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The Voice

February
2008
Articles translated
into six languages

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

Making the MLK holiday a time to act

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a "day on" for activists

By CLAIRE MCDANIEL
Seattle Housing Authority

On Jan. 21, local and national celebrations of the life, teachings and deeds of Martin Luther King, Jr. took place. The spirit of this holiday, which proponents of MLK's message worked hard to establish, is "A Day On, Not a Day Off." Martin Luther King, Jr. frequently asked, "What are you doing for others?"

Seattle's King County has been officially renamed for Dr. King, whose image is represented on its new logo. In the county that bears his name, there were many opportunities to volunteer on this day of service and put his principles to work on this holiday that celebrated his birth.

Community service projects throughout Seattle and King County included City Year's Dress for Success, which helps low-income women get clothes they need for job interviews to promote self-confidence and independence; and helping a



PHOTO COURTESY MARCY BOWERS
Demonstrators march in Olympia during last year's Martin Luther King, Jr. event, organized by Solid Ground's Poverty Action. A similar march was held this year.

low-income preschool by disinfecting classroom toys, cleaning up and removing litter around the preschool, and organizing their storage space.

Martin Luther King, Jr. (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was one of the main

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新年快乐!

CHÚC MỪNG NĂM MỚI!

Happy Lunar New Year!

Primary election and party caucuses to be held this month

By VOICE STAFF

This month, registered voters in Washington state will have the opportunity to help select their party's nominee for the office of the President of the United States.

Washington's primary elections for the Democratic and Republican parties will be held Tuesday, Feb. 19. Caucuses for both parties will be held Saturday, Feb. 9.

This year, the Republican party will allocate 51 percent of its delegates from the results of the primary and 49 percent from caucus results.

The state Democratic party will allocate all of its delegates from caucus results.

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HUD funding bill passed by Congress, signed by president

By MARTHA GALVEZ
Seattle Housing Authority

On Dec. 26, after months of political conflict, President Bush signed the \$515 billion 2008 Consolidated Spending Act, which combined eleven separate appropriations bills into a single "omnibus" budget package.

The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill, which includes funding for the public housing and Section 8 voucher programs, was among the bills that were consolidated. The resulting HUD budget is set at \$37.6 billion. This is \$1.4 billion above 2007 and \$2 billion above what the president recommended.

The omnibus bill was created after Congress spent months struggling to negotiate individual spending bills for various

domestic program areas. Throughout the negotiations process, the White House repeatedly stated that President Bush would veto any bill that exceeded his own proposed budget.

The President made good on that threat in November, when he successfully vetoed the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education spending bill.

By mid-December, as it became clear that Congress was running short on time and lacked the bi-partisan support needed to override additional presidential vetoes, legislators moved to combine individual bills into the single, larger package.

The omnibus package has mixed results for housing programs. Overall, fiscal year 2008 funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) emerged relatively unscathed when compared to the deep cuts originally proposed

by President Bush.

Some program areas, such as the Section 8 tenant-based voucher program, saw modest increases in funding.

However, spending levels remain well below actual funding needs in several program areas. This is consistent with a 15-year downward trend in low-income housing funding.

The Section 8 tenant-based voucher program received enough funding to pay for all vouchers issued in fiscal year 2007, and for an additional 13,000 new vouchers targeted towards veterans, disabled adults and families with children at risk of entering the foster care system.

According to the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), vouchers have not seen an

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Digital television is coming

By SENIOR SERVICES

In 1954, NBC broadcast the first coast-to-coast color television program: college football's Tournament of Roses Parade. On February 18, 2009, the next advance in television is coming – digital TV.

Congress opted to move the country forward from the current broadcast standard, analog, to a new standard, digital.

Digital television provides a clearer picture, more programming and uses less airwaves.

Digital broadcasting will free up some of the nation's airwaves for firefighters and police to better communicate during emergencies.

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"When people don't believe in me, I just keep doing what I am doing until they begin to admire the effort and hopefully change their own lives."
— Angelica Gonzalez, a Heart of Oak scholarship recipient and student at Green River Community College.

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Health Notes

A column devoted to your well-being

King County Board of Health sets agenda to reduce new HIV infections

The King County Board of Health endorsed a strategy to reduce new HIV infections in King County by 25 percent by 2015. There are approximately 370 new HIV infections in King County each year, and the Board resolved to support a strategy that places the greatest emphasis on people at highest risk for HIV infection. The goal is to reduce new infections to 280 cases per year within seven years.

"HIV continues to infect hundreds of people in King County every year, causing human suffering and premature death," said Julia Patterson, King County Councilmember and Board of Health Chair. "The Board of Health is committed to reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS, and with our action today, I feel confident that fewer individuals will have to endure the pain and distress that HIV and AIDS causes."

The HIV/AIDS Committee's recommendations and the strategic plan focus on two main goals:

- Identify new HIV cases community-wide and decrease risky behaviors. As many as 15-25 percent of people infected with HIV in King County do not know they are infected. Research shows that when people know they are HIV positive, they tend to reduce risky behaviors, which helps to prevent the spread of the disease to others, as well as initiate life-saving treatment.

- Reduce HIV transmission across the county by promoting safer sex and drug use behaviors in highest risk communities, as well as early treatment for infected people, which may reduce infectiousness and prolong their lives.

"People in our community at highest risk for contracting HIV include men who have sex with men, injection drug users, and foreign-born blacks," said Dr. David Fleming, Director and Health Officer for Public Health - Seattle and King County. "The recommendations made and strategic plan approved by the Board today focus on these higher risk groups in order to be more effective in curbing the epidemic across the

community."

The strategic plan was developed with the support of the Board of Health HIV/AIDS Committee, which includes Dr. George Counts, and Seattle City Council members Tom Rasmussen and Sally Clark. As part of the committee's work, a wide range of community stakeholders were interviewed, as was Public Health's HIV/AIDS Program staff. As a result of their work, the committee developed recommendations for HIV prevention, which were incorporated into the plan.

"The Board of Health is taking a stand to combat HIV infections, and through this new plan our efforts are renewed and strengthened," said Dr. Counts, Chair of the HIV/AIDS Committee. "Reducing new HIV infections by 25 percent by 2015 will be challenging, but it's essential work to bring this epidemic under control."

"The continuing rate of HIV transmission is not acceptable," said Seattle City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen. "We have the knowledge to prevent the spread of HIV and we need to challenge ourselves and set goals to find better ways to reduce new infections. Today, the Board of Health has made a commitment to prevent new cases of what is still a devastating disease."

"With the advent of new treatment options, more people are living with HIV," said Seattle Councilmember Sally Clark. "But with hope has also come complacency and a return to riskier behavior. The strategy endorsed by the Board today will reinvigorate HIV prevention work community-wide, and remind people that HIV and AIDS continue to be a health crisis."

As of June 2007, 6,188 King County residents were reported living with HIV or AIDS. This figure does not include undiagnosed or unreported infections.

Eighty-six percent of reported cases in King County are men who have sex with men, intravenous drug users, or foreign-born blacks.

For more information on HIV and AIDS, visit www.metrokc.gov/health/apu.

HUD funding

Continued from front page

increase since 2002.

The public housing capitol and operating funds were also increased over 2007 levels, but these programs still remain under-funded compared to actual program costs.

According to estimates by HUD and NAHRO, the public housing capitol fund has a shortfall of approximately \$1.1 billion, while the operating fund is approximately \$875 million short of actual program costs.

Individual housing authorities will

receive approximately 86 percent of total operating cost needs.

In spite of these longstanding shortfalls, the appropriations process spared housing programs deeper cuts proposed in the President's budget.

Washington Senator Patty Murray, who sits on the Appropriations Committee and is the chair of the subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, was a vocal advocate for protecting housing funding during the contentious budget process.

Martha Galvez works part time for SHA as a housing policy analyst.

Help in a hurry for victims of domestic violence

By SHA STAFF

"If you are being abused, you are not alone. You can get help. No one deserves to be threatened, assaulted or stalked. You have the right to be safe." So reads the main page of www.protectionorder.com, the Web page for a Seattle organization that provides information about obtaining protective orders against abusers.

Women between 18 and 59 years of age are the main victims of domestic violence, which affects all racial, ethnic and income groups in our community. Victims seeking services at City of Seattle-funded agencies tend to have very low or low incomes.

For victims and their children who live in poverty, leaving an abusive relationship can be very challenging if the victim is economically dependent on her batterer.

The American Bar Association provides the following definition of domestic violence:

"Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior that one intimate partner or spouse exerts over another as a means of control. Domestic violence may include physical violence, coercion, threats, intimidation, isolation and emotional, sexual or economic abuse."

Perpetrators often use children to manipulate their victims. They might harm or abduct the children, threaten to harm or abduct the children, force the children to participate in abuse of the victim.

They often use visitation as an occasion to harass or monitor victims, or pursue child custody battles as a way of punishing their victims.

The American Bar Association points out that domestic violence is not defined solely by specific physical acts, but by a combination of psychological, social and family factors.

In some families, perpetrators of domestic violence may routinely beat their spouses until they require medical attention.

In other families, where physical violence has occurred in the past, perpetrators may exert power and control over their partners simply by looking at them in a certain way or reminding them of prior episodes.

According to the American Bar Association, the batterer typically has deep personal knowledge of the victim's lifestyle, needs and vulnerabilities. The batterer may have unlimited access to the victim and to the victim's children, friends and family members.

The victim is often terrified of the batterer. The consequences of disclosing the violence may include further violence

by the batterer as "punishment," loss of custody of her children, further isolation from friends and family members, and loss of her home. This terror on the victim's part strengthens the batterer's ability to control and to abuse her.

Although every situation is different, the Bar Association points out that "Domestic violence victims trying to protect themselves and their children may need housing, clothing, food, medical assistance, police response, employer assistance, civil legal assistance and protection, criminal justice system action, counseling, translation services, monetary assistance, transportation, hospitalization, shelter protection, and more. They need help from family, friends, and community."

According to a counselor named Sarah at New Beginnings, a Seattle organization that works to support victims of domestic violence, "A victim of domestic violence is in the most danger when they try to create change or seek intervention."

A victim of domestic violence should call 9-1-1 immediately if the perpetrator is inflicting or threatening violence in any form, including physical abuse and damage to property.

Calling 9-1-1 in Seattle summons Seattle police officers, who are trained in dealing with domestic violence situations and who in turn can call upon other city and county resources to track down and punish batterers.

New Beginnings is an excellent resource if a victim of domestic violence wants help in getting out of an abusive situation, needs emergency shelter, or wants help finding legal assistance. This organization's 24-hour crisis telephone number is 206-522-9472.

New Beginnings can help a victim prepare a safety plan, learn about protection orders, connect with community programs, and suggest resources such as therapy or emotional support to help everyone heal. New Beginnings can help people who speak little or no English.

An excellent online list of community resources available to victims of domestic violence in Seattle is at www.seattle.gov/humanservices/domesticviolence/survivors/gethelp.htm.

(If an abuser has access to the victim's computer, it might be best for the victim to use a computer at a library, or a friend's computer, to visit this site and similar sites so that no trail is left.)

Finally, a good source for information about protection orders — orders issued by a judge forbidding an abuser from going near or troubling a victim — is at www.protectionorder.org.

New minimum wage took effect Jan. 1

Washington's minimum wage increased 14 cents to \$8.07 an hour beginning Jan. 1.

Washington's minimum wage applies to workers in both agriculture and non-agricultural jobs, although 14- and 15-year-olds may be paid 85 percent of the adult minimum wage, or \$6.86 an hour.

The Department of Labor and Industries recalculates the state's minimum wage each year in September as required by Initiative 688, which Washington state voters approved in 1998.

As a result, Washington's minimum wage has increased every year since

1999. The state's minimum wage was \$7.93 in 2007.

The law requires the state to adjust the minimum wage according to the change in the federal "CPI-W," which is a national index covering the cost of goods and services needed for day-to-day living.

That index rose 1.8 percent during the 12 months ending Aug. 31, 2007.

Free minimum wage and worker rights posters are available from any L&I office or by calling 1-866-219-7321 or downloading from the L&I web site at www.Wages.Lni.wa.gov.

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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.

MLK

Continued from front page

leaders of the American Civil Rights movement. A Baptist minister who became a civil rights activist, he led the Montgomery Bus Boycott and helped to found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

His efforts led to the 1963 March on Washington, where King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech, raising public consciousness of the civil rights movement and establishing King as one of the greatest orators in American history.

In 1964, King became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end segregation and racial discrimination through civil disobedience and other non-violent means.

King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Jimmy Carter in 1977.

Martin Luther King Day was established as a national holiday in the United States in 1986.

In 2004, King was posthumously awarded a Congressional Gold Medal.

On MLK Day, to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his vision of justice for the world, Solid Ground's Poverty Action and other leading advocacy organizations brought low income people and their allies from across the state to Olympia for a Summit and March to End Poverty at St. John's Episcopal Church.

At the Summit, presenters discussed key public policy that addresses poverty in Washington State and shared their stories. Afterward, participants marched on the Capitol to meet with lawmakers and urge them to make ending poverty a priority.

Marcy Bowers, Outreach Coordinator for Poverty Action, described the event as a success.

"Leading community organizations all

"Every King Holiday has been a national 'teach-in' on the values of nonviolence, including unconditional love, tolerance, forgiveness and reconciliation, which are so desperately needed to unify America."

— Coretta Scott King, "The Meaning of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday"

came together and chose five legislative policy priorities toward ending poverty: responsible lending, health care for all, housing for everyone, the new Americans initiative – immigration and naturalization, and income supports for low-income families," Bowers said.

"We've come together as a coalition to come up with solutions to our problems," she added. "The MLK quote we use in our promotion of the event every year is 'Poverty in the U.S. should not be accepted as a necessary evil or an insoluble problem.'"

According to the City of Seattle, Seattle has one of the largest annual Martin Luther King Day Celebrations in the U.S.

Seattle residents honored the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for his work toward racial equality and toward economic justice for all people, for his commitment to nonviolence, and for his stand against war and militarism. Events included a rally and workshops held at Franklin High School, followed by a march that began at the school and ended at MLK Memorial Park. This year's theme was "Let Freedom Ring: End Racism, Poverty and War."

Workshops covered such topics as healthcare disparities, Black on Black crime, predatory lending and veterans of color.

Energy assistance available for low-income individuals, families through CAMP

By VOICE STAFF

Low-income individuals and families in Seattle can get energy assistance thanks to the Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP).

CAMP provides financial assistance to help income-eligible residents of Seattle pay their energy bills.

To set up an appointment with CAMP, call its 24-hour appointment line at 800-348-7144.

Hearing-impaired customers may call TTY 800-246-1646.

The program serves residents in the following ZIP codes: 98101, 98102, 98103, 98104, 98105, 98106 (to S. Roxbury), 98107, 98108, 98109, 98112, 98115, 98116, 98117, 98118, 98119, 98121, 98122, 98125, 98126, 98133, 98134, 98136, 98144, 98155, 98177, 98178 (within the city limits), 98199.

Applicants will need to collect certain materials before their appointment,

including:

- Social Security cards for all adults in the household
- Verification of children in the household
- Verification of the total household income for three months prior to appointment
- A current heating bill and Puget Sound Energy gas bill, if they are not the same
- Lease, rental agreement, mortgage coupon or property tax statement
- Picture I.D.

To receive assistance, persons must not exceed a monthly gross income threshold.

An individual living alone must have a monthly gross income of \$1,064 or less. For more information on program eligibility, contact the appointment line.

Adults with zero income should contact the WorkSource Telecenter at 800-318-6022 to request income verification.

kcdems.org.

Candidates on the Republican party's ballot include Mike Huckabee, John McCain, Ron Paul and Mitt Romney.

To learn how to participate in the Republican party caucus, go to www.kegop.org.

The deadline to register to vote in King County has passed. To find out where your polling place is located, go to www.metrokc.gov/elections.



One to grow on

Garden tips for community gardeners

Strategically plant this spring's crops to maximize the yield of your garden

By ANZA MUENCHOW
Special to The Voice

This is a good time to get out your previous garden maps, some fresh paper and a pencil to plan for your 2008 food garden.

Some of you do this on a computer, but I go for the old fashioned way. My maps are weather-worn from carrying them around the garden and accidentally getting water on them. But my file of maps goes back years. I can't rely on my memory for which crops I grew where in previous seasons.

What factors should you keep in mind as you sketch out your future garden? First of all, what were your favorite foods that you and your family ate from your garden last year, and how much of them do you want this year? How can you best use your limited space for growing? Which crops will have different light, water and soil needs?

Some soil drains more quickly than other soil and requires more watering. The sun has a different path in April than it does in July.

All of these factors can be overwhelming. Let me recommend ideas that will make your garden planning easier.

Peas are usually the first crop to plant outdoors in the spring. It is important that you plant them in a different area each year, so you will have to move that trellis structure.

Pea pests, especially the weevil, are too difficult to control, except by moving the crop to a whole different site.

Legumes (including peas and beans) are a family of plants that actually put more nitrogen into the soil than they use. They have colonies of bacteria that live on their roots that take nitrogen out of the air and excrete it into the soil, in a very useable form.

Not only is it unnecessary to add nitrogen rich fertilizers for them to grow well, they will improve your soil for the crops you grow after them.

After your pea harvest in July, the soil will have been improved by nitrogen-fixing bacteria.

You can use the same trellis structure for your summer crop of lemon cucumbers, baby boo pumpkins or tromboncino sum-

mer squash.

Crop rotation makes the organic gardener's job much easier. Moving your crops to different parts of your garden will slow or eliminate many of your pest problems.

Many pests target particular food crops, but leave others alone. Pea weevils won't bother broccoli. Club root (the fungus that attacks brassicas like broccoli) won't bother lettuce or carrots.

Besides confusing plant pests, crop rotations can help provide the right soil nutrients to your plants without adding a lot of fertilizers. Some basic crop rotation concepts will help you plan your garden map for the 2008 growing season.

Follow peas with cucumbers, or follow a bean crop with broccoli or spinach (requiring more nitrogen) the next growing season.

Salad greens (lettuce, arugula, green onions, etc.) will benefit from having that extra nitrogen from a previous legume crop.

Remember that fruiting crops, such as tomatoes, peppers and squashes, don't need as much nitrogen.

If you add nitrogen-rich fertilizers such as blood meal or cottonseed meal, you will have problems growing tomatoes, because they get too much leaf growth and not enough fruits.

The excess nitrogen in the leaves can cause severe problems with leaf spot and blight as well. Grow these fruiting vegetables after a crop of brassicas or leafy greens, because the soil will have less nitrogen in it.

Consider your onion crop as a "greens" crop, since they also require extra nitrogen. Root crops, such as carrots and beets, have less nitrogen requirements, so you can plant these after a leafy green or fruiting crop.

For a simple crop rotation, plant legumes, then greens, then fruiting crops, then root crops, and back to legumes. Keep in mind the light requirements and water needs and this rotation will help increase your garden performance without as many added fertilizers.

Enjoy the lengthening days and we'll get serious about getting the garden planted next month.

Community notes

Parking limited at SHA's Central Office beginning this month

Beginning Feb. 1, the parking lot south of Seattle Housing Authority's Central Office at 120 Sixth Ave. N. is closed due to construction.

Limited parking for visitors (eight spaces) will be available one block north in the Impark Lot just north of the Travelodge. The sidewalk south of the SHA offices to the corner of Denny Way and Sixth Ave. N. will also be closed.

This will make access to SHA's Central Office more difficult for residents and staff alike. Construction on a residential inn and retail space, including underground parking, will begin on the site this month.

Goldberg to read at Central Library

Author Natalie Goldberg will read from her book, "Old Friend from Far Away: The Practice of Writing Memoir"

from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22 at The Seattle Public Library, Central Library, 1000 Fourth Ave., Microsoft Auditorium, Level 1.

The program is free and open to the public. No registration is required. Parking will be available in the Central Library garage for a \$5 special event rate.

Goldberg has written nine other books, including the bestselling "Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within." In her work, she combines Buddhist teachings with writing and explores writing as a Zen practice.

She lives and teaches writing workshops in Taos, N.M.

The program is presented in partnership with the Elliott Bay Book Co. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

For more information, call the Central Library at 206-386-4636.

Elections

Continued from front page

Registered voters may vote in either the Democratic or Republican primary.

Candidates on the Democratic party's ballot include Hilary Clinton and Barack Obama.

To learn how to participate in the Democratic party caucus, go to [THE VOICE](http://www.</p>
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A life changed, a cycle broken

Education is the ticket to a new life for Angelica Gonzalez and her daughter

By JULIE GABELEN
Special to *The Voice*

In Angelica Gonzalez's childhood there were no Barbie dolls, trips to the zoo or carefree soccer games in the park.

Instead, the streets of Phoenix where she grew up homeless with her mother were populated with pimps, prostitutes, and members of California gangs.

They slept in the back of her mother's decrepit car and washed their clothes in 7-Eleven restrooms. Gonzalez went to school with clothes smelling of mold. She scavenged food from other kids for lunch. She bounced around from school to school as her mother attempted to evade Child Protective Services.

By the time she was 11, it was normal for girls on the street to be living with their boyfriends, drinking, and doing hard drugs.

"I felt like the lowest person in the world back then," Gonzalez says, her hazel eyes drifting outside the rain beaded window. Society's expectations for a girl raised on the streets are low; she had every reason to fail.

Yet here is the 21-year-old Gonzalez on a Saturday morning, dressed in a tidy black cardigan and a pearl necklace, sipping coffee in Starbucks. She has long since traded Phoenix for Auburn, and the streets for an apartment of her own.

Her two-year-old daughter, Jasmine, sits next to her, a big smile plastered on her chubby face. Jasmine's dark cuffed jeans, warm jacket with fuzzy white trim and new white shoes are a far cry from the moldy outfits of her mother's childhood.

The conversation drifts to Gonzalez's plans to break the cycle of poverty. She isn't just referring to herself either — she

wants to effect change locally, nationally and globally. Don't even try to tell her she can't do this; she won't listen.

Trading the streets for the suburbs

It was a different story ten years ago. Gonzalez ran away from her mother and the streets of Phoenix to live with her father in Washington. She arrived to a school system in Auburn where kids had parents who cheered for them at their baseball games, packed their lunches, and often bought them new clothes.

"When I started school here, none of the other kids drank or did drugs," Gonzalez says as she watches Jasmine giggle and roll around on the floor. "They were all afraid of me because I came from this other world."

Gonzalez struggled with the school work because her early education was sporadic at best. As a seventh grader, she didn't know how to divide, let alone spell or write essays. No one cared, so she slipped further and further behind.

Life at home wasn't easy, either. Although Gonzalez's father was not street poor, the emotional damage the street life had inflicted followed her to Auburn.

She fought with her father on a regular basis and felt depressed most days. At one point, she seriously toyed with the idea of killing herself.

"I started giving into my life and accepting that I would never be like those other kids whose parents cared, who would come to their games and helped them with their homework," Gonzalez says.

By 17, Gonzalez had a criminal record and was pregnant. She dropped out of school and moved in with Jasmine's father. As her stomach grew, Gonzalez realized she didn't want her daughter born into this cycle of poverty.

"What mothers achieve will be what affects their kids; I knew I had to change my life for my daughter," Gonzalez says. "I'm going to change her life because I got an education and, in turn, that will change the lives of my grandchildren and my great-grandchildren."

Her first step was to graduate from high school. She enrolled at West-Auburn High School, a local alternative school.

Colleen Rayburn, a teacher there, took interest in Gonzalez. Rayburn would call if Gonzalez didn't show up for school and worked with her to improve her writing skills.

"I didn't learn how to write well until I met Colleen. She made my papers bleed. She was firm; you can't escape from her in a good way," Gonzalez says with a laugh.

A helping hand

Rayburn is also the person who suggested Neighborhood House. She put Gonzalez in touch with Jenifer Chao, an Employment Project Manager at Neighborhood House who worked with drop-out youth.

"Neighborhood House played a big role in turning around my life. I felt I could call Jen anytime when I was in need of help, and she would get right back to me," Gonzalez



PHOTO COURTESY ANGELICA GONZALEZ

As she pursues a college education, Angelica Gonzalez envisions a bright future for herself and her 2-year-old daughter, Jasmine.

says, adding softly that "it's really easy to backslide. There are so many things that can happen to you in that culture without family support."

Neighborhood House provided her with clothing for job interviews, bus vouchers and other resources that made it possible for Gonzalez to graduate from high school while also feeding and clothing herself and her infant child.

Gonzalez actually started to think about the future instead of just living day-to-day. Through Neighborhood House, she secured an internship as an administrative assistant at a salon and enrolled in the Digital Bridge Academy, a technology oriented program for low-income and at-risk youth.

After four months learning technical and computer skills, she accepted a paying internship with REI as a contractor. Gonzalez began to realize her own self worth and potential in the midst of the corporate culture at REI.

She also began to connect the dots between education and opportunity.

It became clear to her that she needed more education to ensure a stable, comfortable life for her and Jasmine.

Neighborhood House awarded her the Heart of Oak Scholarship, based in part on her performance at the Digital Bridge Academy.

The award pays for her Green River Community College tuition and books so that her financial aid can cover the living expenses.

Her conversations with REI CEO Sally Jewell during her internship convinced Gonzalez that she wants to become a corporate executive after graduating from the University of Washington, where she plans to enroll after Green River.

Her recipe for success includes a heavy course-load. She has enrolled in 20 credits this quarter, including 15 business credits. Gonzalez maintains a 3.9 GPA by studying long days, only taking breaks to eat and play with Jasmine.

"People sometimes say I am neglecting my daughter because I am going to school," Gonzalez says. "My response is the time sacrificed now is so little compared to the rest of her life. By the time she is five, I will have my bachelor's degree and a high-paying job to support her."

As much as she enjoys school, it has been

a rough ride. Besides having little time to spend with Jasmine, she has had many naysayers who don't think she can rise above the poverty line.

"When people don't believe in me, I just keep doing what I am doing until they begin to admire the effort and hopefully change their own lives," Gonzalez says.

A desire to lead

Gonzalez's 26 year-old sister has been inspired to finally earn her high school diploma. A talk Gonzalez gave to a Digital Bridge Classroom motivated another young mother to earn an internship.

However, she has begun to realize that she isn't satisfied by just talking to others. She wants her own programs that can change the lives of other young mothers, low-income students, and Hispanics.

In June 2007, she created Angelica's Community Impact Project. Remembering the hand-written assignments she was marked down on in high school because she didn't have a computer, Gonzalez directs computers donated by REI to students who don't have a computer in their household.

To Gonzalez, homelessness is still her problem. While she doesn't sleep on the streets anymore, she knows too many people in America still do — 3.5 million to be exact, according to the 2007 report by the American Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty.

She doesn't feel that enough is being done to alleviate this problem. Gonzalez has plans to prevent other children and young women from living on the streets and missing out on an education.

Her next order of business is to create a housing program in Auburn for low-income mothers. She also harbors aspirations to run for a political office.

These are things that never crossed her mind as she was trying to survive as a homeless child and pregnant teenager — now she wants other young mothers and low-income students to have the opportunity to dream of the future, instead of fearing it.

"I know that education is not a free ticket, but it gives you the skills to do what you want to do," Gonzalez says as she grasps Jasmine's hand and heads towards the door. "I now have the playing cards to get in on the game."

The Heart of Oak Scholarship Fund

Established in 1999, the \$2,500 Heart of Oak Scholarship is offered each year to help a successful candidate pay for tuition and other college expenses.

The scholarship was created to be the principle means for the student to pay for college. Therefore, potential recipients should not be receiving other scholarships of an equal or greater amount.

The successful applicant should be:

- A resident of public housing or any community served by Neighborhood House
- A high school graduate or GED recipient who plans to pursue an advanced education
- Able to demonstrate financial need and that he or she has overcome personal obstacles or hardships
- Able to demonstrate a likelihood of success at higher education

If the recipient earns a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, or is in the top 30 percent of the student's class, the student will receive the scholarship for a second year (maximum of two years) upon application.

The application deadline is Friday, April 11. For more information or to download an application, go to www.nhwa.org/gethelp/scholarship-heart-of-oak.php.

“Một Dấu Nối” liên kết các em học sinh Việt Nam với các phụ huynh và trường học

Editor's note: Last month, The Voice published an article entitled "Helping Link connects Vietnamese students, their parents and the schools." A version of that article translated into Vietnamese follows below:

BÀI VIẾT BỞI NHÂN VIÊN CỦA SHA

Trong năm 2005, Nha Học Chánh Seattle đưa ra chương trình trên mạng, được gọi là The Source, để giúp các phụ huynh giúp cho con em của họ được thành công nơi trường học. Dùng máy vi tính để truy cập vào các thông tin về lớp học của con em, các bài làm, và tài liệu học vấn, các phụ huynh có thể trao đổi cách dễ dàng với các thầy cô và hơn nữa làm tăng thêm sự liên quan của họ vào đời sống học hành của con em.

Các phụ huynh có thể thấy được điểm bài làm của con em mình cũng như các kế hoạch học vấn cá nhân, và học biết về những điều như những nguồn tài liệu giúp con em làm bài, và nhận ra các tài liệu học hỏi thêm.

Phụ huynh của các em học sinh từ lớp 7 trở lên có thể kiểm tra xem con em mình có đến trường hay không.

Lúc đầu, chương trình chỉ phục vụ cho gia đình nói được tiếng Anh mà thôi.

Hiện nay, trong kế hoạch thực hiện thử, thì một cơ quan bất-vụ-lợi gọi là “Một Dấu Nối” đang giúp cho các gia đình Việt Nam tham gia vào chương trình.

Chương trình được tài trợ bởi thành phố Seattle trong ngân sách Technology Matching Fund và cơ quan United Way.

Nhằm vào các phụ huynh Việt nam di dân và tị nạn có con em đang đi học trong

khu học chánh Seattle, cơ quan Một Dấu Nối – The Source cung cấp các lớp hướng dẫn với 10 giờ đồng hồ huấn luyện cho việc xử dụng máy vi tính. Chương trình The Source cung cấp các tài liệu học vấn.

Cơ quan Một Dấu Nối thu nhận không quá 10 học viên cho một khóa học trong kế hoạch thử nghiệm này.

Thêm vào lớp hướng dẫn và 10 giờ đồng hồ huấn luyện xử dụng máy vi tính, các phụ huynh có thể tham gia các lớp học Anh Văn.

Cũng thế, tài liệu học vấn được cung cấp từ trên trang mạng trong chương trình The Source. Một số bài hướng dẫn còn có 1 kèm 1, có nghĩa là một hướng dẫn viên hay một thầy cô kèm dạy cho 1 phụ huynh.

Cô Minh Đức Nguyễn, người sáng lập chương trình và hiện nay là người đứng đầu của tổ chức Một Dấu Nối, và chính

cô cũng là người tị nạn.

Cô đề ra các mục tiêu cho chương trình thử nghiệm The Source “sự tự tin với năng khiếu của chính mình” đối với thành phần phụ huynh và “thu hẹp lại sự cách biệt về khoa học kỹ thuật giữa các phụ huynh di dân và con em của họ, từng bước một.

Các lớp học trong The Source được mở ra vào các buổi tối ngày Thứ Ba và Thứ Năm trong mùa học từ 6 giờ đến 8 giờ tối ở văn phòng Một Dấu Nối ở số 1032 S.Jackson St, phòng C.

Khóa dạy máy vi tính cho học sinh có thể học các thảo luận căn bản bằng cả hai tiếng Anh và tiếng Việt.

Một Dấu Nối cung cấp một số lớp học khác – lớp đàm thoại Anh Văn, lớp luyện thi nhập tịch, vi tính và mạng lưới internet, tiếng Việt, dạy kèm sau giờ học. Trong mùa hè, còn có lớp học dạy cắm hoa.

Để biết thêm thông tin về chương trình The Source của Một Dấu Nối về các lớp học hoặc các chương trình khác, xin vui lòng gọi đến 206-781-4246 hoặc gửi điện thư helpinglink2003@gmail.com

The Voice: Policy for stipends

BY VOICE STAFF

In 2006, The Voice adopted a \$25 stipend system to compensate freelance reporters for writing articles.

Reporters who collaborate with the Voice editor in writing a news article for publication in the newspaper will be eligible to receive a stipend.

The Voice editor maintains a pool of freelance writers to assign stories, and also receives outside submissions. So which ones receive compensation? Below is a series of guidelines for receiving a stipend from The Voice:

1. Propose the story – Before a reporter gets to work on an article, he or she must pitch the idea to the editor. Think of this as an opportunity to flesh out your goals for the story. What is newsworthy about the item? Who will find this information useful? Who should you interview for the story? What type of background information will be required? It's also the time to discuss receiving a stipend.

2. Talk to sources – As a general rule, any piece of journalism should include comments from at least two sources. The editor can help you decide who you

should contact. Take notes during the interview and try to include at least one direct quote from each source.

3. Do the research – Many articles tackle issues and topics that may be unfamiliar to readers. As necessary, provide background information to put the story in its proper context.

4. Be objective – It's important to check our own opinions at the door when we're reporting. The editor can advise you on objectivity in your writing. Because letters to the editor and op-ed pieces are not held to the same standards, they do not receive stipends.

5. Be independent – This ties into objectivity. Journalists are independent of the issues they cover. The Voice receives many article submissions each month from people who are writing as representatives of a specific group or agency. We are happy to publicize groups and events. However, these types of stories do not receive stipends.

If you're still not sure if your article is eligible to receive a stipend, ask the editor. Voice editor Tyler Roush can be reached at 206-461-8430, ext. 227 or tylerr@nhwa.org.

Good and bad news in unemployment stats

BY EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

The unemployment rate in Washington inched up in December, but the annual average of 4.7 percent is the lowest in the state's history.

Washington's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose slightly to 4.8 percent in December from November's 4.7 percent rate, according to the state Employment Security Department.

At the same time, Washington's seasonally adjusted non-farm employment increased by 7,100.

For all of 2007, the unemployment rate averaged 4.7 percent, putting 2007 in the history books as the lowest annual jobless rate for the state since these data began being compiled in 1976.

“Washington's record year of low unemployment, even when a lot of the nation is seeing set-backs, shows that we're making good decisions and doing right by businesses in this state,” said

Governor Chris Gregoire. “It is heartening to go into a new year with such a strong economy.”

Professional and business services surged in December, posting a 3,100 job gain, their largest monthly increase since December 2000.

Other industries with the largest job growth in December were leisure and hospitality, with 1,600 new jobs, transportation, warehousing and utilities, up 1,300, and manufacturing, with 1,000 new jobs. The weakest major industry sectors were retail trade, down 1,700, and financial activities, down 600.

Since December 2006, 77,200 net new jobs have been created in Washington. Overall, non-agricultural jobs grew by 2.7 percent, which compared to a national rate increase of 1 percent.

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

Rallying for the health of Washington



PHOTO BY ROBERT CANAMAR

An estimated 200 people gathered on the front steps of the State Capitol in Olympia to lobby for health-care reform Jan. 14. A week later, about 1,000 activists turned out for a march and rally at the Capitol Building to lobby for health-care, education and housing reform.

Digital TV

Continued from front page

In Seattle, 20 percent of us get our television reception for free, using “rabbit ears” or other antennas. After the change to digital in 2009, televisions that use an antenna will not receive a signal unless they have a digital converter box. Those who subscribe to cable or satellite service will not see any change in their TV reception.

Starting in 2009, all analog TVs (those more than three years old) will need a converter box to receive free TV. To assist with the transition, the federal government created the Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon Program. If you have a newer TV, you will not need to get a converter. If you are not sure about your TV, check with the manufacturer to see if it is digital.

To continue getting reception from an analog television, you can:

- Get a digital converter box
- Subscribe to cable or satellite TV
- Get a new TV with a digital tuner

Remember, you do not have to buy cable service or a new TV; getting the converter

box will work just fine.

A maximum of two \$40 coupons per household will be available to help offset the cost of a converter, which is expected to cost between \$50 and \$70 and should be in stores beginning this month.

To get your converter box coupon(s), between January 2008 and March 31, 2009, you can:

- Call: 1-888-388-2009 (1-888-DTV-2009)
- Go Online: www.dtv2009.gov
- Write: DTV Coupons, P.O. Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208

Note: once you have the coupon(s), you must use the coupon within 90 days! If you do not, it will expire and you will have to pay full price for the converter.

If you have any questions, call 206-386-1989 or visit online Web sites at www.dtv2009.gov or www.seattle.gov/digital-tv.

Republished with permission from Senior Services' January 2008 issue of Passport. For more information on Senior Services, go to www.seniorservices.org.

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MISCELLANEOUS



eliminating racism empowering women

Pathways to Work

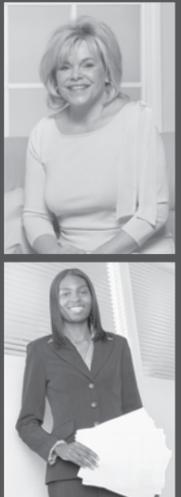
Employment Support Class for Women

Are you an individual who needs to re-enter the workforce because of divorce, separation, death or disability of a spouse, or loss of welfare? If so, find tools and support, at no cost to you, in workshops presented by the Displaced Homemaker Center from Pathways for Women YWCA. The next workshop will be held

February 6th - February 20th
9:00 am to 2:30 pm

CALL (425) 258-2766 EXT. 226 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

- Learn how to translate your experience into marketable skills
- Set goals and build self-esteem
- Learn where to get training
- Transportation and childcare assistance may be available.



Got Stuff to Sell? Turn it into CA\$H!

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

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



DENIED BENEFITS?

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Medium Cherry Video DVD Cabinet from Fingerhut. Never assembled. Everything you need is included. \$50. Call Callie at 206-246-2515

Couch Love Seat and Sofa, Green with Burgundy Brown. \$400 for both. Four Piece Italian Living Room Cabntry set with Glass and Burgundy Wood. \$700. Call 253-887-9320

Free

Free Esperanto Language Lessons. Esperanto is four times easier than English. Speak with your neighbors from around the world. For information 206-600-1178 or seattlesperanto.org.

To place your ad in The Voice contact classmgr@nwlink.com

Market place coupon

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

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Write your ad here (one word per line)

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

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

TRANSLATIONS

TRANSLATED ARTICLES FROM THE VOICE

New minimum wage took effect Jan. 1 አዲሱ የወጣው የዝቅተኛው የደሞዝ ክፍያ በጃንዋሪ ጀምሯል!

የዋሽንግተን ዝቅተኛው የደሞዝ ክፍያ በ14 ሳንቲም ወደ \$8.07 በሰዓት የጨምረ ሲሆን ይህም ከጃንዋሪ ጀምሮ በሰራ ላይ ውሏል። የዋሽንግተን የዝቅተኛው የደሞዝ ክፍያ ጭማሪ ለሁሉም በግብርና ስራ ወይም ከዛ ውጭ ለተሰማሩት ሰራተኞች ሲሆን የ14 እና የ15 እድሜ ያላቸው ወደ 85 ፐርሰንት አዋቂዎች ከሚያገኙት ክፍያ \$6.86 በሰዓት ሊያገኙ ይችላሉ።

የሰራተኛውና የእንዳራራት ሚፓርትመንት በየዓለሙ ሴፕተምበር የዝቅተኛ የደሞዝ አስፋፊ ለማሻሻል በ688 ኢንሸቲቭ መሰረት የዋሽንግተን መራሮች በ1998 ባወጡት ደምብ መሰረት ይመለከታል።

በውጤቱም የዋሽንግተን የዝቅተኛው ክፍያ ከ1999ም ጀምሮ በመጨመር ላይ ይገኛል። የሰራተኛው የደሞዝ ክፍያ በ2007 \$7.93 ነበር።

ይህ ኢንሸቲቭ ስቴቱ በየጊዜው የሚያሳየውን ለውጥ የዝቅተኛ የደሞዝ ክፍያ እንዲፈጸሙ “CPI—W” በአገሪቱ ውስጥ ያለውን የጉልበትና የአገልግሎት እንዲሁም በየቀኑ ለኑሮ የሚያስፈልገውን በመመልከት ያስተካክላል። ይህ እንደክስ 1.8 ፐርሰንት በ12 ወር ውስጥ እስከ አገስት 31 2007 ጨምሯል። ነፃ የሆነው የዝቅተኛው የደሞዝ ክፍያ ለሰራተኛ መብት ፖስተር ከማንኛውም L & I ቢሮ ይገኛል ወይም በ1866-219-7321 ወይም ከ L & I ዌቭሳይት beWages.Lni.wa.gov ይመልከቱ።

አብ ሰዓት ዝኸፈል ደሞዝ (ዝውሓደ) ካብ ዕለት ጃንዋሪ 1 ጀሚሩ አብ ግብረ ክውዕል አዩ።

ናይ ዋሽንግተን ሚኒሙም ወግ ምውሳኽ ብ 14 ሳንቲም ክወሰኽ እዩ ክሰብ \$8.07 ክኸውን አዩ ካብ ዕለት 1 ጃንዋሪ 2008 ኣዚ ናይ ዋሽንግተን ስቴት ሚኒሙም ወግ ንኩሎም አኣብ ናይ ሕርሻን አብ ካልእ ስርሓት ዝሰተፉን ይምልከት ወላውን እቶም ዕድሚኦም 14-15 መንእሰያት 85% ካብ ናይ ዓበይቲ ሰራሕተኛታት \$6.86 አብ ሰዓት።

ቤት ጽሕፈት ሰራሕተኛታትን ኢንዱስትርን አቲ ናይ ስቴት ሚኒሙም ወግ አብ ነብሲ ወከፍ ዓመት ይግምግም አብ ወርሒ ሰፕተምበር መሰረት ኢንሸቲቭ 688 ምሰረት ብቲ ናይ ዋሽንግተን ነበርቲ ብምርጫ ድምጺ ዘሕለፍዎ ሕጊ ምሰረት አብ 1988።

ብዚ ምክንያት ናይ ዋሽንግተን ስቴት ሚኒሙም ወግ አኣብ ነብሲ ወከፍ ዓመት ክብ አኣሉ ካብ 1999 ጀሚሩ ናይ ስቴት እዚ ሚኒሙም ወግ 7,93 አብ 2007 ነይሩ

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New minimum wage took effect Jan. 1

Washington qiimaha ugu yar oo lagu shaqeeyo waa la kordhiyey 14 cents waxayna noqotay \$8.07 saacaddiiba laga bilaabo Jan. 1, 2008.

Washington qiimaha yar oo lagu shaqeeyo beeralayda iyo kuwa aan ahaynba laga bilaabo 14 jir ilaa 15 jir waxaa la siinaya 85 boqolkiiba dadka waawyn waxay noqonaysaa lacagta ugu yar oo la siinayo \$6.86 saacaddiiba .

Qaybta Shaqada iyo Shaqaalaha ee Dawladda qaybta ugu yar oo lagu shaqeeyo ee Setember taas oo looga baahan yahay Initiative 688, Dawladda Washington dadka codka dhiibta oggolaaday 1998.

Sida go'aanka Dawladda Washington qiimaha ugu yar oo lagu shaqeeyo waxaa la kordhiyey 1999. Dawladda qiimaha ugu yar oo lagi sheaqeeyo wuxuu ahaaThe \$7.93 - 2007.

Initiativeka waxaa la rabaa in laysku dheelitiro qiimaha ugu yar oo lagu shaqeeyo federal “CPI-W,” taas oo ah waddanka qiimihiisa alaabada oo u baahan maalinba maalin oo nolosha taas oo ku eg dhamaadka Aug. 31, 2007.

Lacag la'aan qiimaha ugu yar oo lagu shaqeeyo waxaad la xiriri kartaa adigoo wacaya 1-866-219-7321 ama adigoo downloading ku sameynaya L&I web siteka Wages.Lni.wa.gov.

New minimum wage took effect Jan. Новая минимальная зарплата введена с 1-го января Минимальная зарплата в штате Вашингтон увеличилась на 14 центов в час до \$8.07, начиная с 1-го января 2008 года. Минимальная зарплата касается как сельскохозяйственных работников, так и других, хотя работники в возрасте 14 и 15 лет могут получать 85 процентов от минимальной зарплаты, то есть \$6,86 в час.

Министерство труда и промышленности пересчитывает минимальную заработную плату для штата ежегодно в сентябре, как того требует законодательная инициатива 688, утверждённая избирателями штата Вашингтон в 1998 году.

В результате этого минимальная заработная плата увеличивалась каждый год с 1999 года. Минимальная почасовая зарплата в 2007 году составляла \$7,93. Законодательная инициатива требует от штата регулирования минимальной заработной платы в соответствии с изменениями федерального «CPI-W», что является национальным индексом, учитывающим стоимость товаров и услуг, необходимых для повседневной жизни. Этот индекс увеличился на 1,8 процента за 12 месяцев, предшествующих 31 августа 2007 года.

Бесплатные брошюры о минимальной зарплате и правах работников можно взять в любом офисе Министерсва труда и промышленности или заказать по тел. 1-866-219-7321, также можно получить информацию на вебсайте Министерства: W ages.Lni.wa.gov.

New Minimum wage took effect Jan.1st 2008

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ብዚ ምክንያት ናይ ዋሽንግተን ስቴት ሚኒሙም ወግ አኣብ ነብሲ ወከፍ ዓመት ክብ አኣሉ ካብ 1999 ጀሚሩ ናይ ስቴት እዚ ሚኒሙም ወግ 7,93 አብ 2007 ነይሩ

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MỨC LƯƠNG TỐI THIỂU CÓ HIỆU LỰC BẮT ĐẦU TỪ NGÀY 1 THÁNG 1

Kể từ ngày 1 tháng Một , mức lương tối thiểu ở tiểu bang Washington tăng lên 14 xu, ở mức \$8.07 một giờ. Mức lương tối thiểu ở tiểu bang Washington được áp dụng cho công nhân cả hai ngành, ngành nông nghiệp và ngành có công việc không liên quan đến nông nghiệp, dù vậy thì lương của các em 14 hay 15 tuổi thì mức lương thấp hơn 5% phần trăm so với đồng lương của người lớn, hoặc là chỉ \$6.86 một giờ.

Bộ Lao Động và Công Nghiệp qui định mức lương mới cho mỗi năm vào tháng Chín, do Điều Luật 688 đòi buộc, điều luật này đã được thông qua hồi năm 1988 bởi các cử tri.

Do từ kết quả đó mà mức lương tối thiểu ở Washington đã tăng lên mỗi năm kể từ năm 1999. Mức lương tối thiểu của tiểu bang trong năm 2007 là \$7.93.

Dự Luật đòi buộc tiểu bang phải điều chỉnh mức lương tối thiểu dựa vào điều lệ của chính phủ liên bang gọi là “CPI-W- đó là chỉ số trên toàn quốc về giá cả hàng hóa và dịch vụ tiêu dùng hằng ngày. Chỉ số đó trong năm 2007 đã tăng lên 1.8 phần trăm trong 12 tháng tính đến 31 Tháng Tám 2007.

Có sẵn các tờ bích chương được cung cấp miễn phí nói về mức lương tối thiểu và nói về quyền hạn của công nhân từ các văn phòng Bộ Lao Động và Công Nghiệp, hoặc có thể gọi cho 1-866-219-7321, hoặc có thể tải xuống từ trang mạng Wages.Lni.wa.gov.

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.

Tea time at Beacon Tower
RESIDENTS ORGANIZE GATHERING
See Pages 3 and 5



SHA NEWS

February
2008

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

New screening criteria for voucher eligibility being considered

By VIRGINIA FELTON
Seattle Housing Authority

Seattle Housing Authority managers are considering new screening criteria with respect to criminal history information for applicants to the Housing Choice Voucher program (also known as Section 8).

An initial meeting with interested stakeholders was held in early January. The Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners was briefed in mid-January and will receive additional information before the proposal is acted on in late March.

Comments on the proposal are welcome until the end of February. Comments may be mailed to Nancie White, c/o PorchLight, 907 NW Ballard Way, Suite 200, Seattle, WA 98107-0439, or e-mailed to nwhite@seattlehousing.org.

Seattle Housing is proposing to modify the criminal background criteria currently in use to be generally less stringent with respect to an applicant's history of convictions. Currently the Housing Authority requires a variable waiting period after an applicant has been penalized or jailed for an offense. This waiting period has ranged from 20 years for homicide to two years for

burglary or criminal assault. Seattle Housing is proposing to change this waiting period to a uniform time of 12 months. This is the standard currently in use by King County Housing Authority.

The new criteria would not affect the standards used to decide whether applicants are suitable to live in housing owned or operated by Seattle Housing Authority. People who received vouchers generally rent from private landlords, who would still have the ability to apply their own screening criteria to tenants.

Proposed changes will add consistency, uniformity

According to Lisa Cipollone-Wolters, the proposed changes will increase efficiency and understanding of the rules and regulations by instituting a uniform standard. "We see this process as a way to reduce regulatory barriers to housing for people who are homeless, and to further support the efforts of the Committee to End Homelessness in King County," Cippollone-Wolters said. "We think that's a big positive."

Currently, SHA and the King County Housing Authority have dif-

See "Section 8" on Page 7

Whose view is this?



PHOTO COURTESY SHA

One of the great things about living in Seattle is the abundance of fine views. And some of the views enjoyed by readers of *The Voice* are among the best in the city.

With this new feature, the staff of *The Voice* challenges readers to identify the housing development that has the view shown in the featured picture.

Send your answers to the question, "Whose view is this?" to Tyler Roush at tylerr@nhwa.org or mail them to 905 Spruce St., Suite 200,

Seattle, WA 98104.

All correct entries will be entered into a drawing each month for a \$15 gift card to Safeway, QFC or Bartell Drugs.

Deadline for submission of entries is the 15th of the month.

Would you like to nominate your own view for inclusion in our monthly contest? Just send a digital image or a print of the view from your place to tylerr@nhwa.org or 905 Spruce St., Suite 200, Seattle, WA 98104.

Get help with your taxes

Free assistance with preparing your taxes is available through April 15 at the locations listed below through the United Way of King County's Free Tax Campaign.

You don't need an appointment. But because many sites get very crowded, you should arrive as close to the site's opening time as possible for the best chance of getting served.

What to bring with you:

- Any W-2 forms, 1099 forms and other end-of-the year wage statements that you received from all of your employers and sources of income
 - Photo identification
 - A copy of last year's tax return
 - Social Security card or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number and birth date for every person in your household that you support
 - Anything else that you think might affect your return, even if you're not sure
- If filing jointly, both filer and spouse must be present to sign.
- For more information, call 2-1-1.

Seattle tax prep sites

Lake City Neighborhood Service Center,
12525 28th Ave. N.E.
5 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays
Rainier Beach Community Center, 8825
Rainier Ave. S.
5 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays

See "Tax help" on Page 4

Supreme Court rules in favor of RAC in sign rule case

By TYLER ROUSH
The Voice Editor

The Washington State Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Resident Action Council in a dispute with SHA that the court and RAC interpreted as a free speech issue.

The court's 5-4 decision pertains to SHA's Rule 42, or its "sign rule," which prohibited tenants from posting signs or placards on the exterior doors of their apartments.

The court ruled that SHA did not retain ownership of exterior doors within the terms of its lease; therefore, they are a private forum for residents and are exempt from SHA regulations.

"I think the decision was a good one," said SHA resident and RAC member Rick Harrison. "It seemed pretty obvious that what SHA was trying to do was a violation of our free speech rights."

SHA attorney James Fearn said that the rule was not intended to create a speech

issue, but rather to correct a management problem.

Signs create clutter and damage the finish on doors, Fearn said. At times, the content of those signs — particularly those of a pornographic, sexist or racist nature — can create disputes between neighbors, he added.

On the latter point, the RAC and SHA were in agreement, according to Eric Dunn, the attorney for RAC.

"My clients, the Resident Action Council, don't want people putting up swastikas any more than SHA does," Dunn said. "We urge them to adopt the rule that we had, which required that (residents) put the signs up in a way that doesn't cause damage, is securely fastened, doesn't protrude into the hallway, (and) forbids obscenity and hate speech."

Though RAC submitted to SHA a modified Rule 42 that would have permitted SHA to regulate sign materials that were

See "Sign rule" on Page 4

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Letters to the Editor

Readers of The Voice speak out

More information about home care and chore workers

Thank you for including information about in-home care services for older and disabled residents in your January 2008 edition of *The Voice* newspaper. Home care services can be a very powerful tool to help older and disabled adults who wish to remain as independent as possible. These services are often overlooked and can seem difficult to access. Hopefully, your article will make it more likely that people will seek out this service.

There were a couple of issues mentioned that I'd like to elaborate on. The article points out that home care services are designed only for people who need help with personal care in addition to chore services. In my experience, this sometimes means that people don't apply for this assistance because they think they only have chore service needs. However, we've found that many people who have chore service needs also have personal care needs that they don't recognize. We encourage anyone who needs chore services to consider applying for home care programs. A social

worker will visit to help them determine whether they have any unmet personal care needs in addition to their chore service needs.

Also, Jim mentions in his article that "clients have little or no recourse when dealing with a chore worker who may or may not perform his or her job to a client's satisfaction." While it's true that home care workers sometimes aren't able to meet all of their client's needs, people who receive in-home services always have the right to change workers until they find someone able to meet their needs. With our home care program, we encourage clients to stay in communication with their supervisor to provide feedback about how the home care workers are doing, and I think anyone who receives home care services should be encouraged to do the same thing.

Thanks again for bringing in-home care to the attention of Seattle Housing Authority residents.

Best wishes,
Sean Walsh
Elderhealth Northwest
Home Care Program Manager

Deadlines for resident scholarships approaching

By JEFF ARNIM
Seattle Housing Authority

For Seattle Housing Authority residents looking for college scholarships for the next school year, time is of the essence. More than \$27,000 in scholarships for eligible Seattle Housing Authority residents have upcoming deadlines, including several due in mid-February requiring immediate action.

Five scholarships worth a total of \$24,000 are being offered by the Pacific Northwest Regional Council (PNRC) of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials.

Three Challenge College Scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors who will be going on to attend an accredited four-year college or university. The top prize is a \$10,000 scholarship, awarded to the applicant ranked highest by the PNRC's Scholarship Award Jury. Two eligible students will also win awards worth \$4,000 each.

In addition, the PNRC will award a \$2,000 Community College Scholarship to one graduating high school senior.

To apply for the Challenge College or the Community College Scholarships, students must complete an application form, provide documentation of SAT or ACT scores, and include a copy of their most recent high school transcript. They must also provide two letters of recommendation from high school teachers or administrators and one recommendation letter from a community leader, along with a 500-word essay.

The other scholarship offered by the PNRC is a \$4,000 Continuing Education award for residents who have been out of high school for four or more years, and have either a high school diploma or a G.E.D.

Applicants to this scholarship need to complete an application and provide a copy of their high school diploma or G.E.D. certificate. Two letters of recommendation from community leaders and one from a

See "Scholarships" on Page 4

Community notes

Parking limited at SHA's Central Office beginning this month

Beginning Feb. 1, the parking lot south of Seattle Housing Authority's Central Office at 120 Sixth Ave. N. is closed due to construction.

Limited parking for visitors (eight spaces) will be available one block north in the Impark Lot just north of the Travelodge. The sidewalk south of the SHA offices to the corner of Denny Way and Sixth Ave. N. will also be closed.

This will make access to SHA's Central Office more difficult for residents and staff alike. Construction on a residential inn and retail space, including underground parking, will begin on the site this month.

Panel to discuss "Changing Face of Downtown"

The Seattle Public Library will present a panel discussion about the evolution and future of downtown Seattle from noon to 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11

at The Seattle Public Library, Central Library, 1000 Fourth Ave., Microsoft Auditorium, Level 1.

The program, titled, "The Changing Face of Downtown: Books, Art, Music and Home" is free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

Limited parking in the Central Library garage will be available at the regular weekday rate. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m.

Featured panelists will include Seattle City Librarian Deborah L. Jacobs, Seattle Art Museum Director Mimi Gates, John Nesholm of LMN Architects and Greg Smith of Urban Visions.

The discussion, moderated by the Seattle Channel's C.R. Douglas, will focus on how development of new cultural and residential buildings downtown has contributed to its revitalization. Audience members will have a chance to ask questions.

For more information, please call 206-386-4636.

Remembering Jim Chapple

Friends and family gathered Jan. 5 to celebrate the life of Jim Chapple, a long-time Ross Manor resident who died quietly in his sleep Dec. 6, 2007.

James Lawrence Chapple was born to Ray and Ann (Woolsey) Chapple on April 27, 1955 in Seattle.

Jim is survived by his mother, Ann Chapple, Bellevue; father, Ray (Nancy) Chapple, Spokane; sister, Deborah Johnston, Highlands Ranch, Colo.; brother, Thomas Chapple, Mountain View, Calif.; niece, Amber Johnston, and nephew, Brian Johnston, both of Highlands Ranch; uncles, Stanley (Patti) Chapple, Sequim, and Douglas (Emmery) Chapple, Belling-



Jim Chapple

ham; as well as many cousins.

For 25 years, Jim was a resident of Ross Manor, where he served as assistant manager and held many positions on the Resident Council. Jim was a wonderful person—very kind, thoughtful and accepting of others. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Seattle Housing Authority's Combined Fund Drive raised \$33K

By CLAIRE MCDANIEL
Seattle Housing Authority

Seattle Housing Authority employees raised \$33,404.27 for charities through their 2007 employee giving campaign.

Funds were raised through participation in the Combined Fund Drive (CFD), Washington State's workplace giving program. The campaign ran from mid-October through early December 2007, with more than 12 percent of SHA's employees making pledges.

In addition, employees contributed by participating in several fundraising events, including a themed Gift Basket raffle; the Bite of SHA; the Book, CD, DVD and Jigsaw Puzzle Sale; and an online Silent Auction of items and services.

Money raised for CFD goes to a variety of charities that provide services, such as enabling food banks to replenish depleted supplies, supporting crucial youth programs, bringing comfort to the elderly, strengthening the arts and furthering habitat restoration efforts.

Tom Tierney, SHA executive director, said he believes passionately in the impact that CFD can have on local, national and international communities, and kicks off the campaign every year with a letter encouraging SHA employees to participate.

Once volunteers have collated, folded, stapled and placed 600 pledge form packets into postal service tubs for distribution by the mailroom, it's time for departments to start working on one of the most fun events: creating the themed Gift Baskets for raffling.

One of the most popular themes, called Winter Warmers, was created by Yesler Terrace and HOPE VI staff and included woolly socks, hot cocoa mix, coffee mugs, several types of teas, gingerbread, pumpkin and sugar cookies, a fluffy neck scarf and a Barnes and Noble gift card.

PorchLight hosted the Bite of SHA, which is a take off on the Bite of Seattle. Employees brought a variety of delicious dishes that were served potluck-style. Voluntary donations were collected at the door.

Tables were set up in the SHA Central Office Board Room for another favorite Giving Campaign event—the Book Sale, which has evolved to include CDs and DVDs. This year several jigsaw puzzles turned up and proved to be very popular.

The items at the two-day sale were grouped by category for easy browsing. Many people left with stacks of books for themselves or to use as holiday gifts.

Some people were happy to be getting rid of books they had been storing at home, only to end up taking as many or more new books back home.

"A lot of people came back the second day to buy more books," said Laura Lakings-Becvar, Job Connection employment services coordinator and coordinator of the Giving Campaign Book Sale.

A new fundraising idea that was implemented in 2007 was a silent auction in which employees could bid online at a Giving Campaign Web page created by Jeff Arnim, SHA technical communications specialist.

The auction included three gift baskets, an assortment of special items such as a handmade quilt and a colorful vase and unique gifts, events and services, such as Seattle Art Museum tickets, lunch with Tom Tierney, a guided hike at Mt. Rainier, an astrology chart and a framed portrait of one's pet.

The 23-year-old CFD now raises more than \$5.5 million per year.

For more information about the Combined Fund Drive, visit the newly re-designed Web site at www.cfd.wa.gov or call Cindy Craig, campaign manager, at 360-664-6811.

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 Tyler Roush at (206) 461-8430, ext. 227 or by e-mail at tylerr@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

Viewpoint: A lot to love about homeWorks Project

By LARRY FARLEY
SHA Resident

I'm one of the residents at the Lake City House highrise in north Seattle, which is currently undergoing major remodeling through the homeWorks Project.

The property is being made to look a lot nicer, to be much more accessible for the disabled, and to be more energy efficient. A not-so-short list of improvements include:

- Rebuilding both elevators
- Moving the parking lot from the south side to the north side of the building
- Roof repairs
- A new barbeque area
- Remodeled lounges and kitchen in the community room
- New, larger mail boxes
- A more modern front door entry system
- A new silent emergency-call system
- New ventilation system
- New balcony railings and coatings
- Painting the outside of the building in a more modern color scheme

Fortunately, my apartment was one of the first to have the inside completed. This primarily involved installing more energy efficient sliding-glass doors and windows, insulation in the exterior walls, and a new forced-air heater in the living room.

Because my apartment is a corner unit and has more exterior walls than most, it required additional insulation work; therefore, I had more walls that had to be cleared of furniture.

Each floor in the building has a secure storage area for residents to keep furniture and other items temporarily. Help is provided for packing and/or moving as needed.

Free boxes are supplied in the office, and a huge dumpster has been placed outside for us to toss obsolete furniture and other throw-away items.

A very nice paid hotel room with kitchen is provided for every resident for the few days of demolition in their unit.

The homeWorks project provides a \$58 debit card for expenses like gas or cab fare and a \$10 gift card for groceries to help cover meals.



PHOTO BY SVEN KOEHLER

Lake City House resident Larry Farley sits at the desk in his apartment, which was remodeled through the homeWorks project.

I had the pleasure of looking out the hotel window and watching the second-rainiest day in Seattle's recorded history. Fun stuff!

Everyone on staff have been tremendously accommodating and willing to bend over backwards to make this time of personal disorder as painless as is possible.

Sven Koehler, the Resident Communications Liaison overseeing the homeWorks Project, has held periodic meetings for the residents to explain procedures, answer questions, and address issues. Interpreters are made available as needed.

Mike Mengesha and Gary Johnson, the resident and assistant property managers at Lake City House, have provided guidance and information.

Lumpy Anderton, who runs the work crew, is never too busy to answer our questions. Even the workers have been really nice and respectful of our personal space.

Upon return from the hotel, I was truly amazed at the small footprint left after the major work was done.

They had even draped tarps over the furniture and swept and mopped before leaving.

A fair amount of minor follow-up work needs to be done. Notices are periodically placed on our unit doors for advance notice of entry, and so that we will know specifically what work is to take place.

I actually now find myself missing having the recurring visitors and playing their

Building a floor plan



PHOTO BY SVEN KOEHLER

The new floor tile pattern emerges during the homeWorks renovation of the community room at University West in January 2008.

By SHA STAFF

Renovation work is underway at University West. In addition to the new floor, the kitchen was completely renewed and expanded, and the walls painted with a vivid new color palette. After the new furniture arrives in February, the room will be ready for residents to use.

With the completion of the community room, the interior work at University West, is essentially complete.

Construction will pick back up there and at Olympic West and Queen Anne Heights in Spring, when warmer weather will allow the work on the roofs and exterior walls to continue.

Meanwhile, the renovations at Lake City House and Center Park are progressing on schedule.

The construction information meetings for Phase III have begun at University House, where work will start in late March.

favorite music from the computer while they work.

While major work is being performed on nearby units, noise can at times be an issue. For convenience, we have a designated 'quiet' unit set up away from the noisy areas of the building.

This unit includes a table, chairs, a TV, and full access to the restroom — which also comes in handy while the first-floor common restrooms are closed for remodel. For resident's use, a box of earplugs is also provided in the manager's office.

At this point, the work on the balconies and the building's exterior coating is just beginning. By the time all the work is completed we will have been 'under the bubble' for about six months.

Of course, some residents are growing

weary of the intrusion of privacy. This is only natural, and all I can suggest is to concentrate on the positives, of which there are many.

My unit now looks like I have moved into a new apartment. Plus, with the new insulation, doors and windows it is much warmer and quieter.

An added benefit to this remodel, as I stated over two months ago to Sven and Anna Corbett, our property manager, is that it gives me the impetus to do things with my apartment that I had been putting off for too long. The homeWorks Project is all good!

When the warm weather gets here, I'll bet that most everyone at Lake City House will enjoy sitting on their nice new balconies, as well.

Rainier Vista, Beacon Tower residents share tea time

By CHUNG PING LAM
SHA Resident

To learn from each other and exchange experiences, Rainier Vista and Beacon Tower Coffee Talk groups held joint New Year's gala celebrations.

With guidance and support from Community Builders Naomi Chang and Marcia Johnson, a meeting of the preparatory groups of both Coffee Talk groups was convened in December to discuss the content and form of the gala celebrations.

A decision was made to hold the first celebration on Jan. 7 at Beacon Tower. At dawn on that day, there was a cold breeze. People at Beacon Tower were quite enthusiastic. Some were preparing delicious food in a hurry, decorating the meeting site to welcome the arrival of friends from Rainier Vista.

To read this article in Chinese, turn to the Rainier Vista section on Page 5.

The sun came out. The winter sun dispelled the cold. The honored guests were welcomed with passion. The entire meeting site was a packed house. More than seventy people chatted away, their hearts filled with happiness and warmth.

At about 10 a.m., the gala celebrations began. Everyone sang "Happy Every Year," the song in celebration of New Year's Day, in chorus.

Next, Mr. Li Yi Chung made a speech. First, he wished everyone a Happy New Year, good health, and success in everything.

He expressed a warm welcome to friends from Rainier Vista, the solicitude of officials at various levels and the support of members of the public.

Next, Mr. Dang La, representative of Rainier Vista, Beacon Tower Community Council President JoAnn Benefield and Vice President Nhung Kim spoke at the meeting, one after another, and introduced relevant persons involved in the preparations.

At 10:30 a.m., art performances began. It was opened by a small female chorus from Beacon Tower. The two wonderful songs by two elderly ladies struck a chord.

There were waves of applause. There was solo singing, antiphonal singing and performance singing; Mandarin songs, Cantonese songs and Vietnamese songs; Cantonese opera, folk songs, Huang Mei opera; plus brain twisters and magic tricks.

There were as many as 15 stage performances and as many as 30 people who participated in the performances. Both the performers and the audience were happy.

At around noon, at lunchtime, everyone tasted quite an assortment of delicious food. At this time, songs from a karaoke machine played simultaneously.

We enjoyed the gourmet food while also enjoying the beautiful music. It was a dual enjoyment that generated boundless joy.

The grand finale was the lucky drawing. Prizes included watches, purses, chocolate, thermoses, soap and dish detergent; there were twenty-nine prizes, which are high class, practical and plentiful.

At around noon, Li Yi Chung, the host, expressed his thanks to the friends for coming and finally announced that more gala celebrations would be held on Feb. 14 at Rainier Vista. Everyone would be welcome.

It was with great reluctance that they left, and thus an unforgettable and joyful day ended.

HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY

Neighborhood association discusses bus service, block watch

By VOICE STAFF

The High Point Neighborhood Association discussed its desire for expanded bus service on 35th Avenue Southwest and the organization of a block watch program at its meeting Jan. 10.

The association distributed a letter to King County Councilman Dow Constantine, encouraging him to consider expanding Metro bus service on Route 21, which connects the Arbor Heights, Roxhill and High Point neighborhoods to downtown.

The route currently operates on 30-minute intervals, with no express service after 8 a.m.

In its letter, the neighborhood association cited High Point's status as a diverse, mixed-income and sustainable neighborhood.

The association encouraged Constantine

to consider 15- to 20-minute service intervals and express service until 8:30 a.m.

Officer Benjamin Kinlow, crime prevention officer for Seattle Police Department's Southwest Precinct, spoke to the group about organizing a Block Watch program in High Point.

The chief responsibility of those involved in a block watch is to call 911 whenever one observes suspicious activity in the neighborhood, according to information distributed at the meeting.

Kinlow encouraged participants to exercise vigilance while going about their daily routines.

"They can work together to put pressure on the problems in the neighborhood," Kinlow said.

The next meeting of the High Point Neighborhood Association will be at 6 p.m. Feb. 14 at the High Point Library.

Tax prep

Continued from front page

Seattle Public Library downtown branch, 1000 Fourth Ave.

Noon to 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

Noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays

1 to 5 p.m. Sundays

Yesler Community Center, 917 E. Yesler Way

5 to 9 p.m. Thursdays

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

Find out if you qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families.

The EITC, which Congress approved in 1975, helps offset the expense of social security taxes and provides an incentive to work.

A person whose own tax figure exceeds that of the EITC will qualify for a tax refund.

Taxpayers who qualify must file a tax return, even if they didn't earn enough to be obligated to file one, and must meet certain requirements.

The EITC doesn't affect certain welfare benefits and, in most cases, will not be used to determine eligibility for Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps, low-income housing or most Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) payments.

To find out if you qualify for the EITC, go to www.irs.gov and search for "Earned Income Tax Credit."

Scholarships

Continued from Page 2

current or previous work supervisor must also be included, as well as a 500-word essay.

Help is available for students needing assistance with their applications.

"If residents need help filling out any of the scholarship applications or planning for college, they can go to their high school guidance counselor, or to the Youth Tutoring program in their community," explains Brett Houghton, a community builder with Seattle Housing Authority.

Applications for all of the PNRC scholarships are due to Seattle Housing Authority by Friday, February 15 at 5 p.m. They can either be mailed, or delivered in person, to Seattle Housing Authority's Central Office at 120 Sixth Ave N. All application materials must be fully completed to be eligible, and residents may only apply for one type of PNRC scholarship. Winners will be announced at the end of April.

Two scholarships offered by community organizations with mid-April deadlines are also available to eligible Seattle Housing Authority residents.

Neighborhood House's Heart of Oak Scholarship provides \$2,500 to one high school graduate or G.E.D. recipient attend-

ing college or a vocational school. To apply, residents must complete an application; and provide transcripts, three letters of recommendation, and a three-page personal statement. Materials are due to Neighborhood House by Friday, April 11.

The Higher Education Project's \$1,000 Dream Big Scholarship is also available to public housing and Section 8 residents attending a two- or four-year college full time in the next academic year. They must be under the age of 21, have a minimum grade point average of 2.5, and possess a high school diploma or G.E.D. certificate by the fall of 2008.

To apply, residents should complete the application form, and provide transcripts and two letters of recommendation. They must also complete either a personal statement or a project that demonstrates creativity and talent. Materials are due to the Higher Education Project by Friday, April 18.

For detailed information about PNRC scholarships, contact Ron Oldham at 206-901-0330. To learn more about the Neighborhood House scholarship, call Colin Sexton at 206-461-4554, extension 23. Questions about the Higher Education Project's Dream Big Scholarship can be directed to Brett Houghton at 206-343-7484.

A stroll through the High Point neighborhood

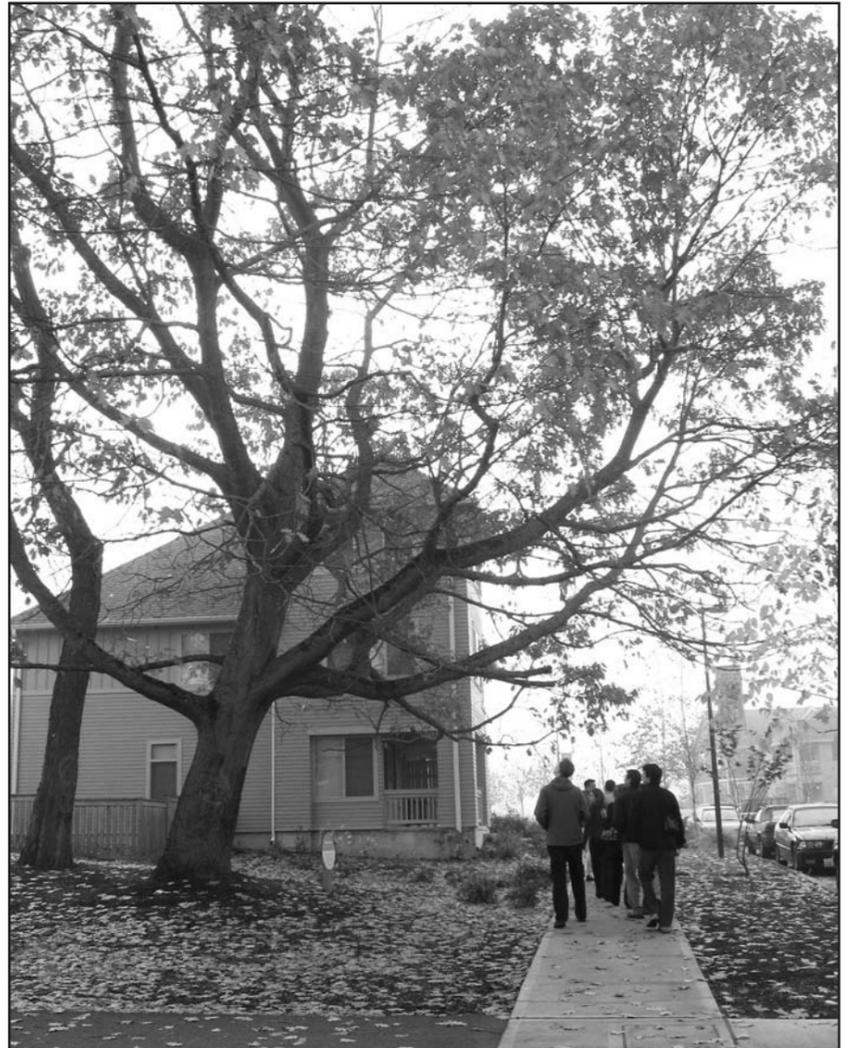


PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

A group passes under the shade of a tree during a walking tour of the High Point neighborhood late last year.

Sign rule

Continued from front page

deemed offensive in nature in 2005, Fearn said that the Housing Authority did not want to be in the business of censorship.

"The problem is that then we get into the business of censorship, and that's less acceptable than saying 'you can't put anything up there,'" Fearn said. "It's impossible to draw lines to allow only the speech you want and disallow the speech you don't want."

He said that the next step for SHA might be to reexamine the language of its lease. Because the Supreme Court ruled that SHA doesn't retain ownership of the exterior doors of its rental units, Fearn said the decision could have unseen consequences for property management. He suggested that the Housing Authority may examine the possibility of revising

the lease to deal with other property management issues.

But Dunn said such a move would be greeted with hostility should SHA be taken back to court.

"I don't think the courts would be amused if SHA tried basically to linguistically circumvent their ruling," Dunn said. He added that he didn't expect SHA would try to change its lease.

The case had previously gone to the state superior court, which ruled unanimously that the door signs constituted "residential signs" and were therefore a form of protected speech.

Given the superior court's unanimous ruling, Dunn said he was surprised that the Supreme Court's decision was so close.

The four dissenting justices argued that public housing facilities are a nonpublic forum, citing case law that the government doesn't necessarily have to permit all forms of speech in those locations.

Community notes

Author Bich Minh Nguyen to read at High Point Library

Author Bich Minh Nguyen will read from her book, "Stealing Buddha's Dinner" from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6 at the High Point Branch of The Seattle Public Library, located at 3411 S.W. Raymond St.

The event is free and open to the public. No registration is required. Free parking is available in the branch parking lot.

"Stealing Buddha's Dinner" is a memoir about growing up as a Vietnam-

ese immigrant in Michigan in the 1980s. It won the PEN/Jerard Award and was named a Chicago Tribune Best Book of 2007 and Book Sense independent booksellers' pick. It's Nguyen's first book. She lives in Chicago with her husband, writer Porter Shreve.

The program is presented in cooperation with the Elliott Bay Book Co. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information, call the branch at 206-684-7454.

RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

新春相聚齊歡樂

林生

為了互相學習、交流經驗，雷尼爾威士達和碧近塔聯誼會舉行新年大聯歡。在此之前，經過雙方的社區職員 Naomi Chang 和 Marcia Johnson 的指引和支持，召集雙方聯誼會的籌備小組一起開會討論聯歡會的內容和形式，並定一月七日首次在碧近塔舉行。那天的黎明，寒風輕拂，碧近塔的人們，滿懷熱情，有的趕着烹製美食，佈置會場以迎接雷尼爾威士達朋友們的到來。太陽出來了，冬日驅走寒氣，熱情迎來嘉賓，整個會場，座無虛席，七十多人相處傾談，內心倍感快樂溫馨。

十時許，聯歡會開始，大家同唱《歡樂年年》賀歲歌。接着，李溢忠先生致詞，他先給大家拜年：恭祝大家新年快樂！身體健康！萬事如意！對來自雷尼爾威士達的朋友們表示熱烈的歡迎，各級領導人的關心和廣大群眾的支持，表示衷心的感謝。接着 Rainier Vista 代表羅光騰先生、Beacon Tower Community Council President Joann Benefield 和 Vice President Kim Nhung 等先後在會上講話，並介紹有關籌辦人員。

十時半，文娛表演開始，先由 Beacon Tower 的女聲小合唱揭開序幕，十二位婆婆兩首美妙歌曲，激起人們的心聲，陣陣掌聲不息，獨唱、對唱、表演唱；國語歌、粵語歌、越南歌；粵曲、小調、黃梅戲；加上腦筋急轉彎、小魔術，出場表演有十五次之多，參與演出人數達三十之眾，演者開心，觀者快樂。

時近中午吃午餐，豐富美食供品嚐，此刻，卡拉OK同時唱起，一邊享受可口美食，一邊欣賞美妙音樂，雙重享受，其樂無窮。

壓軸好戲是幸運大抽獎，獎品種類有手錶、錢包、朱古力，暖壺，香皂和洗潔精；獎品數量有二十九件，可說高級，實用和豐富。

十二時許，主持人李溢忠致答謝詞，感謝朋友的光臨，各方的支持，關愛和積極的參與。最後宣佈下次聯誼會於二月十四日在雷尼爾威士達舉行，歡迎屆時參加！大家懷着依依不捨的心情，踴躍離去。結束難忘歡樂的一天。

Rainier Vista, Beacon Tower residents share tea time

To read this article in English, turn to the Point of View section on Page 3.



PHOTO BY NAOMI CHANG

Residents of Rainier Vista and Beacon Tower gathered for a tea time in January.

Chung Cư Người Già- Một Lần Đến

Editor's note: The following articles provide a first-hand account of a visit from Vietnam by the sister of a Rainier Vista resident.

Tôi đến thành phố Seattle thuộc tiểu bang Washington vào một buổi sáng đẹp đầu mùa thu không khí lạnh lạnh và phong cảnh đồi núi, biển cả giao nhau cho tôi cảm xúc xao động nhẹ nhàng. Say đắm lòng người hơn nữa khi chiếc xe của anh chị tôi đưa tôi từ phi trường về nhà chạy trên những con đường lượn quanh uốn khúc theo những triền dốc giữa hai hàng cây lá vàng óng ánh mà lần đầu tiên tôi cảm nhận được mùa thu trước mắt mình "Cây cỏ, lá hoa, đất trời trong sắc thu lay động"

Nơi chị tôi ở là một trong những chung cư dành cho người cao tuổi từ 65 tuổi trở lên mà không phân biệt, sắc tộc được hưởng trợ cấp của chính phủ Hoa Kỳ. Hệ thống tổ chức thật chu đáo, có giám đốc, có phòng khách, phòng giải trí, phong tiếp tân, phong vi tính, phong ăn... Giám Đốc ở đây là một thanh niên còn trẻ người Mỹ gốc Hoa vui vẻ, bật thiệp, nụ cười lúc nào cũng sáng sủa. Khi mọi người cần giúp đỡ. Tôi thật sự choáng ngợp trước những tiện nghi vật chất tối tân phục vụ người già, đặc biệt nơi nào cũng có nú chuông gọi cấp cứu khi cần bởi vì mỗi căn hộ nơi đây có một người ở với diện tích tên dưới.

Đến đây tôi được dự lễ Halloween, một lễ cầu hồn giống lễ Thanh Minh ở Việt Nam, đặc biệt dung trái bido khắc hình giống Ma Quỷ trên đó. Mọi người có thể mặc đồ hóa trang và con nít thì được cho kẹo rất nhiều. Tôi là người lạ mới đến nên cũng được ông Giám Đốc cho kẹo. Sau đó có bữa ăn nh5 cúng với các anh chị trong chung cư thật thân tình.

Cũng ở đây tôi theo chị tôi được dự một buổi họp gọi là "Coffee Talk" Ở một chung cư khác gần đó. Chúng tôi ngồi quay quần trong một phong họp ấm cúng có cà phê, có trà, có bánh ngọt, có thức ăn nhẹ mà mọi người đi họp mang tới. Cô giám đốc ở đây cũng là một cô gái rất trẻ và thật dễ thương. Cô thông dịch tiếng Việt và cùng với cô có một cô giám đốc trẻ khác thông dịch tiếng Hoa. Cả hai đều nói năng lưu loát, hoạt bát. Vấn đề chính trong buổi họp hôm nay là bàn những phương pháp về an ninh, trật tự, vệ sinh sức khỏe liên quan đến người già trong chung cư đồng thời yêu cầu đặt một trạm xe bus nơi chung cư này. Tất cả mọi ý kiến đều được một nhân viên người Hoa Kỳ đại diện cho hội người già thành phố ghi nhận. Buổi họp được kết thúc trong sự hân hoan của mọi người.

Tôi thông th3a nhập từng ngum trà nóng, ăn một chút bánh ngọt mà nghe long mình cũng ấm lại bởi ở nơi đây dù lạ hay quen trong cuộc sống cũng có những tình cảm chân thành, hòa chung trong một cộng đồng không phân biệt sắc tộc, màu da.

Tôi nhớ mãi nụ cười hiền hòa của chàng thanh niên Giám Đốc, gương mặt khá ái nhân hậu của Cô Giám Đốc trẻ, giọng nói thanh thoát của cô Giám Đốc người Hoa và những tình cảm thật đẹp của các anh chị trong chung cư này. Những hình ảnh đó theo tôi về Việt Nam trong hành trang kỷ niệm trong một lần đến và ước mơ sẽ có ngày được trở lại.

An autumn visit to Rainier Vista

By LY TRUYEN

I came to the city of Seattle when the weather was in the early fall.

The scenery of the mountain, the oceans and the cool breezing air had given me an emotional feeling.

When my brother and sister took me in their car from the airport to their senior apartment, driving through all the curving roads, following the hill under the changing tree lines along the roads, I felt so impressed with all the fall scenery in front of my eyes — "Grass, tree, flowers, sky and earth in the moving autumn."

My sister's residence is one of the senior housing units for people 65 or older who got benefit from the U.S. government, regardless of race or religion. It is very organized. There is a manager, there is a visitor room, recreation room, VIP room, computer room, dining room, etc.

The manager here is a Chinese American young man. He is very nice and polite. His smile is always on his face when people need his help.

I was very surprised with all the materials that the seniors got in this kind of setting, especially that there is always an emergency button for the emergency situation. Each person has his or her own room which is about 700 square feet.

I had the opportunity to attend Halloween, the mass for the dead, just like the mass of Thanh Minh (the mass for the people in hell in Vietnamese Buddhist tradition).

I see they use pumpkin to carve all kinds of ghost images on them. People were wearing costumes, and there were candies for the kids.

I am the new visitor — the manager gave

me a lot of candies.

After that there was a small party in a warm friendly environment for people who live in the senior housing.

During the visiting time, I had the opportunity to attend the "Coffee Talk" meeting of another housing nearby.

We were sitting around a warm meeting room with coffee, tea, biscuits and refreshments that people brought with them to the meeting.

The manager here is a very young and beautiful person. She translated English into Vietnamese.

There was also another young lady that translated English into Chinese. Both seemed to speak fluent English and their own language.

The main purpose of the meeting was to talk about the security issues, organization and health issues related to the elderly people in the housing units. There is a request to have a bus stop at the housing unit.

All opinions or requests were carefully considered by one of the representatives of the city senior association.

I slowly sipped a little bit of tea and ate a little bit of biscuit. I felt very warm because people here are very welcomed even though they are from different backgrounds, races and religions.

I will never forget the smiling face of the young manager, the compassionate face of the beautiful young female manager, the loud sweet voice of the young Chinese American female manager, and all the welcome feelings that people in the units gave me.

I carried all the good memories once visited here to Vietnam and hopefully will have another opportunity to return again.

NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

A multicultural celebration to mark the new year



PHOTOS BY TYLER ROUSH

Residents of NewHolly (above, left) gathered Jan. 4 for a multicultural potluck to celebrate the new year. Maps were distributed to each table for participants to mark the countries from which they hail as well as the places that they've been. Peter Harris (above, second from left) points to the United Kingdom on his map, with help from 10-year-old Tan Tran (middle).

"This community has a lot of diverse communities residing within it," said Sam Chang of the NewHolly Multicultural Committee, which helped organize the event. "Events like this will hopefully build bridges between cultures."

Water quality issues raised at NewHolly

Drinking water does not contain harmful levels of lead, according to SHA

BY TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

Responding to reports that water in the NewHolly community tested positive for high levels of lead in 2006, the Seattle Housing Authority will conduct a round of testing to confirm that the water is safe to drink.

At the same time, SHA said that the news report is misleading, and that the water in NewHolly "has been tested, does not contain high levels of lead, and is well within acceptable standards."

A television news story in early January stated that lead had been found in the water in NewHolly, citing a June 2006 report conducted for SHA.

In responding to the allegations, SHA acknowledged that lead had been found at unacceptable levels inside a heating unit in a Phase I rental property, but that further testing of drinking water in 19 units found only trace amounts of lead — well within acceptable levels.

SHA held a public meeting at the NewHolly Gathering Hall Jan. 17 to respond to questions that residents might have about water quality in the neighborhood.

"We have no reason to believe either then or now that you are being exposed to unsafe amounts of lead in your water," Executive Director Tom Tierney said.

The initial tests were conducted on the

Two ways to drink safer water

While the water that comes from your faucet is safe, Lee Dorigan of King County Public Health suggested two ways in which residents can ensure their tap water is as clean as possible.

1. Do not drink or use in your cooking the first water that comes out of your tap. Water that has settled in the pipes for an extended period of time has a higher

concentration of metals and impurities dissolved into it. If you haven't used your faucet in more than two hours, Dorigan suggests running the tap for at least 10 seconds before using the water.

2. Do not drink or use in your cooking hot water. Minerals in the pipes are more likely to dissolve into hot water. Taking a hot shower is fine; lead and other impurities are only harmful if consumed.

water within the heating systems in Phase I, which were not working properly. After lead was found in the tubing, SHA ordered lead testing in 19 units in Phase I.

None showed lead in dangerous levels.

When asked why SHA didn't inform NewHolly residents of the lead testing in 2006, Tierney replied that the results didn't indicate a cause for concern.

After the story broke last month, SHA distributed a letter to NewHolly residents, informing them that the drinking water is safe, and that another round of testing would be conducted.

Tierney added that SHA would offer lead testing to any residents who are not included in the testing sample. Since that meeting, three renters have inquired about lead testing.

For information on testing, call the NewHolly management office between 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday at 206-760-3280.

Lee Dorigan, of King County Public Health, discussed the risks associated with lead poisoning and answered the group's health-related questions.

Those at the highest risk for lead poisoning are children 6 years of age and under and

women who are pregnant, nursing, or may become pregnant, according to Dorigan.

The only way to determine whether or not someone has lead poisoning is with a blood lead test, Dorigan said.

However, because most adults are not at a great risk for lead poisoning, Dorigan didn't recommend blood lead tests for adults. She added that many health insurance plans cover blood lead testing. If you do not have coverage or don't think you can afford a blood lead test for your child, Tierney recommended contacting SHA.

Tierney expressed regret that NewHolly homeowners were not invited to the Jan. 17 meeting, at the request of the attorneys for the NewHolly homeowners association.

"It's a shame not to have the whole community together to talk about this," Tierney said.

However, a few homeowners did attend the meeting of their own accord. Near the conclusion, one spoke up about blood lead testing that he and a neighbor had had for three children.

As if to allay fears of lead contamination, the homeowner reported that results for two of the children were "virtually zero." A third test was clear.

Fresh coffee for sale at NewHolly

NewHolly resident opens Kwik Cup Coffee in Othello Building

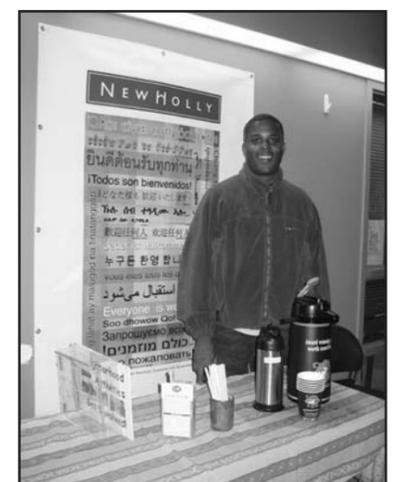
Allen Jefferson would like to offer you a cup of coffee.

The NewHolly resident opened Kwik Cup Coffee in January. The coffee stand is in the Othello Building on the NewHolly campus, located at 3815 S. Othello St., Suite 102.

Business hours are 6 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Jefferson can be found at the espresso stand daily. He said it's a quick commute from his house, which is just a few blocks away.

For more information, go to web. mac.com/kwikcupcoffee or e-mail kwikcupcoffee@mac.com.



Allen Jefferson

YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

Yesler Terrace consulting team to be chosen by spring

Editor's note: Over the next several months, The Voice will be including articles on next steps with respect to the Yesler Terrace Redevelopment project. This first article discusses how Seattle Housing Authority will hire the consultant team for this project.

By JUDITH KILGORE
SHA Development Project Manager

In December 2007, the SHA Board of Commissioners adopted the Yesler Terrace Definitions and Guiding Principles.

This document, along with the Yesler Terrace Planning Concepts, forms a bridge to Phase II of the project, which will create potential development alternatives for Yesler Terrace.

SHA is in the process of hiring urban planning and other consultants to work with SHA, the Yesler Terrace Citizens Review Committee, Phase II (CRC2), residents and community stakeholders on development of these alternatives. The consultants will be hired through a process called "Request for Qualifications" or RFQ.

An RFQ is a request an agency like Seattle Housing Authority uses when they want to hire consultants or contractors to perform a service. An RFQ generally asks two major questions:

1. How would you approach this project?
2. What are your skills and experience as a consultant working on a project like the one proposed?

The main difference between an RFQ and an RFP (Request for Proposal) is that an RFQ allows an agency more flexibility in negotiating with a consultant than an RFP. In an RFP the price is set for the work; in an RFQ the agency lists what it wants to do and the consultants estimate how much the work will cost.

When the consultant is selected the agency and consultant discuss face-to-face all the details of the work and the price.

As part of the selection process, in March 2008 the community will have an opportunity to meet the top ranked firms to hear how the consultants would work with the community during this phase. In addition, one resident selected by the Community Council will participate on the interview panel.

SHA anticipates hiring the consultant in April 2008 and begin working with the community and the CRC2 on potential development alternatives later that month.

Next month's article: What is happening with the Citizens Review Committee?

An Olympic view from Yesler Way



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

The Olympic Mountains, with Smith Tower in the foreground, can be seen beyond Elliott Bay from Yesler Way during a sunny afternoon in January.

Notes from the Manager

By JUDI CARTER
Senior Property Manager

There have been problems with extra trash being put out on the curb and not in red garbage bags or cans. When people do this, it makes the community look bad. Some people are not taking their garbage cans back to the area in front of their apartments after it has been picked up on Mondays. Some households have also been leaving their recycle totes out on the curb, sometimes for weeks at a time. These are problems that we need to address.

If you have extra garbage that will not fit into your can, you need to come to the management office and charge a red bag to your rental account, and put extra trash in that and put it out next to your can on Monday. If you put out extra garbage on the curb in anything other than your can or a red bag bought from the office, you and your neighbors will be charged. If we can determine who put the extra trash out, we will only charge the culprit. If your garbage can is still on the curb on Tuesday morning, SHA staff will return it to your unit and charge your rental account \$10.00 for the service.

If your recycling toter is not emptied because it is contaminated, SHA staff will empty it, and return it to your unit for a \$50.00 fee. Empty totes left on the curb on Thursday mornings will be returned to your unit for a \$10.00 fee. If you are not sure about why your recycling was not picked up, you can come to the management office and we will show you what can and cannot be put into recycling.

Civic Engagement Workshops at RUUC

The Civic Engagement Workshops at RUUC, every other Saturday from 3-5 p.m., got off to a good start on Jan. 19, with a wide-ranging discussion of tenants' rights under Washington State and City of Seattle law. Alouise Urness of the Tenants Union emphasized that all tenants, including those in public housing in Seattle, have the right to speak up and to organize without fear of retaliation or punishment. She also addressed questions people had about how to deal with specific problems.

There will be more workshops in February. Your attendance will help inform you as SHA moves into the second stage of the redevelopment process.

Next in the series, on Saturday, Feb. 2, is a discussion of immigrant rights and immigration law, led by law students associated with Hate Free Zone. Although the focus is on how immigrants in Yesler Terrace can participate in the redevelopment process

without fear of deportation, the workshop will also cover basics of immigration law and the various kinds of immigration status, as well as the importance of becoming a naturalized citizen to avoid future problems.

On Feb. 16, students from the UW school of Architecture and Urban Planning will help Yesler Terrace tenants translate urban planning concepts and terminology into ordinary language, to make it easier to understand what SHA planners mean when they use technical terms having to do with redeveloping Yesler Terrace. This will help prepare tenants to discuss the goals and ideas behind these terms.

Workshops after February include a session on community organizing and negotiation with developers on March 1 and a session on leadership development on March 15. After that, there will likely be a forum to put together a strategy for being effective in SHA's planning process, which will resume later this spring.

Section 8

Continued from front page

ferent criteria, which can cause confusion among people who have applied for housing with both of the local housing authorities.

Changes will remain consistent with HUD rules

The suggested new criteria will continue to conform to regulations stipulated by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. HUD currently mandates

denials of applicants for certain past criminal activity. SHA would continue to deny Housing Choice Vouchers in accord with these regulations, which include denial for methamphetamine production, a consistent pattern of violent behavior and other serious crimes. For example, if a household has been evicted from federally assisted housing for a drug-related crime, that household is denied a voucher for a period of three years from the eviction.

Within the guidelines cited above, Seattle Housing has discretion to grant or deny

applications based on numerous factors including proof that household members have completed drug rehabilitation.

Seattle Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher Administration Plan would be amended to reflect the changed criteria.

Additional information on the proposed changes is available on SHA's website, www.seattlehousing.org.

An article in the current issue of the e-mail newsletter Building Community details the proposed changes with a link to the specifics of changes to the Administration

Plan. A link to Building Community can be found on SHA's home page under the "Newsroom" section.

Landlords still apply individual screening criteria

These regulations apply only to eligibility for a voucher. Landlords in the program are expected to conduct their own independent reference checks and may deny housing to an applicant based on their determination that the applicant does not meet their own tenant suitability standards.

