the test fee should request fee waiver cards. To do this, go to your high school counselor.

Step: Write the essay

Most colleges and universities require students to include a personal essay with their application. Your essay helps an admissions committee understand who you are among thousands of applicants.

Tips:

Relax, think ahead and note ideas. Write clear, direct sentences.

Ask someone to “proof” your essay for spelling, punctuation and understanding.

Where do you go to get more information about earning a college degree? Come to the “You Can Go to College!” Annual College Fair, held from 6-8 p.m. Jan. 30 at the Yesler Terrace Community Center, 917 E. Yesler Way.

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“Helping Link” connects Vietnamese students, their parents and the schools

By SHA staff

In 2005, Seattle Public Schools rolled out an Internet-based program, called The Source, to help parents help their children succeed in school.

Using the computer to access information about their children’s classes, assignments and study materials, parents can easily stay in touch with participating teachers and otherwise increase their involvement in the educational life of their children.

Parents can see their children’s test scores and individual learning plans and learn about such things as resources for helping with homework and identify materials for further study.

Parents of students in the seventh grade and higher can check on students’ attendance.

At first, the program served only English-speaking families.

Now, in a pilot program, a nonprofit organization called Helping Link is helping Vietnamese families participate in the program. It is made possible through the city of Seattle’s Technology Matching Fund and the United Way.

Targeted at Vietnamese immigrant and refugee parents of school-aged children in the Seattle Public Schools, Helping Link’s Source classes provide a preliminary 10-week workshop and 10 hours of computer training, pairing parents with teachers who help them learn basic programming language in both English and Vietnamese.

Helping Link offers a number of other classes — conversational English as a second language, citizenship, computers and the Internet, Vietnamese as a second language, and after-school tutoring. In the summer, it also offers a class in flower arranging.

For more information about Helping Link’s The Source classes or its other programs, call 206-781-4246 or e-mail helpinglink2003@gmail.com.

Funding

Continued from front page

who recently toured High Point, which is in the process of being redeveloped into mixed-income housing community.

The $12 million High Point Neighborhood Center at 6500 Sylvan Way S.W. will become the heart of that community and the surrounding neighborhood. The services and support provided there will include Head Start preschool classes, a teen center, adult-education classes, job training, and multicultural community activities.

With 20,000 square feet, the new building will allow Neighborhood House to serve more than 4,000 people each year at High Point. Construction is expected to begin in September 2008, with opening scheduled for August 2009.

“This is such a monumental time in our agency’s 101-year history,” Okazaki said. “The High Point Neighborhood Center will change how our organization delivers services and responds to the needs of not only the people we serve, but the environment that we do it in.” He added, referring to the planned building’s energy saving and environmental learning features.

Neighborhood House, the Seattle Housing Authority and other partner organizations have identified an urgent need for youth and family services in the High Point community, which has a large concentration of low-income, immigrant and refugee families with school-age children.

With some 1,300 youth expected to re-enter High Point in the coming years, the need for positive opportunities to engage young people and their families is even more acute, Okazaki said.

The $588,000 in federal funding for the Neighborhood Center will join significant contributions from the City of Seattle, King County and the State as well as money pledged by private foundations and raised by the community.

Workshops prepare couples for parenthood

BECOMING PARENTS PROGRAM

For the first time ever, a new program that helps couples prepare for the challenges of parenthood is being offered — for free — to Seattle-area pregnant couples, thanks to a generous federal grant.

These classes, known as the Becoming Parents Program (BPP), have been carefully developed and tested over the last two decades by University of Washington nursing researcher and Associate Professor Pamela Jordan, Ph.D., and are showing very positive results.

Each workshop is rich with tips for couples on topics like how to deal with the crunch on time and money, how to manage fatigue and stress, finding time for yourself, keeping the “fun” alive in your relationship, and understanding the language of your baby right from birth.

Participants have the chance to meet other couples who are expecting, and many have built lasting friendships with those in the program.

“We don’t think we would have made it if it weren’t for these classes,” said one BPP parent. “It’s worth all the time and money in the world...and it’s FREE!”

Western Washington couples are eligible if they’re pregnant, married, and earn less than around $60,000/year combined.

Couples may be pregnant with their first child or a subsequent child.

Anyone who is interested in finding out more information should call BPP, Inc., at 206-686-1800 or toll free at 1-888-989-NEST.

Space is limited in the program.

“This is like no government-funded program I’ve ever seen,” said Project Director, Aly Frei. “Our space (on Capitol Hill) is stunning. It is so nurturing, and warm — folks love coming here.”

Couples are paired with a nurse who provides one-on-one support for their needs and links them to vital community resources.

Transportation and childcare assistance is provided so couples don’t experience financial strain to attend, and participants receive gifts of appreciation throughout the program.

“We are thrilled to make this amazing program available to pregnant couples for free,” Jordan said. “Having a baby is hard no matter how strong your relationship. This program gives couples practical skills to prepare for, and often prevent, the really rough spots in life with a new baby.”

Lynn Sereda included in poetry anthology

By Voice staff

Lynn Sereda, a social activist, Section 8 tenant and resident coordinator to The Voice, can add another title — published poet.

Sereda’s poetry was included in Beloved Community: The Sisterhood of Homeless Women in Poetry, an anthology compiled by Women’s Housing, Equality and Enhancement League (WHEEL).

The poetry anthology, published by Whit Press, collects the work of homeless and formerly homeless female poets.

Though no longer without a home, Sereda was homeless for nearly a year in California earlier in her life.

The anthology was released during a poetry reading at Seattle City Hall Dec. 12.

For more information or to receive a copy of the anthology, contact WHEEL at P.O. Box 2548, Seattle, WA 98111 or at 206-856-0334.

RAC needs your help

By Jon Bush

RAC Secretary

The Resident Action Council (RAC) is a citywide organization of residents living in low-income public housing communities owned and operated by SHA.

At this time there is a current opening on its Executive Committee for the position of ombudsperson. At the meeting held in November 2007, Robert Canamar, of Ballard House, Jo Ellis, of Olympic West, and Lois Gruber, of Lake City House, were nominated to fill this position.

One of the duties of the ombudsperson is to serve as a liaison between residents, RAC and staff from SHA and works to resolve issues that may come up and can’t be resolved at the local level. He or she cannot dispense legal advice but may refer individuals to other agencies and resources.

If you have any questions, please call the RAC office at 322-1297.

Lynn Sereda reads a selection of her poetry during an event in the Bertha Knight Landes Room in Seattle City Hall Dec. 12.

For more information or to receive a copy of the anthology, contact WHEEL at P.O. Box 2548, Seattle, WA 98111 or at 206-856-0334.

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The officer will be elected during the next RAC meeting on Tues.

For more information or to receive a copy of the anthology, contact WHEEL at P.O. Box 2548, Seattle, WA 98111 or at 206-856-0334.

Lynn Sereda read a section of her poetry during an event in the Bertha Knight Landes Room in Seattle City Hall Dec. 12. You can visit Whit Press online at www.whitpress.org. Proceeds benefit WHEEL.

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The RAC Secretary is herself a Vietnamese refugee.

She cites as goals for the pilot Source program, “greater self-confidence in their own skills” on the part of parents and “narrowing the technological divide between immigrant parents and their children one small step at a time.”

The Source classes are held Tuesday and Thursday evenings during the school year from 6-8 p.m. at Helping Link’s offices, located 1032 S. Jackson St. in Seattle.

The computer course uses a bilingual computer manual so that students can...
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Why Bother with College?

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Why Bother with College?...
New Year’s message from Tom Tierney

Dear SHA Residents,

This past year has been a milestone year for us in several areas. Our partnership with you has continued to expand in meaningful ways. I am particularly grateful for your assistance with our homeWorks project and your engagement in our year-long conversations about the future of Yesler Terrace.

In December, the SHA Board of Commissioners adopted Guiding Principles that will influence our planning for the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace over the next few years. We held many meetings and consultations with residents on this subject, and you engaged sincerely and meaningfully to help the Citizens Review Committee shape these principles.

As I listened to residents give their testimony to the Commissioners on Dec. 6, I felt grateful for your commitment to this community and your willingness to let us know what is important to you. As a result of our conversations, the Board of Commissioners has promised to replace all Yesler Terrace units one-for-one in the neighborhood. Commissioners have also promised that current residents of Yesler Terrace will be able to return to the new community as long as they are following their lease.

I know that we have also tried your patience throughout this year with the construction going on through our homeWorks project. We have seen great progress in this area with the completion of Phase 1, the ongoing work in Phase 2 and preparation for Phase 3, which will start this year. Through all of this disruption you have been patient and good-natured, and have really worked with us to get things done. Thank you.

We recognize that the challenges facing residents of public housing can be significant. Our sincere wish for you in the new year is that you continue to succeed in meeting those challenges — whatever they are for you — and that we can continue to offer you a stable, comfortable and secure place to live.

Tom Tierney
SHA Executive Director

Flooding affects SHA properties throughout city

By Jeff Arnim
Seattle Housing Authority

The winter storm that barreled through Western Washington on Dec. 3 left dramatic effects all across the region. More than 20 Seattle Housing Authority buildings and their residents felt the effects as more than four inches of rain fell in one 24-hour period.

The most serious impact was seen at Jackson Park House and Village, an area that has been flood-prone during periods of heavy rain. With intense rain continuing throughout the evening, drainage at the site could no longer handle the incoming water. The backups flooded the parking lot, and the cars parked in it were eventually submerged in water up to mid-door height.

“The uniqueness of the recent flooding was that city of Seattle storm sewer lines could not contain the amount of water run-off near Jackson Park House and Village,” said Don Ashlock, Seattle Housing Authority’s director of housing operations.

As water levels continued to rise, Seattle Housing Authority placed sandbags around many high-rise buildings and townhouses. At least three townhouse units were affected by water damage and were no longer livable immediately after the flooding.

Two of the three units were occupied; the other was vacant, but had just been cleaned and was ready to be leased.

Five other public housing properties were affected in addition to Jackson Park. The Ritz Apartments were most greatly impacted, with all of the building’s basement units experiencing some degree of water damage. The unique location of the building was a result of our conversations, the Board of Commissioners has promised to replace all Yesler Terrace units one-for-one in the neighborhood. Commissioners have also promised that current residents of Yesler Terrace will be able to return to the new community as long as they are following their lease.

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Tom Tierney
SHA Executive Director

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Giving thanks to our friends and neighbors

Apple Awards at Jefferson Terrace recognize the good deeds of community members

By Tyler Roush
The Voice editor

An apple a day, as the expression goes.

These apples only come around once a year, but they go a long way toward building a spirit of caring and community at Jefferson Terrace.

Residents presented the fourth annual Apple Awards during a holiday celebration at Jefferson Terrace Dec. 18.

The awards serve to highlight the kind things people do for their neighbors.

“People that we love and we care about in the building, we give them a thank-you for helping us and a thank-you for doing things for us,” said Jefferson Terrace resident Cory Russell, who helped organize the holiday celebration.

Awards were given out for an array of reasons.

Five residents received awards for donating their time in the building’s computer lab.

Others were given for helping residents get groceries.

Many were simple thank-yous for friendship, companionship and good conversation.

Linda Pylate, who received her second Apple Award this year, said the awards promote a feeling of family by honoring residents for the good deeds they do, and for the differences they make in the lives of others.

“Me and me just helps promote camaraderie among the residents and a feeling of family,” Pylate said, “because there are a whole lot of residents here who don’t have the support of an immediate family.”

Ballots for the Apple Awards were distributed throughout Jefferson Terrace about a week before the holiday celebration.

Residents were invited to nominate for an Apple Award anyone they thought deserved of recognition.

Mike King, who was among the five computer lab volunteers to receive an Apple Award, said it was the second time he’d won the award.

He did suggest one way to improve the turnout at next year’s celebration — publish a list of award recipients prior to the event.

“It’s a way to recognize people for what they do around here,” he said of the awards.
SHAA continues to purchase scattered sites replacement housing
By JeFF AArn
Seattle Housing Authority

When most people think of Seattle Housing Authority’s low-income public housing buildings, they envision high-rises like those at Jefferson Terrace and Capitol Park, or the newly developed communities High Point, Rainier Vista and Venera II.

What many may not realize is that the Housing Authority also owns a number of smaller public housing buildings spread throughout the city.

Known as scattered sites, these residencies became available as part of a program established by Seattle Housing Authority in 1978 to locate low-density public housing throughout the city.

These scattered sites, ranging in type from single family homes, duplexes, townhouses and small multifamily buildings, offer low-income families who pay an average rent of less than $300 per month. Some more than three years, Seattle Housing Authority has been selling selected properties from the scattered sites portfolio and using the proceeds to buy replacement housing that is better situated, more efficiently run, closer to work and close to schools, and often more affordable. They provide a forum for objective news and information of interest to low-income people and those living in SHA communities.

The Seattle Housing Authority wants to hear from you about its policies. One way for residents to voice their opinions about policy changes at SHA is through the Public Housing Joint Policy Advisory Committee (JPAC).

Since 2000 residents have reviewed major draft policies. This feedback helps us make sure things go more smoothly, ” she added. “We are doing things more easily and more quickly,” she said.

The I.T. department is trying to make the application process to become a resident go more smoothly,” she added. “We have already, before I got here, helped potential residents and staff members to focus on those people who are really in need of housing with our ‘Save My Spot’ program.”

Emerson wanted to make it clear that she does not manage the computer rooms in the different communities. She said, “My focus is to make sure that things are running well here at SHA.”

One of the large projects I.T. has underway is moving SHA’s financial and administrative system from one computer software program to another. “This is a very big change,” Emerson said. “It changes the way payroll is done. It’s going to automate work orders for the first time. We’re changing the way purchasing is done by changing to a more electronic process and getting some paper out of the system.

“I think it’s going to enable us to provide more accurate information and streamline things for the employees at the housing authority,” she added. “We’ll have a system that is easier to maintain. That will give us time to spend on other tasks. It’s important to be sure we use our funds efficiently and this new system will reduce our operating costs. What we need to do is provide the tools to the workers. I also have five godchildren at a home for abandoned children in Honduras whom I try to see at least once a year and whom I write regularly. I also run a foundation that gives money for innovative ways to help immigrants,” she said.

In her spare time she likes to garden.
Generators upgraded in homeWorks Phase 1

By Sven Koehler
Seattle Housing Authority

The winter storms in Seattle often plunge entire neighborhoods into darkness when power lines get knocked out. The city's power grid can be out for days on end, as happened during the big storms just a year ago.

Emergency generators help people deal with the disruption by kicking in to light up the night. People accustomed to taking the elevator quickly realize how dependent our lives are on electricity.

There is some bright news for this winter’s storm season because the remaining construction on the homeWorks Phase 1 budget were stretched to make upgrades to the emergency generators at the new-completed buildings.

Residents who rely on elevators in these buildings will really feel the benefits of these upgrades. Modern building codes require generators for buildings over 75 feet tall, and SHA’s LIPH high-rises have had them for years.

Even though generators don’t power outlets in individual apartments, they serve to improve safety in the entire building by keeping the hallways lit and fire alarms functioning.

However, when most SHA buildings were built, it wasn’t common or required for elevators to have emergency power at all. So it has been a special feature at Center Park Apartments that an elevator runs even when the rest of the building’s power is out.

This has been especially valuable for Center Park residents who rely on elevators in these buildings. The construction project manager, “One elevator on a building that has a fire department, is on the ground floor, and the doors will open,” said Roxanne Navrides, the construction project manager. “One elevator on a building that has a fire department, is on the ground floor, and the doors will open,” said Roxanne Navrides, the construction project manager. “One elevator on a building that has a fire department, is on the ground floor, and the doors will open,” said Roxanne Navrides, the construction project manager.

The updated emergency generators are about the size of a pair of large refrigerators, including the size of the diesel fuel tanks.

Many residents can recall the sound of the generators firing up during monthly tests, since they need to be continually maintained to make sure they run when needed.

During a prolonged outage like last winter’s, it would be important to make wise use of the electricity, which is limited by the fuel available for the generator.

Lectorwood and Ballard House are two Phase 1 homeWorks buildings that are less than 75 feet tall, but they will also gain the ability to run an elevator even when the rest of the neighborhood has no power.

These buildings have been wired to accept portable generators that will be delivered during an outage.

This is an arrangement called a “genset,” which is essentially a way to plug in the building to a generator.

While no wishes for another prolonged outage, residents can feel reassured that disruption will be a little less drastic in these buildings.

“With the power is out, then I was stuck in the lobby with my wheelchair,” said Charlie Olson, who lives at Capitol Park. “I’ve felt trapped in my apartment when the elevator is not running, even though I’m prepared for power outages with a crank-powered flash light and radio.”

It’s important to note that residents should expect the elevators to run differently during emergency service.

When the power is interrupted, both elevators will shut down to the ground floor, and the doors will open,” said Roxanne Navrides, the construction project manager. “One elevator on a building that has a fire department, is on the ground floor, and the doors will open,” said Roxanne Navrides, the construction project manager.

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It’s important to note that residents should expect the elevators to run differently during emergency service.
Holiday celebration lights up Elizabeth House

BY CLAIRE MCDANIEL
Seattle Housing Authority

This year’s High Point holiday celebration was held at Providence Elizabeth House.

The festive room was decorated with a nativity scene, a wreath, Mr. and Mrs. Claus, and a Christmas tree with colorful lights.

A variety of traditional and ethnic food was served.

Residents of all ages were in attendance, from senior citizens who reside at Elizabeth House to children and teenagers who were concentrating on creating “gingerbread” houses with graham crackers and M&Ms.

Although the event was a chance to celebrate the holidays and get together with friends and neighbors, it was also a good opportunity to inform High Point residents of important meetings that they could attend to participate in decision making that will influence the building of their community.

Members of the High Point Neighborhood Association (HPNA) were in attendance, including the president, Andrew Mead, who briefly spoke about some of the committees that residents can sign up for.

“I want everyone to know that you are invited to join us in working with the neighborhood,” Mead said. “We really believe that everyone has something to give.”

Mead went on to describe the various committees that have formed, including the Intergenerational Youth Mentorship Program, which is run by Andrew and Liz Nguyen.

“There are so many young people in our neighborhood,” Mead said. “When Phase II is finished there will be 4,000 people in High Point and around 1,300 people under the age of 18.”

He also described the Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee, which is run by Miranda Taylor, and the Green Living Team, which focuses on issues of livability, such as good bus service, and the Social and Cultural Committee and the Welcoming and Communications Committee.

“We’re trying to make sure everyone feels welcome and knows how to connect with others and with services,” Mead said.

The neighborhood association meets the second Thursday of every month in the High Point Library at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited.

For more information about the committees, please visit the High Point community Web site at www.highpointneighborhood.org.

With many guests and interpreters, there was a great deal of noise and commotion in the room during the three-hour party.

Most people enjoyed the high spirits, although some were hoping for a more intimate environment.

Rose Long from Neighborhood House, who was the emcee of the celebration, encouraged those in attendance to be patient.

“For sorry the seeming confusion because of three languages being interpreted simultaneously, but that is the nature of our diverse community. Let’s celebrate it!” she said.

Long also let people know about the High Point Neighborhood Walking Maps, which were made available to all.

People were encouraged to get out and walk — both to get to know their neighborhood and get some exercise.

The walking map was a project of the Healthy Homes and Community project.

“I hope this helps us to walk more in our beautiful community,” Long said.

Organizers also distributed 2008 calendars with photos taken by community members, and there was a table full of gifts, including a paddle ball game and toy cars for raffling off.

Clip and carry — Pick your High Point walking route

Exercise is an important part of a healthy lifestyle, and walking regularly is a great way to stay fit.

If you live in the High Point area, or would like to take an up-close look at the newly refurbished and reimagined neighborhood, use this map as your guide.

Remember to follow these safety tips:
* Walk with a buddy.
* Look both ways when crossing the street.
* After sunset, walk along paths or sidewalks that are well lit.
* Always stretch before taking a long walk.

This map is provided by Neighborhood House, High Point Healthy Homes and Community Partnership and High Point residents.
Viewpoint: The changing face of the Rainer Valley means we should unite

BY YUSUF CABDI

The city of Seattle has changed over the last few years. New condos and commercial spaces have been built and are still being built in every corner of the city. According to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 2,300 apartment units were converted to condos in 2006 — more than five times the number of conversions in 2004. This is great news for some in our local economy. This construction boom will employ many people. However, it comes with some social implication, in particular for low-income communities, which are the hardest hit by this boom.

One of these communities is the Rainer Valley. The Valley is experiencing a big change due to Sound Transit. This is troubling because the Rainer Valley is one of the few neighborhoods in Seattle where you will find a diverse community. In the Rainer Valley, there are Asian grocers that are not only close in terms of distance but feel like one big family with a common interest.

And this is how the Rainer Valley should be — a melting pot.

Most people in the Rainer Valley are people with modest or low incomes, and there are large numbers of immigrants and refugees in the area. Some people in the Valley are already feeling the change and argue that Sound Transit has brought a lot of disruption to their way of life and their financial well-being. East African immigrants in the Valley are one of many local communities that have been affected by this change. When most of these East Africa immigrants came to Seattle in the early 1990s, the first place they settled was the Central District.

Ali Hassan, a refugee from Somalia, settled in the Central District and lived there happily from 1998 to 2000. Hassan said it became impossible to live in that area after 2000. He had a parking attendant job and was making little money. His wages did not keep pace with the rising rent. As a result, Hassan said he had to move.

Ahmed is hoping to find a place in the Valley, so far, he has failed. He is not optimistic about the future. "Omar (Ahmed)’s absence from the Valley will undoubtedly be a loss to the community," said Ibrah, a resident of Rainer Vista. There are many other examples where small businesses owned by African immigrants in the Valley have gone out of business. Some are on the verge of going out of business because of the escalating housing prices. The preparation to relocate the African immigrant community from Rainer Valley to the SeaTac area is already in full swing. If you go to Marwa Market in Tukwila, you will see many East African stores and restaurants that relocated from the Valley in the last seven to eight months.

"It is only a matter of time before housing prices in Tukwila and SeaTac start to go up like the Rainer Valley, and then the community will be on the run again, moving further to Federal Way and beyond," said Ahmed Nour, a community leader in Tukwila. "This is an endless cycle." The city of Seattle needs to be more engaged with the African immigrant community in the Valley in order to address these concerns, and the community must show the political will to unite and work towards the common good of its members.

The first step toward finding a community solution is to support the creation of an African Business Association that works alongside the city of Seattle. The city must make this very inclusive, meaning that the entire African business community in the Rainer Valley must be involved and consulted.

The African immigrant community must remain flexible in order to assimilate into American society and benefit from the system.

There have been a series of discussions between the community and the city about forming an African business association. The city has shown great willingness to work with the community.

The community must seize this golden opportunity to unite and work closely with sympathetic city leadership or else soon the African Immigrant community will find itself in a no man’s land, pushed further away by high rents and costly commercial spaces.

Yusuf Cabdi is a member of the East African Advisory Board and an SHA resident.
At the heart of the community:
The NewHolly branch of the Seattle Public Library

BY SCOTT FREUTEL
Seattle Housing Authority

If you went looking for the heart of NewHolly, you’d soon find your way to the NewHolly branch of the Seattle Public Library.

The library is located in the NewHolly Neighborhood Campus, making it convenient for NewHolly residents and neighbors alike.

Open six days a week, the library conducts programs for children, teenagers, and adults, including adults who are learning English as a second language and who want to learn Internet skills.

The branch has over 20,000 books, and many CDs, DVDs and magazines, in a 4,000-square-foot space.

The NewHolly library opened in late 1999. Paid for by the citywide “Libraries for ALL” bond measure, which had passed just a year before, the new branch was the first to be constructed with funds from the bond measure. It replaced the old Holly Park library, which was housed in a converted residence built in 1943 as part of the Holly Park housing project for defense workers.

In the nine years the new branch has been open, the number of patrons holding borrower’s cards has increased fourfold, to nearly 850.

The library is light and open and attractive. The south side of the large main room is a wall of windows. The ceiling is natural wood, and two walls are painted a warm orange-red. The children’s section has kid-sized furniture.

Near the children’s section is the Meeting Room, used for classes and community events.

There are 11 computers in the main room. Some may be reserved for patrons’ use and one, dubbed an “express” computer, may be used by walk-in patrons for 15-minute intervals without making a reservation. Others provide access to the Seattle Public Library catalog. Library staffers help patrons research titles and order materials using a personal computer and the Internet, including e-mail.

Free Wireless Internet (WiFi) service is provided for people who bring laptop computers to the library.

The Meeting Room, which is used for programming and outreach, is now the site of a new branch library. The branch library is every Thursday from 10:30-11:30 a.m., and again on Saturdays from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., elementary pupils and high school students meet with volunteer tutors in a program called Homework Help. From time to time librarian Daniel Tilton brings in PlayStation and Nintendo game devices, and encourages teenagers to play virtual games, including tennis, bowling and golf.

According to Tilton, the games and tournaments he organizes are “very popular” among teenagers.

Tilton is working to put together a program in late February called “Cooking with Books.” The event, for people of all ages, will be the second in what may become a series; the first, held last October, drew 18 participants. Tilton would like to see about 25 participants next month.

On Mondays and Wednesdays, from 5:45-7:45 p.m. and again on Saturdays from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., elementary pupils and high school students meet with volunteer tutors in a program called Homework Help.

The NewHolly branch is a “magnet” for East African materials. The nearby Columbia City branch and NewHolly branches of the Seattle Public Library, according to Lord, who is manages both branches of the Seattle Public Library, has many materials in East African languages — Oromo and Somali, Tigrigna, and Amharic.

Some Seattle Public Library branches have been designated “magnets” for materials in certain languages. The nearby Columbia City branch library is one of them; it houses the system’s largest collection of books in Vietnamese.

According to Lord, who is manages both the Columbia City’s East and NewHolly branches of the Seattle Public Library, NewHolly is for all intents and purposes a “magnet” for East African materials.

Early Thursday morning, from 10:30-11:30 a.m., the library hosts a story time for children. (See below.)

Every Thursday evening, from 6-7:30 p.m., the library hosts “Wired for Learning,” a computer class especially for people who are learning English as a second language, and who want to learn basics of using a computer and the Internet, including e-mail.

In keeping with the theme of the morning, “Stinky Smelly,” Miller read picture books about things that are stinky, including one about a garbage truck (“I Stink!!,” by Jim and Kate McMullen) and one about a dog that almost gets away (“Stinky Smelly,” Miller)

Lupine Miller, NewHolly’s children’s librarian, engages her young audience as much with songs and chants as with well-chosen books.

The NewHolly branch of the Seattle Public Library.

In the voice

Community notes

Ring in the New Year with your neighbors

Another year has passed, and NewHolly residents can celebrate the coming of 2008 with a Multicultural New Year Potluck Party. All are invited to attend this festival event.

It will be a time to learn about the New Year’s traditions of other cultures, share a favorite dish, meet your neighbors and learn about upcoming events in the NewHolly community.

The Multicultural New Year Potluck Party will be held from 6-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4 at the NewHolly Gathering Hall, which is located on the NewHolly campus at 7054 32nd Ave. S.

The event is coordinated by NewHolly neighbors and campus staff.

For more information, or if you would like to volunteer to help, contact Community Builder Joy Bryngelson at jbryngelson@seattlehousing.org or 723-1725.
Mayor Nickels tours Yesler Terrace

Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels (above, middle) speaks with Yesler Terrace residents in the neighborhood’s P-Patch garden. At right, Nickels walks along Spruce Street with Yesler Terrace resident Kristin O’Donnell (left).

By Voice staff

On Dec. 1, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels visited Yesler Terrace for a guided walking tour.

Yesler Terrace resident Kristin O’Donnell was the tour guide. The tour was hosted by the Yesler Terrace Community Council. Stops on the Mayor’s tour included the Yesler Terrace Community Center and the neighborhood P-Patch garden. Mayor Nickels also met with members of an East African youth group and watched a Liga Latina basketball game. It was the second visit to Yesler Terrace in a month for the mayor. He also visited the community in November to help promote the Seattle Housing Authority’s compact fluorescent light bulb program.

SHA Board adopts guiding principles for Yesler redevelopment at special meeting

By Tyler Roush
The Voice editor

The Seattle Housing Authority’s Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted the Yesler Terrace Definitions and Guiding Principles, setting in motion the first phase in the redevelopment of the neighborhood. The board made the decision during a special meeting at the Yesler Terrace Community Center Dec. 6.

The 20-page document is a framework for guiding the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace, with special emphasis on issues of social equity, environmental stewardship and sustainability and one-for-one replacement of housing. The latter in particular is a key issue among residents and community groups.

“SHA has always said we will replace the 561 units on site and in the neighborhood,” said Judith Kilgore, project manager for Seattle Housing Authority. “We’ve also said in the guiding principles that we would guarantee a home at Yesler Terrace for those that want to return and are still eligible under the rules at the time of relocation.”

During more than one hour of public comment prior to the decision, several residents expressed concern that they would be uprooted from the neighborhood at the time of redevelopment.

“I want to make sure that everybody can come back,” said Yesler Terrace resident Cham Nguyen through an interpreter.

“This is our place, too. We don’t want to lose our place.” Bakho Abdi, who also spoke through an interpreter, cautioned SHA against issuing empty promises.

“Keep to your promises. Do not tell us something that is not attainable,” she said.

According to the guiding principles, SHA will “replace or exceed the current number of very low-income and low-income housing units at Yesler Terrace that serve public housing eligible residents” and will “consider redevelopment options that would guarantee no net loss of very low-income housing serving public housing eligible residents on the current site of Yesler Terrace.”

John Fox, of the Seattle Displacement Coalition, is a member of the Yesler Terrace Citizen Review Committee and an outspoken critic of parts of the current plan.

“As written, they’re not satisfactory by any means,” Fox said. “The door is still very wide open for the housing authority to adopt a plan that could mean the loss of possibly over 100 housing units.”

But Kilgore said that SHA can create a redeveloped Yesler Terrace that both fulfills the promises of the guiding principles and remains economically feasible.

By increasing the density on the site, Kilgore said that SHA can build more units. Those would be a mix of low-income and market-rate housing.

The plan could also widen the footprint of Yesler Terrace to provide more land on which to place new units.

Concerns about P-Patch garden

Many residents at the meeting also spoke about the need to maintain the P-Patch garden, citing its benefits to health and the sense of community in the neighborhood.

Michael Neguse, of the Seattle Neighborhood Group, said the garden brings together a diverse group of cultures.

“They don’t speak the same language — they speak the same language of gardening,” he said.

Kilgore said that the neighborhood’s desire for a garden has been noted.

Locating a garden in the redeveloped Yesler Terrace will be a top priority in Phase 2 of the project, she added.

She added that public involvement will continue as the project develops.

“We’re very excited about the Definitions and Guiding Principles and the planning concepts, and we look forward to working with the community in partnership in Phase 2 as we did in Phase 1,” she said.

Notes from the manager

By Judy Carter
Senior Property Manager

And, so a new year begins! Happy 2008!

As many residents know, we now have a Pest Control Technician dedicated to Yesler Terrace two days a week.

Ken Royce has been treating whole buildings for mice and roaches for the past several weeks.

He is finding some interesting things, such as: Not all residents take out the trash every day. Mice and roaches think trash is yummy.

There are still some residents feeding birds outside.

Birds find everything they need in nature, and it is not necessary to supplement their diet by putting out rice or other food. (The mice and rats are fond of it, however.)

Some residents are storing plastic bags under their sink — lots and lots of them.

This is great nesting material for mice and rats. You may not realize that a crumb of food left on the floor is a nice meal for a mouse.

It is important to sweep up crumbs, wash the dishes and take out the trash before bedtime every day.

Please keep only a few clean plastic shopping bags on hand — only as many as you might use in a week or two.

All extra plastic bags can be stuffed into one bag, tied off and put into the recycling toter.

If you have mice or roaches in your apartment, please phone 223-3758 and request a pest control work order.

This month’s emergency preparedness tip

This year, I will be including one emergency preparedness tip every month.

This month’s tip is to always make sure that you have a pair of shoes right next to or immediately under your bed.

That way, if you have to evacuate your home quickly, and there is broken glass, you will not cut your feet on the way out.

I hope that 2008 is a peaceful and prosperous year for one and all!”
A look at the taxi industry

Wadayaasha ho laga isticmaaliyo ragga xay dooneysa ayaa ka mid yihiin. Waa inaad igu caawiso in lahaa xaydo gaarka dhaqanka. Wasayaa  kala guud iyo fiirino, dhibaatooyinka la darteed muuqda. Qofka soomaaliga gaar ka mid ah lahaa waayo, oo dhintay inay suur ah oo xaydo ka mid ah. Wasayaa yahay in ayaa ku qabtilaya si aad u baahan tahay. Dhibaatooyinka ugu muuqday tahay, laakiin ayaa ku caawiso in lahaa waxay u siiyo. 

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