



The Voice

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

SHA to hold a lottery to create a new Section 8 waiting list

By SHA STAFF

This month, as it did in 2006, Seattle Housing Authority will create a new waiting list for its Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) by means of a mail-only lottery.

The 2006 lottery produced a waiting list of 4,000 households chosen at random by a computer program.

All households on that list have been contacted, and so a new list is needed.

Asked why the agency is again conducting a lottery to create a waiting list for the popular program, Barbara Strayer, Section 8 program manager, said, "We feel it's the fairest way. Nobody has to rush down to get first-come, first-served forms; everybody who mails in the form will have an equal chance."

She pointed out that the actual "drawing" of names is done by a computer using a random selection procedure.

Printed lottery sign-up forms will be available beginning Tuesday, March 25 at these SHA offices and facilities:

- PorchLight, 907 NW Ballard Way, Suite 200 (open Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.; closed Mondays)

- The Central Office, 120 Sixth Avenue N (open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday)

- All Low Income Public Housing apartment buildings across the city

- Management offices at Yesler Terrace (open 7 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday), NewHolly (9 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday) Rainier Vista (8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday) and High Point (8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday)

- The Operations Center at 1300 N 130th Street (open from 7 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Starting on Tuesday, March 25, the lottery sign-up form will also be available for downloading and printing from

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PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Candidates vie for support in Washington

Illinois senator and Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama speaks to a capacity crowd at Key Arena Friday, Feb. 8. Obama and New York senator Hillary Clinton visited Seattle in advance of the state's caucus on Feb. 9, which Obama won by a 2-to-1 margin. For special coverage of the state caucus, turn to Page 4.

Hundreds rally in Olympia for affordable housing

By SHA STAFF

On Feb. 14, Scattered Sites resident Gina Owens, SHA Executive Director Tom Tierney, Deputy Director Andrew Lofton, Director of Housing Advocacy Lisa Cipollone-Wolters, KCHA Director of Policy Megan Hyla and some 500 other supporters of affordable housing journeyed to Olympia from all corners of the state to rally in support of affordable housing.

In her greeting to the group, Gov. Christine Gregoire pointed out that she and House Speaker Frank Chopp and Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown had publicly declared housing to be the top priority of the state government during the current legislative session.

"Thank you to each of you for being here to say that you will not stand by while the richest nation in the world allows homelessness to happen," she said.

The first two bills the governor signed into law in 2008 were SB 6335, which allocates \$6 million for the Washington Families Fund to create service-enriched housing for homeless families, and SB 6272, which provides \$1.5 million toward financial literacy and counseling meant to help Washingtonians keep their homes.

Speakers reminded the rally participants that there is much to be done in the fight to ensure that affordable housing is available to everyone who needs it. They argued for a \$100 million



PHOTO COURTESY WASHINGTON LOW INCOME HOUSING ALLIANCE

Advocates from all over Washington State head for the Capitol in Olympia to urge legislators to fund affordable housing measures.

increase in the Housing Trust Fund — the House has since approved \$90 million — and for a \$10 million increase in the State's Transitional Housing, Operating and Rent (THOR) program for homeless families.

About 10 residents from Wonderland Estates, which KCHA purchased last year, spoke with 5th District legislators about working to increase the Housing Trust Fund. They have a stake in the fund because it can help pay for preserving and maintaining

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Quotable

"The rules that govern the Washington state caucuses and primaries ... prohibit independent voters from participating."
— Harry Ohman, on why he chose not to participate in the Washington caucus and primary. To read a collection of personal essays about the Washington caucus, turn to Page 4.

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Health Notes

A column devoted to your well-being

How to lend support when someone you know has cancer

BY PAM MCGAFFIN
Special to The Voice

Support from family and friends is critical to cancer patients going through treatment, but what should that support look like? Many of us worry we won't know what to say or do, or worse, that we'll do the wrong thing.

A survey by Cancer Treatment Centers of America found that friends and family offer primary support for people diagnosed with cancer. According to the 2003 survey, only 1 percent of male and 4 percent of female cancer patients turned to organized support groups as their main source of support.

"When people are diagnosed with cancer, support from friends and family is often the key to helping them endure the rigorous medical treatments and emotional stress that may accompany their diagnosis," says Robin Adler, director of mind-body medicine at Seattle Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center. "Most people want to offer that support, but they're at a loss for exactly what to do or where to begin."

At the clinic, Adler counsels patients and their families, leads support and relaxation groups, provides community-education workshops and links patients to needed resources in the community. She says friends and family can help by keeping lines of communication open and being a stable and reliable source of support in the midst of change.

Here are her tips for friends and family who want to help but aren't sure how:

- Be yourself. Don't try too hard to do or say "the right" things, just be sincere in your desire to lend a hand.

- Listen. Sometimes it's better to be patient and listen than to start a conversation. Remember to talk about all the things you used to talk about before cancer.

- Honestly share your feelings of fear, anger or sadness, but try not to overburden your friend or loved one. If you need to, take time for yourself.

- Provide stability. Help your friend with cancer adjust to new routines while

continuing as many regular activities as possible to maintain a sense of normalcy. Assure your friend that he or she can depend on you.

- Adapt to changing roles. While it's important for a person with cancer to keep a routine, understand that family dynamics might change. For example, one parent might have to take on more childcare duty. Respond with practical solutions, like organizing help from friends.

- If a friend has cancer, ask him or her for suggestions on how to help. If your friend is getting many such requests, offer to coordinate efforts. Be alert to your friend's needs – be it childcare or house cleaning – and remember that some people have a hard time asking for help.

- Be prepared to communicate with health care professionals. Dealing with the health care system can be confusing, intimidating and time-consuming. Your loved one may appreciate your stepping up. Begin by educating yourself about the patient's condition. When you meet with health practitioners, bring a list of questions, ask for clarification and be appropriately assertive.

- Help a cancer patient feel in control. Let them decide for themselves if they're too weak to clean the house, cook dinner or go out.

- Spend time with your friend. Just having you there can be comfort enough.

- Remember to take care of yourself. Get enough sleep, eat well, exercise and take part in enjoyable activities. Find your own emotional support from friends, co-workers, your church, support groups or a professional counselor.

Seattle Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center is the only place in the Pacific Northwest where medical oncologists work side by side with natural medicine practitioners.

This integrated approach to cancer care combines innovative medical treatment with naturopathy, mind-body medicine, acupuncture, Chinese medicine and other complementary therapies. For more information, visit the web site at www.seattlecancerwellness.com.

able at several sites to serve customers who do not speak English.

For more information on the free tax preparation sites, see last month's issue of The Voice or go to www.uwkc.org/ourcommunity/endinghomelessness/eitc/where.asp.

The EITC has no effect on certain welfare benefits.

In most cases, EITC payments will not be used to determine eligibility for Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI),

Housecleaning that helps the earth

Simple products work best, are better for the environment

BY VIRGINIA FELTON
Seattle Housing Authority

There are several commonplace natural substances that work really well for housecleaning. As an added bonus, these materials are very inexpensive.

Baking soda and vinegar work extremely well for many household uses, are better for the environment than many commercial cleaning products, and are much less expensive than most commercial products.

Baking soda is, chemically speaking, a weak alkaline. As such, it acts to neutralize acids and break down proteins. This quality accounts for its usefulness in cutting grease and dissolving dirt and stains.

Vinegar, the other superstar of natural cleaning products, is slightly acidic. This chemical property also helps vinegar to dissolve grease and clean dirt off windows and other surfaces.

Here are some simple recipes for cleaning products that you can make yourself using these ingredients:

Bathroom cleanser — What you need: baking soda, soap, sponge

Use baking soda in place of scouring powder. Sprinkle it on sinks or other porcelain fixtures and rub with a wet sponge. Add a little soap to the sponge for more cleaning power. Rinse well to avoid leaving a hazy film.

Window cleaner — What you need: vinegar, liquid soap, water

Mix a half cup of vinegar with a few drops of ingredients in a spray bottle and use on glass surfaces. Rub with a lint-free cloth or newspaper to prevent streaks.

Oven Cleaner — What you need: baking soda, water, copper scouring pad

Make a thick paste of baking soda and water, apply it to oven surfaces, then let it stand a little while. Scrub with the copper scouring pad. A single-edged razor blade can be useful to get under large food deposits.

All-purpose spray cleaner — What you need: baking soda, vinegar, water, spray

To learn more

Here are some Web sites that provide more information about inexpensive and natural cleaning products:

- www.bakingsodabook.co.uk/
- www.familyshoppingbag.com/natural_cleaning.htm
- www.versatilevinegar.org/us-esandtips.html
- www.vinegartips.com/cleaning/
- www.epa.gov/kidshometour/

bottle

To a quart (four cups) of water, add four teaspoons of baking soda and a half cup of vinegar. Put this into a spray bottle and use it to clean counter tops, floors, etc. (This is also a great way to recycle spray bottles purchased originally for those more expensive cleaning products.)

Odor remover — What you need: baking soda

By itself, baking soda is a great odor remover. Sprinkle it on carpets, and rub it in with a broom, then sweep or vacuum. Sprinkle it on pet bedding. Keep an open box in your refrigerator to absorb odors there. Put it in the bottom of your dresser drawers, put a paper liner over it, and it will absorb clothing odors.

Drain cleaner — What you need: baking soda, vinegar, kettle of boiling water

This combination will free minor clogs and is a great preventative measure. Pour a half cup of baking soda into the drain first. Then add a half cup of vinegar. Let it bubble for a few minutes, then carefully pour down a kettle full of boiling water. (Be careful carrying the water!)

A large box of baking soda can be purchased for less than \$2. A gallon of vinegar (simple white vinegar is best) sells for about \$3.

Another inexpensive product that is also useful is chlorine bleach (also known as Clorox). It can make a great disinfectant when mixed with water and put in a spray bottle. (About a half cup to a quart or more of water is plenty.)

Chlorine bleach is not as safe as either vinegar or baking soda, but it is a powerful germ killer and is good to use to keep away mold and mildew. Just be careful to store it away from children.

EITC

Continued from front page

King County EITC Campaign will help people claim the credit by providing free tax preparation services at sites across King County until April 15.

Taxes will be prepared by IRS-trained and certified volunteers and electronically filed for a rapid refund.

Multilingual tax preparers will be avail-

able at several sites to serve customers who do not speak English.

For more information on the free tax preparation sites, see last month's issue of The Voice or go to www.uwkc.org/ourcommunity/endinghomelessness/eitc/where.asp.

The EITC has no effect on certain welfare benefits.

In most cases, EITC payments 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.

You may be eligible for the EITC if you earned income in 2007, if you have children and earned less than \$37,783 (or \$39,783 if married and filing a joint return) in 2007, if you do not have children and earned less than \$12,590 (or \$14,590 if married and filing a joint return) in 2007, if you get less than \$2,900 a year from interest and investments and if you have a valid social security number for the purposes of work.

If you are filing a joint return, your spouse must also have a valid social security number and all qualifying children you use to claim the EITC must also have a valid social security number.

In order to qualify, you cannot file your taxes under the "married filing separately" status.

MS Walk to take place in April

The MS LifeLines Walk MS, presented by Oh Boy! Oberto Beef Jerky, takes place Sunday, April 13, in Seattle and Saturday, April 12, in Tacoma, Snohomish County, Olympia, Bellingham, Bainbridge Island, Kennewick and Silverdale.

Proceeds support local services and programs for people living with MS and their families, as well as research into new treatments and a cure.

For more information, call the National MS Society, Greater Washington Chapter, at 1-800-344-4867, or visit www.MSwashington.org and click on the Walk MS logo.

The Voice

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

Something to say? Write for The Voice!
Contact Tyler Roush at tylerr@nhwa.org or 206-461-8430, ext. 227 for details.

A very far view from Beacon Tower

By SCOTT FREUTEL
Seattle Housing Authority

Michael Lewis has lived in Beacon Tower for 14 years. His tidy one-bedroom apartment on the third floor is well stocked with books. He has a personal computer and an 8-inch telescope.

The windows in his living room bring in territorial views to the north and west. But on one recent day, Lewis had his eye on both much larger and much smaller views: He uses equations and formulas and theory to focus on the universe itself, on galaxies and stars, on the one hand; and on tiny subatomic particles on the other.

Lewis is a physicist, and something of a poet.

Lewis was born in Seattle and moved as a child with his family to Arkansas, then Alaska, then back to Seattle, and finally to Richland, where his father worked as an electrical contractor at the nearby Hanford Nuclear Site.

He graduated from Columbia High School, where he studied physics, chemistry, mathematics and Russian, among other subjects, and where he was a member of the Sputnik-inspired rocket club. He joined the Navy while still in high school.

The Navy sent him to Treasure Island, in San Francisco Bay, and trained him to be an electronics technician and radar operator.

Lewis was in the Navy three years, two of them aboard the USS Kearsage, the aircraft carrier that recovered two early Project Mercury astronauts, Walter Schirra and Gordon Cooper, and their space capsules, from the Pacific Ocean.

Together with about 20 other crew members, Lewis maintained the ship's radars and radios. A skill he learned as a radar operator was to distinguish information from noise in electromagnetic fields — a skill that helped him when, much later in his life, he turned his attention to light from galaxies and star formations.

And he learned about transistors and solid state physics, then new subjects for study.

After his discharge from the Navy, Lewis attended Reed College, in Portland, where his main focus of study was physics and where he became interested in spectroscopy. After graduating Reed in 1967 with a degree in physics, Lewis went to work for the Xerox Corporation near Rochester, New York, as an associate physicist.

At Xerox, Lewis was introduced to computers and computer programming; he pursued his interest in computer science during a year of graduate work at the University of Washington.

For various reasons, Lewis didn't complete the work he'd have needed to do to get a Ph.D., but he never lost his interest in mathematics and physics.

Now he's an independent scholar and



PHOTO BY SCOTT FREUTEL

Beacon Tower resident Michael Lewis, student and poet of light.

the author of a number of papers that seek to pursue solutions to nettlesome problems in mathematics and physics.

One of his papers challenges the received wisdom about the nature of the universe — the Expanding Universe theory, which states that the galaxies are moving apart and that the more distant they are, the more rapidly they're moving.

Lewis instead suggests that light waves slowly decay as they travel great distances; he finds evidence of this in shifts in the patterns of lines observed in a spectroscope trained on a faraway light source. He calls this the Photon Decay theory. (Read about it at www.eskimo.com/~mikel137/index.htm#home.)

Lewis says, "I took up the problem in 1957, when Sputnik was put in orbit and the problem was described in physics class. It wasn't until 1980 that I realized I had the time and liberty to work on it and so bought a small telescope and other things. One night, looking for a long time at Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, I said to myself, in a voice I did not know I had, 'I can do it!'

"The following week was spent in some rapture working it out, and since then I've slowly developed the Web page. It was the security of good housing here that made it possible to complete the document, which exists only on the Internet, and obtain copyrights on it."

Can a mathematician and physicist be a poet? To meet Lewis is to know the answer.

In writing about his interest in light and what it may reveal about the origins of the universe, and of ourselves, Lewis wrote, "Light as quanta is very soft, gentle, and does not discriminate since every single wavelet, no matter what the color, consists of the same amount of action. That shows up in faint light, such as at night, particularly in rain or snow, which...average out the colors. Properly interpreted, white light has and should have about the same effect as the quality of mercy."

Forget the mechanic for car trouble — visit the Seattle Public Library

Having car trouble that you can't figure out?

Try The Seattle Public Library.

The Library now subscribes to ChiltonLibrary.com, a popular automotive repair database that patrons can access from home or Library computers 24-hours a day.

To use ChiltonLibrary.com, visit www.spl.org and select Databases & Web Sites. From there, click on Automotive & Transportation and then ChiltonLibrary.com.

Patrons who access the database from non-Library computers will need to enter their Library card numbers and personal identification numbers (PINs).

ChiltonLibrary.com offers auto repair information geared toward home mechanics. It can help patrons with questions about car maintenance, specifications, troubleshooting, costs of maintenance and parts, and manufacturer recalls. It has photographs, illustrations and step-by-step repair procedures. The database is updated regularly.

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



One to grow on

Garden tips for community gardeners

By ANZA MUENCHOW
Special to The Voice

The days are dramatically lengthening now and the plants are putting out new growth. Ah, springtime.

We all know that plants get their energy from sunlight through photosynthesis and they also have all the water they need with our spring rains. However, they won't get the warm temperatures yet. So let us consider the plants that enjoy longer days and cooler temperatures.

Starting in mid-March we can transplant out into the garden many cold-tolerant crops. These starter plants can be purchased at reliable nurseries or started from seeds at home under grow lights. We especially enjoy broccoli, spinach, bok choy, romaine, kohlrabi and onions.

Remember to harden off the transplants before you actually plant them in the garden by leaving them in the pots outside during the day and bringing in at night for several days, then leaving outside full time for several days before finally planting them in the garden.

Begin direct seeding into your garden the radishes, lettuces, carrots, turnips, mustard and cilantro later this month, depending on soil temperatures. You may have a microclimate that can get these germinated and growing as the equinox approaches.

There are several ways to warm your soil for earlier planting: use raised beds; build a plastic or glass tent over the bed, making a mini-greenhouse (also called a cloche); use a row cover (like Remay) and anchor it down with rocks, boards, or soil pins.

The row cover will also act as a pest barrier for the root maggots that attack carrots, radishes, turnips and broccoli.

If you are starting a new garden or haven't limed in the past couple of years, add some dolomite (horticultural) lime to the soil. Mix well and be generous. It breaks down very slowly, so it won't "burn" your plants.

Lime raises the pH of soil and allows the plants to more readily take up nutrients. I now have a pH meter, because I had so much trouble with our acidic soil. Our plants were struggling, and I thought they needed more nutrients. Lo and behold, it was the pH not the N-P-K. These are the primary nutritional needs of plants: nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potas-

sium (K).

All the springtime leafy green vegetables do appreciate a good source of nitrogen. Besides adding compost, you may use an organic fertilizer that lists a larger percentage of the first listed number, such as 5-1-1 in fish fertilizer or 12-2-1 in blood meal. Do not over apply the nitrogen sources of fertilizer because they are so water soluble and will just be washed away through the rain and irrigation.

Besides being a waste of money, this pollutes those downstream in our watershed. I prefer to wait and see if the plants need more nitrogen by watching their color. The leaves will show yellow tinge if they are lacking nitrogen. If the new growth is yellowing, that is a more serious nutrient deficiency.

Soil testing is a viable, but costly, option. Accurate sampling is the key. Test kits are messy, less reliable and need to be replaced annually. Soil test labs are very effective if you can understand their results.

UMass soil tests have been highly recommended. For ordering call 413-545-2311 or check the web site at www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest.

With these longer days, you may have more time after work or school to go out and visit your garden. Involve children with gardening activities as much as you can. Many people, young and old, think of their food coming from the store, and don't actually know about growing food.

Use a child's natural curiosity about growing plants to draw him or her to enjoy eating lots of fresh vegetables. I was surprised that my children would graze in the garden when they came home from school, chewing raw broccoli and pea vines, snow peas, sorrel and parsley. Later in life they will continue to eat these healthy greens.

Children are more likely to have a diet of 5-9 servings of vegetables and fruits if they learn to love them early in life. And with your own food garden, you will too!

Everyone knows you can't beat the taste of a freshly picked pea or carrot or bean or tomatoes or anything from the garden. Your whole family will benefit from the easy access of homegrown fresh organic produce to improve their diets.

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

Section 8

Continued from front page

the SHA Web site, www.seattlehousing.org.

Sign-up forms will also be available beginning Tuesday, March 25 at every Seattle Public Library branch, Seattle Neighborhood Service Center, Seattle Community Center, and DSHS Community Service Center located in Seattle city limits, and at other locations to be determined.

SHA will post information on its Web site about other places across Seattle that will stock lottery sign-up forms.

Any person 18 years old or older (or an emancipated minor) may sign up for the lottery no matter where he or she lives. Only one person per household may sign up.

After the mail-in deadline, SHA will send a postcard acknowledging receipt to everybody who has sent in a sign-up form.

Once all forms have been processed, at least 4,000 names will be selected at random. These will form the new Section 8 waiting list.

SHA will send a letter by May 9 telling lottery winners that they won a position on the lottery, and what that position is (1/4,000, 150/4,000, etc.) and how, when, and where to actually apply for housing.

For a household to be entered into the waiting list lottery, its sign-up form must be mailed to the post office box designated on the form; to be entered into the lottery, the envelope containing the sign-up form must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, April 8.

SHA will not accept faxed or e-mailed sign-up forms, and sign-up forms may not be dropped off at SHA offices; they must be mailed. Photocopies of the sign-up form are acceptable.

For updated information on the lottery, call SHA's recorded Waiting List Lottery Hot Line, (206) 239-1674.

The inside scoop on the Washington caucus

On Feb. 9, people throughout the state of Washington turned out in record numbers to participate in the state's caucus. After all delegates were tallied, Illinois senator and Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama and Arizona senator and Republican presidential candidate John McCain won their respective caucuses. Both candidates later prevailed in Washington's primary election Feb. 19.

The Voice asked a few people to share their experiences about participating in the state's caucuses. Their stories continue below. The opinions expressed are those of the writers alone.

Caucus time in Seattle

BY ROBERT CANAMAR
SHA Resident

Ever since I came back from Vietnam, I have prided myself on voting in every election. It feels good to go into the polling booth to vote for my candidate of choice. It makes sense.

This year I found out my votes all those years did not mean a thing. Candidates are chosen by caucus in this state, so I went to my precinct caucus and wound up as a primary delegate for my candidate for the next caucus, and then only because I speak well.

With all of the hype about the importance of attending the caucus, I was disappointed that there were not more people there. Then I found out that we had five times more than last time.

We are a caucus state, and that means that the delegates that put our candidate on the ballot are determined at the caucus.

Who we put on the ballot determines what will happen with our country in the future, and yet more people head to the polls than to a caucus. Why can't we have a system like the Republicans, where half of the delegates are chosen from the Primary, and half from the caucus?

As a politically active citizen of this country, I feel that everyone should have a voice, and what we have does not give every one that voice.

At the caucus, I, and others like me were given one minute to speak, and try to convince others why our choice made the best sense. One minute is not enough time to get across any idea, much less the several that are needed.

Yes, I am excited about being a delegate, and going to the next round of caucuses, and this time I am planning what I am going to say and do at the caucus.

I am out stumping for my candidate, and hope my candidate will win. I do feel that if you want change, you have to work for it, so I will work my tail off and see about realistic change.

Why I did not caucus

BY HARRY OHMAN
SHA Resident

I heard it often last month: "Harry! Come with me to caucus on Saturday. It is an excellent opportunity for us to express our political views and support our candidates."

I would love to have participated, but I couldn't. I am an independent voter, and as such, the rules do not allow me to caucus. In Washington you must declare a political party in order to caucus. Then, if you want to vote in the primary you must sign an oath not to change from that party.

If you only vote in the primary you still must declare a political party — otherwise your vote will not count! These rules effectively deny independent voters like me an opportunity to participate in this process. I first voted in 1972, and I have voted in every election since. I have voted for candidates from both major political parties, as well as independents. I value my freedom to vote for the candidate that I feel is the most qualified, no matter what his or her political affiliation.

In 1983 I was ordered to report for jury duty. They randomly choose people for this honor from the list of registered voters. I will never forget how enlightened I felt after my service was concluded. I felt that I had fulfilled my duty as a citizen in the most fundamental way possible. The other most fundamental way that a citizen can participate in the political process is to vote. To infringe on the ability of any voter to participate is wrong.

The rules that govern the Washington state caucuses and primaries do just that: they prohibit independent voters from participating.

These rules are archaic and punitive. They should be changed.

Choose to lead, or follow

BY JEN ROSENBROOK
Neighborhood House

After a busy morning of rushing through traffic, I arrived at Marshall School down the street to find a crush of people entering to try and make sense of what was going to happen in the next few hours.

It did seem like a bit of confusion, but if you are relatively smart on directions it was actually quite simple: find your precinct, sign in, listen, watch, and wait.

Others would disagree, I am sure.

I heard a number of anxious voices — no one was clear on if they had to stay for the entire caucus or if they could sign in and leave.

Our society has become accustomed to such rushing around — what happened to taking time to smell the roses? Especially when it comes to our future, our country, and our leaders?

The caucus is a strange, chaotic, arcane relic of machine politics — but a fun day to participate in!

Primaries are for the busier, hurried citizen. (Hmm, is that everyone at this point, or just the families with too much to do in one week?)

Where is our sense of community and being the friendly neighbor again? I met more great folks and neighbors than I have in the past three years at my caucus.

It is not only a "caucus" but a sense of coming together for common ground, a cause as a community to share ideas, recipes, and a few good laughs.

I was so beyond excited after my caucus that I started right then to devote my time to the Obama campaign.

Not only is he the hope to heal our nation and the world, but it isn't just cheerleading words he speaks of, he walks the walk, and if you are in tune to anything these days you will feel the passion, too!

And if not...well, be prepared to follow the leaders.



PHOTO BY CLAIRE McDANIEL

Chaos reigns but goals were achieved during the 100th Democratic Caucus at a precinct in Magnolia. People sign in and select their candidate. Another participant holds up a sign identifying the precinct.

A good kind of chaos

BY CLAIRE McDANIEL
Seattle Housing Authority

My first Democratic caucus experience can be described in one word — chaos. But in a good way! The lunch room at the Lawton School in Magnolia was packed with people, many of whom were first time "caucusers" like me.

We were all trying to figure out what we were supposed to do. I saw grocery store checkers I recognized from my supermarket, fellow riders from my #24 bus and neighbors from my apartment building.

There were 94 people at my precinct table and once the candidate selections were tallied, the results were six delegates for Obama and two for Clinton.

The six Obama delegates included a 25 year old white woman who recently moved to Seattle from Iowa and participated in caucuses there; a middle-age African American man who resented any suggestions that the Clinton campaign made that race was a reason that supporters back Obama; and a young, white man who spent 19 months in Iraq.

The passion shown by the participants in this caucus was palpable and the participation of young people was exciting.

On the campaign trail: New Web site tracks housing-related issues

BY DONNA KIMURA

The presidential candidates have turned blue talking about how to end the Iraq War, revive a sagging economy, and provide health care, but do they have anything to say about affordable housing?

The issue is coming up more often than in past elections due to the subprime mortgage crisis and slumping housing market. Shining a light on what is being said by the candidates is the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC).

It has launched a new Web site, www.housing2008.org, that tracks the latest housing news from the campaign trail.

It's a nonpartisan forum for discussing housing issues this election year, said Sheila Crowley, NLIHC president.

As the Nov. 4, 2008, election approaches and the field of contenders winnows, the NLIHC plans to gather even more data on the candidates' positions on affordable housing.

Many of the candidates' Web sites fail to say anything specific about housing, but some early highlights from the leading candidates include:

Democrats

Hillary Clinton: Clinton's economic action plan calls for a \$30 billion Emergency Housing Crisis Fund to help states and cities combat foreclosures. States and cities could also use the funds to support efforts like anti-blight programs and help housing authorities buy vacant prop-

erties and rent them to working families. Clinton also wants to strengthen the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), including raising existing FHA mortgage limits in high-cost areas like New York and California. She's also discussed creating incentives for lenders to identify troubled mortgages and proposed a 90-day moratorium on subprime foreclosures and an automatic rate freeze on subprime mortgages of at least five years.

Barack Obama: Obama's plan to combat poverty includes increasing the supply of affordable housing by creating an Affordable Housing Trust Fund to develop affordable housing in mixed-income neighborhoods and fully funding the Community Development Block Grant program. He also pledges to create 20 "promise neighborhoods" in areas that have high levels of poverty. These neighborhoods will be provided a full range of services. Obama's plan to stimulate the economy calls for providing \$10 billion to help families avoid foreclosure and working with the FHA, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac "to allow families facing foreclosure to responsibly refinance their mortgages or sell their homes." He also wants to provide \$10 billion in relief for state and local governments facing revenue shortfalls because of the housing crisis.

Republicans

John McCain: McCain's campaign platform calls for tax cuts for middle-class families. He wants to repeal the alternative minimum tax. He has advocated for veterans and attended the opening of a transitional housing development for veterans last year. There were no housing policies posted on his Web site.

Reprinted with permission from the March 2008 issue of Affordable Housing Finance. © Hanley Wood, LLC

Dalai Lama to visit Seattle – residents invited

BY VIRGINIA FELTON
Seattle Housing Authority

In mid-April, Seattle will be the host city for a five-day conference entitled Seeds of Compassion. The conference is being sponsored by local leaders and will be built around the visit to Seattle of his Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso.

The Dalai Lama is a recognized world leader and is known as a man of peace and compassion.

Tickets to the largest public event of the conference will be available at no charge for children and youth who live in Seattle Housing Authority communities, and their families.

The Dalai Lama is both the exiled head of state and the spiritual leader of Tibet. On Oct. 17, 2007 he received the Congressional Gold Medal.

President Bush and the leaders of Congress bestowed the nation's highest civilian honor upon the Dalai Lama, calling the exiled Tibetan religious leader a "warrior for peace." The Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 for his non-violent struggle for the liberation of Tibet.

He has consistently advocated for policies of non-violence, even in the face of extreme aggression.

He also became the first Nobel Laureate to be recognized for his concern for global environmental problems.

The five-day Seeds of Compassion workshop will take place April 11 – 15 in Seattle. It offers a rare opportunity for people in Seattle to hear from this peaceful world leader who refers to himself as "a simple Buddhist monk."

The purpose of the event is to "nurture kindness and compassion in the world starting with children and all those who touch their lives."

According to the Dalai Lama, "We should make every effort to make this century the century of dialogue. This must come from a compassionate heart. Infinite or unlimited compassion is in all of us. It is a seed that we all have from birth. I really feel that this conference can plant positive seeds for a happy future, a happy world, particularly for children. They, the younger generation, are the real basis for our hope."

The largest public event to which youth and children are invited will take place at Qwest Field on Saturday afternoon, April 12. It is entitled "Compassion in Action" and will feature a talk by the Dalai Lama on the "heartbeat of humanity."

Tickets will be available soon from many of the community organizations that work with children and youth in SHA's communities. An article in The Voice next month will provide more specifics on where and how tickets are available.

The goals of the event include helping adults, teachers and all those who work with children better understand how to develop kinder and more compassionate local communities by building the foundations of learning and compassion in children and youth.

The Dalai Lama has traveled to more than 62 countries spanning six continents. He has met with presidents, prime ministers and crowned rulers of major nations.

He has held dialogues with the heads of different religions and many well-known scientists.

Since 1959 the Dalai Lama has received over 84 awards, honorary doctorates, prizes, etc., in recognition of his message of peace, non-violence, inter-religious understanding, universal responsibility and compassion. He has also authored more than 72 books.

Two training opportunities available to residents this month

Resident Leadership and Facilitation Training on March 22

The Nonprofit Assistance Center and Seattle Housing Authority will be holding a Resident Leadership and Facilitation Training on Saturday, March 22. The training is geared toward SHA residents who wish to develop their leadership skills. Important topics of focus will be the role of the facilitator, appreciative listening, dealing effectively with disagreements, and the three R's — results, relationships, and resources.

The trainers, Jesus Ybarra Rodriguez and Vicki Asakura, themselves represent the diversity of Seattle's residents and leaders.

Rodriguez was born in Mexico and currently manages the Leadership Development Program at the Nonprofit Assistance Center. In addition to coordinating leadership programs at NAC, he is one of the founders of Sea Mar Community Health Centers.

Asakura is a Japanese American from Seattle with extensive experience community building in low-income areas. She is currently the Executive Director of the Nonprofit Assistance Center.

The training will take place at Rainier Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

For more information, residents should contact their SHA community builder: Joy Bryngelson, NewHolly, 206-723-1725; Nao-

mi Chang, Rainier Vista, 206-722-4010, ext. 2; Samantha Gotkin, High Point, 206-937-3292, ext. 306; Brett Houghton, Yesler Terrace, 206-343-7484; Marcia Johnson, LIPH, 206-239-1530; Ellen Zontz, LIPH, 206-239-1625.

Registration forms must be returned to community builders by March 14.

NTIC training this month

The National Training and Information Center will be holding a day-long training to familiarize residents with HUD regulations on Thursday, March 27. The aim of this training is to empower residents through knowledge of HUD to organize and negotiate more effectively.

The workshop will begin with an overview of laws and regulations and how to find them. The most important regulations will be identified, with emphasis on regulation 964, the Resident Participation Regulation. After this, residents will learn how to use these regulations to affect decisions.

Sam Finkelstein, Director of Housing Justice Organizing at NTIC, will lead the 7-hour workshop. Finkelstein has worked on housing justice issues for more than 10 years in Seattle and California. He is also head of the National Housing Justice Campaign.

The training will take place at the Community Room of Green Lake Plaza, 505 N.E. 70th St., from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, residents should contact their SHA community builder.

Head Start teacher wins state award



PHOTO BY JON WHALEN

Linda Chugani (center), a Neighborhood House Head Start teacher at Rainier Vista, receives a Staff Excellence award from the Washington State Association for Head Start and Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program. At left is Early Childhood Education Manager Karol Swenson. Theresa Kwesele, Chugani's assistant teacher at Rainier Vista, is on the right.

Housing Continued from front page

manufactured housing like theirs.

Other legislative priorities of the advocates present at the rally included adding language to the state anti-discrimination laws that would protect renters who use housing vouchers or other financial assistance, protecting the rights of mobile home owners, and ensuring the passage of HB 1115, which would track the performance and outcomes of housing programs and enable housing and service providers to coordinate existing programs and funding sources.

After the rousing speeches and a lesson in effective advocacy, participants donned red plastic ponchos emblazoned with hearts and houses, and set off in the rain to the capitol building to meet with their senators and representatives.

Owens, a tenant of SHA, visited the offices of Jamie Pedersen (D, 43rd Legislative District) and Eric Pettigrew (D, 37th Legislative District) and left off materials supporting both affordable housing and affordable health care. She said that affordable health care advocates she's been working with staged a mock wedding in

the Capitol's rotunda: Small Business, the "bride," was married to Affordable Health Care, the "groom."

"The legislators were in session, but when they heard about the 'wedding' they came out and watched the event from the balcony," Owens said. "I think they were pretty impressed."

SHA's Cipollone-Wolters said, "It was inspiring to be a part of the 500 people who turned out for Housing Advocacy Day. It was an opportunity for many to learn first-hand the importance of educating elected officials on the need for solutions to our affordable housing crisis."

Organizer Ben Gitenstein, executive director of the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, said he guessed that this year's was the largest crowd in 14 years of Housing Advocacy Days.

Housing Advocacy Day is sponsored by the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance and the Washington State Coalition for the Homeless. To learn more about these organizations, including the issues addressed by their respective agendas, visit www.wliha.org and www.endhomelessnesswa.org.

King County Housing Authority contributed to this report.

Unemployment rate dropped to near-record low in January

Washington added 5,800 non-agricultural jobs in January, which helped decrease the unemployment rate to 4.5 percent, according to the state Employment Security Department.

The January unemployment rate came in one-tenth of a percentage point lower than the revised December 2007 unemployment rate of 4.6 percent, and one-tenth of a point higher than the record low set last March.

"These positive job numbers are further evidence that Washington's economy is still healthy, despite what's happening in other parts of the country," said Governor Chris Gregoire. "These are historically low unemployment numbers."

Industries with the largest job growth last month were retail trade, with 2,100 new jobs, financial activities, up 1,400,

and education and health services, with 1,300 new jobs. The largest decline was in construction jobs, down 1,900.

Since January 2007, 61,900 net new jobs have been created in Washington. Overall, non-agricultural job growth increased by 2.1 percent, compared to a national rate increase of 0.7 percent.

An estimated 180,700 people (not seasonally adjusted) currently are unemployed and seeking work in Washington.

"Our WorkSource offices are available to help anyone who needs help finding work or needs to improve some job skills," said Employment Security Commissioner Karen Lee.

WorkSource offices are listed in the blue pages of telephone books and online at go2worksource.com.

Assistance also is available by phone at 877-872-5627.

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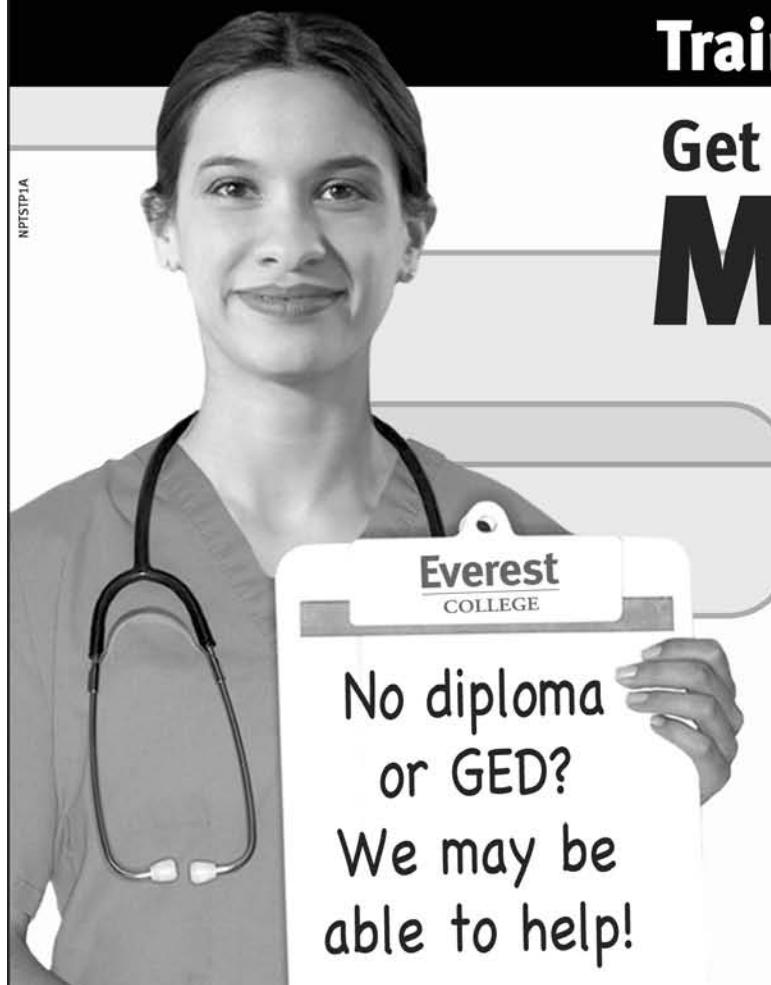


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The mission of the Seattle Housing Authority is to enhance the Seattle community by creating and sustaining decent, safe and affordable living environments that foster stability and self-sufficiency for people with low incomes.

Happy Lunar New Year!
HIGH POINT CELEBRATES HOLIDAY
See Page 4



SHA NEWS

March
2008



News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

SHA presents work plan for 2008

By SHA STAFF

In a recent presentation to the City Council's committee on Housing and Economic Development, Seattle Housing's Deputy Executive Directors Andrew Lofton and Al Levine outlined an ambitious work plan for SHA in 2008. Here is a review of some of the highlights of that presentation, with an emphasis on SHA's construction and development work.

Continued work on planning for the redevelopment of **Yesler Terrace** will constitute a major effort. Work in 2008 will include hiring an urban planning and design team, recruiting additional members for the citizens review committee, and formulating development alternatives for the site in partnership with the community, city and stakeholders.

Work on **Rainier Vista** will continue. Phase I is already an active multi-cultural community comprised of low-income and workforce rental housing, including apartments for seniors and people with disabilities, parks, affordable and market-rate homes for sale and neighborhood retail. Only two for-sale blocks remain to be developed. Rainier Vista Phase II is underway, with the Boys and Girls Club under construction and scheduled to open in September 2008. The southern portion of infrastructure installation will start in spring 2008.

Since 2004, SHA has been selling some of its **scattered-site housing** and replacing those units with units that are easier to maintain and better suited to tenants' needs. As many as 200 units will eventually be sold and replaced. So far 147 units have been sold. A total of 109 units have been replaced so far, with 55 replacement units added in 2007. Replacements will continue to be acquired in 2008.

The **Seattle Senior Housing Program** was created in 1981 to create 1,000 units of housing for the elderly. During 2008,

Please see "Work Plan" on Page 4

Whose view is this?



PHOTO COURTESY SHA

Last month's "Whose View" depicted the view from Bayview Tower.

Among the correct entries that The Voice received, Robert Patterson's entry was drawn as the winner. Congratulations to Robert!

This month we feature a new view.

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.

Resident comments on policy changes sought

By JEFF ARNIM
Seattle Housing Authority

Seattle Housing Authority is asking its residents to review and submit written comments on a pair of proposed policy revisions.

One revision addresses how the agency handles abandoned personal property. It updates the number of days abandoned property will be stored to 45, clarifies what property will not be stored because of potential health and safety hazards, and includes additional information on the involvement of charitable organizations.

The second revision deals with the disposal of personal property following death.

It offers revised language to provide clearer guidance on who is authorized to remove or arrange for the removal of a deceased resident's personal property. It also includes information related to storage, and the involvement of charitable organizations.

Interested residents can obtain copies of the revised policies in their management office. Those wishing to make comments on the policy changes must do so in writing, submitting them to their management office, or mailing them to Seattle Housing Authority. Mailed comments should be addressed to Donna Foss at P.O. Box 19028, Seattle, WA 98109.

All comments must be received by 5 p.m. March 31.

Switch to digital TV in 2009 will be a challenge

Existing building antennas will no longer work

By VIRGINIA FELTON
Seattle Housing Authority

Seattle Housing Authority currently provides master TV antennas on its high-rise apartment and Senior Housing buildings. SHA has provided this service without charge to residents.

Unfortunately, when TV stations make the switch to digital broadcasting in February of 2009 — a year from now — these antennas will no longer work to provide television reception to SHA residents.

Seattle Housing staff members have been meeting for several months to look at alternatives that could help to solve this problem. Initially the problem was brought to staff's attention by resident Rick Harrison, who suggested a couple of years ago that SHA include wiring for the new digital signal as part of homeWorks.

Unfortunately, the homeWorks budget was not large enough to do this. SHA has been researching the issue further, and preliminary estimates suggest that the cost of putting new antennas on the high-rise buildings alone and re-wiring each unit would be at least \$1.5 million.

The cost is driven in large part by the fact that in order to replace the antennae, the wiring would also need to be replaced in the buildings to accommodate the new digital signal.

At this point, there is no budget available to do this. According to Andrew Lofton, SHA's Deputy Executive Director for Finance and Administration, "We know that television service

Please see "Antenna" on Page 2

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Visitor parking at SHA's Central Office a challenge

To the east, south and north of the Seattle Housing Authority Central Office building at 120 Sixth Avenue North, building cranes and large equipment dominate the landscape.

Sidewalk access to the building is blocked from the south, and what used to be the visitor parking lot is now a big hole in the ground, complete with earth movers and dump trucks.

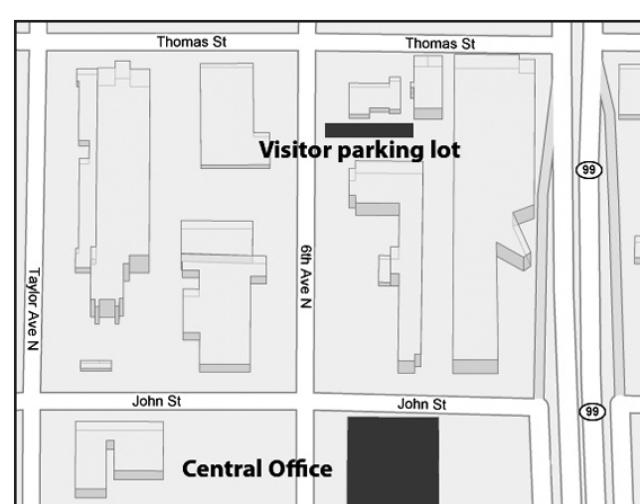
If you need to do business at the Central Office, there is still a small amount of visitor parking available. Drive north, just beyond the

Travelodge Motel, to an Impark lot on the right side of the street (see map).

The first eight spaces on the north side of this lot are reserved during the daytime for SHA's visitors.

These eight spaces are labeled for SHA visitor parking and it is not necessary to pay for parking here.

After 3 p.m. in the afternoon, street parking in the area also begins to open up. If you can save your SHA business or appointments until the late afternoon, you are more likely to find street parking available.



Parking is available during construction at Central Office.

Construction, community and history come together at Rainier Vista

BY JEFF ARNIM
Seattle Housing Authority

In many ways, the townhomes built by the George P. Riley group are like others built over the last few years in the revitalized Rainier Vista community.

They feature two and three bedrooms, spacious floor plans, and quality interiors with excellent natural lighting. The homes are also Built Green certified, making them not only more protective of the environment, but also healthier and more cost effective to own.

But construction details are not what make these townhomes unique. The difference lies in the people who built them.

The George P. Riley Group is the economic development section of the Breakfast Group, an association of African-American professionals formed to help at-risk young men in Seattle.

It was formed three years ago, with the goal of creating more business in the community, according to Herman McKinney, a board member of the Breakfast Group and the chairman of their economic development committee.

The committee eventually focused their efforts on housing, which brought them to the construction of new for-sale homes at Rainier Vista.

The project worked toward the group's goals by not only creating jobs for African-Americans in the community, but by contributing to increased business and

housing opportunities in the surrounding neighborhood.

Seattle Housing Authority normally attempts to work with smaller, local contractors, who hire people from the communities it serves. But the deeper level of involvement shown by the Riley Group remains unique.

"We haven't had a builder like the George P. Riley Group before," said Tom Tierney, Seattle Housing Authority's executive director. "The work they've done has resulted not only in great housing at Rainier Vista, but has also provided considerable social and community benefits."

The notion of community building guides the Group's work, and parallels the achievements of the man from whom they adopted their name.

In 1869, Boston's George Putnam Riley formed the Workingmen's Joint Stock Association along with 13 other African-Americans and one white man. The group invested their money together, and then sent Riley to what was then Washington Territory, where he purchased four blocks of land in what is now Seattle's Beacon Hill neighborhood.

Riley also acquired nearly 70 acres in Tacoma, land that would later become the Hilltop neighborhood, the center of the city's African-American community.

The Riley Group expects to build more housing in the Rainier Vista neighborhood in the coming years, and then expand their reach to other Seattle communities.

Hopelink Offers Free Adult Education Classes in East King County

Hopelink is offering free financial literacy, healthy living on a budget and other adult education classes to adults (18 years or older) in Redmond and Kirkland.

The following classes will be held in Redmond at the YWCA Family Village, 16601 N.E. 80th Street:

- Credit Management I – March 18, 6-8 p.m. This class covers how to utilize alternatives to credit, compare credit card offers, and establish and maintain healthy credit.

- Credit Management II – March 25, 6-8 p.m. This class covers how to read your credit report, improve your credit score and avoid identity theft.

The following classes will be held in Kirkland at King County Housing Authority's Kirkwood Terrace complex, 11925 N.E. 85th St.:

- Healthy Living on a Budget series – March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m. This series of four classes covers how to prepare nutritious meals on

a budget, shop for groceries wisely, fit exercise into a busy schedule and make other healthy choices for you and your family.

The following classes will be held in Kirkland at the Lake Washington United Methodist Church at 7525 132nd Avenue N.E.:

- Credit Management I – March 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m. This class covers how to utilize alternatives to credit, compare credit card offers, and establish and maintain healthy credit.

- Credit Management II – March 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m. This class covers how to read your credit report, improve your credit score and avoid identity theft.

Classes are free. Pre-registration is required.

Interpreters and/or childcare at no charge are available on a first-come-first served basis (not all locations offer childcare).

For more information on these classes and others held in a variety of Eastside locations, and to register, call Sebastian at 425-644-7911.

Community notes

Participants for Web site review sought

Seattle Housing Authority is updating its Web site — www.seattlehousing.org — in the coming months.

As part of this process, SHA's Communications office is seeking input on how the site can better serve the information needs of public housing residents, and those interested in obtaining housing assistance.

Residents are invited to attend an informal discussion group on the topic, being held at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, at Seattle Housing Authority's Central Office, located at 120 Sixth Ave. N.

Those seeking to participate should contact Claire McDaniel at 206-615-3522 or cmcdaniel@seattlehousing.org.

before March 14 to express interest.

March 20 meeting on eligibility rules scheduled

The Seattle Housing Authority will host a stakeholder meeting on Thursday, March 20 to hear from community members regarding proposed criteria for applicants to the Housing Choice Voucher program.

Seattle Housing is considering revising the criteria regarding applicants with criminal history. The meeting will take place at the Rainier Valley Cultural Center at 3515 S. Alaska St. from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

SHA Board action on the revised criteria is expected in mid-April. For more information, please call Nancie White at 239-1523.



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Work underway at RV Boys and Girls club

A workman in an elevated lift examines the skeletal structure that will eventually house the Boys and Girls Club's Rainier Valley Teen Center. The building, near the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Way South and South Tamarack Street, is expected to be finished this summer.

Antenna

Continued from front page

is important to our residents, and we want to help with this transition. Unfortunately, television service is not considered a vital service by HUD and the budget realities that we currently face do not provide for this large an expense."

Not replacing the master antennas would mean that up to half of SHA's residents would no longer be able to use their televisions. Currently, about half of SHA's residents subscribe to a cable or satellite dish service. These residents would not be affected, because the service providers will adjust for the change in the signal.

Residents who do not currently subscribe to a service would find that after February 17, 2009, their television sets would no longer receive programming from the antennae.

The National Association of Broadcasters, along with local TV stations, is currently publicizing the transition. Coupons are available from the government to reduce the cost of buying converter boxes that would allow television sets with older technology to receive the new digital TV.

Unfortunately, without an antenna, most SHA residents in high-rise buildings would find that, even with a converter box, the signal would not be good enough for viewing local TV stations.

SHA staff members have invited a number of residents to become part of an advisory committee to examine alternatives for residents over the next year. The first meeting of this committee is expected to take place in March.

"We hope to benefit from residents' ideas with respect to alternatives that could make the transition easier and less expensive for residents," Lofton said.

So far, alternatives that have been identified by staff include the following:

- Residents could purchase a converter box for their old TV in hopes that reception would be acceptable.

- Residents could subscribe to a cable TV service provider, which would be an added cost for those not already subscribed.

- Residents might be able to subscribe to a satellite TV service, which would also be an added cost.

Here are a couple of Web sites that provide information on this issue: www.dtvanswers.com or www.dtv2009.gov.

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

RV, Beacon Tower residents celebrate

Lunar New Year party held at Rainier Vista

BY LAN NGUYEN
SHA Resident

Kể từ ngày tôi qua Mỹ cho tới bây giờ tôi mới thấy năm nay là thật Tết của tôi. Kể từ ngày tôi gia nhập hội già. Trong các hội già chỉ có hội này là vui nhất vì chỉ có hội này có người quan tâm đến chúng tôi. Đó là cô Naomi Chang và cô Tiên Dương Lê. Hai người này trong cộng đồng Rainier Vista đã sinh hoạt và giúp đỡ cho cộng đồng VN và người hoa vào ngày 14-2-08 cộng đồng VN và người hoa có tổ chức một buổi tết. Chúng tôi gồm có gần 60 người tới tham dự trong đó có các quý vị cao niên ở Beacon-Tower. Chúng tôi có rất nhiều thức ăn cho mọi người đem tới để cùng ăn vui với tết. Chúng tôi có đồ vui, sô sô ca hát múa do Cộng đồng người Việt Nam, Hoa và cũng được sự điều khiển do ông Choo Chong, và cũng có đến 40 nón quà trong số đó 10 món quà là do cư dân của Beacon Tower mến tặng cho để làm giải thưởng. Nhất là ông Brain Twister làm xiết. còn có những món quà được tặng vì trúng thưởng và năm mậu tý tôi thấy rất vui vẽ và có thấy một khung khí tết trong cộng đồng của chúng tôi. Một lần nữa tôi cảm ơn ban tổ chức và những người bảo trợ như ông Peter Tran and Larry Jackson l à đã cho chúng tôi 6 thùng phở để là m quâ đem về c ủng như ông bà Kong Chan Sang residents of Providence Gamelin House, have a connection to an Italian restaurant Percheno Pasta and Vino". The owner are David and Lily Kong con trai và con dâu của ông Kong Chan Sang đem lại mấy món Ý cho chúng tôi. Một lần nữa ch ủng tôi rất thành thà t c ám on nhung q úi v i đã mang cái tết đến với cộng đồng ở khu Rainier Visita.



PHOTO BY NAOMI CHANG

Sang Chan Kong, a resident of Providence Gamelin House at Rainier Vista, plays harmonica during the Lunar New Year celebration.

BY LAN NGUYEN
SHA Resident

This year is the first time I have had the happiest New Year since coming to America. I have joined so many elderly associations, but this is the first one that makes me feel so happy, and that pays attention to me the most.

Mrs. Naomi Chang and Tien Duong-le are the two that make things happen. These two special people from Rainier Vista come and help us, the Chinese and Vietnamese.

On Feb. 14, the Chinese and Vietnamese Coffee Talk Time organized a Tet celebration, the Chinese and Vietnamese Lunar New Year. We had about 60 people come to join us, mostly from Beacon Tower.

We had lots of foods for people to eat and enjoy the New Year. We had games, dancing, singing, prizes and art performances by Vietnamese and Chinese; Mr. Choo Chong was the MC for us.

We had over 40 door prizes, including

10 that were donated from residents at Beacon Tower. Specifically Mr. Lam did a brain twister game and magic tricks for us, and Mr. Lam, resident at Beacon Tower, gave out the red envelope as a prize for the year of Rat.

We are so happy that we have such a happy New Year in our community. We want to thank the organizers and the sponsors like Mr. Peter Tran and Larry Jackson — managers of Vietwah Super Food on MLK — who donated six boxes of instant rice noodles. Each participant received it as a take home gift.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. Kong Chan Sang, residents of Providence Gamelin House, have a connection to an Italian restaurant — Percheno Pasta and Vino.

The owners are David and Lily Kong — son and daughter in law of Mr. and Mrs. Kong Chan Sang. The restaurant donated a few Italian dishes to the event.

Again, thank you very much to those who brought the Tet to our community at Rainier Vista.

New Commissioner Sought For Seattle Housing Authority Board

Mayor Greg Nickels is looking for candidates to fill an upcoming, at-large vacancy on the Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

The Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners is a seven-member, voluntary board established under RCW, Section 35.82.045. Members are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the City Council for four-year renewable terms. The Board of Commissioners is responsible for approving SHA's annual budget, and for setting the specific policies that guide the Seattle Housing Authority's operation. The SHA Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the board.

Board members spend an average of 10 - 12 hours per month on Seattle Housing Authority business. Agendas and background reading material are sent to commissioners each month in the week prior to the meeting.

Candidates must live within the City of Seattle and should have a strong demonstrated interest in low-income housing issues. Those candidates with financial and budget expertise, people with a background working with social service providers or with senior citizens and housing issues are encouraged to apply.

To be considered for appointment to the board, applicants must submit a letter of interest and résumé by March 21, via e-mail or regular mail.

Electronic submissions are preferred. Please e-mail your letter of interest and résumé to Michael.Gilmore@Seattle.gov (please reference Seattle Housing Authority in the subject line).

Or, to submit a paper copy, please address to: Michael Gilmore, Mayor's Office, Re: Seattle Housing Authority, PO Box 94749, Seattle, WA 98124-4749.

homeWorks Phase III has arrived

BY SVEN KOEHLER
Seattle Housing Authority

Two years ago, construction in the first homeWorks building was just about to begin. At the resident information meetings, there was a lot of curiosity — and a bit of apprehension — about how things would turn out when work got started.

This spring, the project kicks off the third and final phase of construction with the work at University House. While there is a strong history of success in the project, residents are just as eager now to learn about what homeWorks will mean to them as back then, when homeWorks was just beginning.

About 30 residents gathered in the University House community room on January 30 to meet the homeWorks crew. Interpreters in several languages were on hand, helping all in attendance to learn about what to expect from homeWorks. In addition, residents Barb Weisman and Holly Howard recorded the meeting on tape to share with others.

"There has been a lot of interest in the project at our building- we're ready and waiting for it to start!" Weisman said.

The next meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 13, right before construction starts. Residents can look forward to a visual presentation showing some of the



Sven Koehler (right) addresses residents of University House during a homeWorks meeting Jan. 30.

work planned for the building.

For example, water pipe replacement has been a major part of the work scope for over two-thirds of the 22 buildings in homeWorks, and will be part of the package for University House. Several members of the audience at the building gave a little cheer when they learned that this will improve the water pressure and quality of the water in the building.

Frank Burns, SHA's project manager for homeWorks, explained the buildings in Phase III were chosen to be at the end of the project because the repairs were not as extensive or as urgent compared to those in Phase I and Phase II.

"There is no doubt that you'll still notice the construction, but it will be less intrusive than in previous buildings," Burns said.

The remaining buildings in Phase III are Jackson Park House, Ross Manor, Barton Place, Stewart Manor, West Town View and Center West.

Also presenting at the meeting was Ross Duncan, the contractor from WG Clark Construction. He and Burns explained that Phase III will continue the hallmarks of homeWorks, such as proactive communication with residents, creating a calendar of work in advance and keeping a tight schedule to minimize the disruption to residents.

Some residents asked if everyone will have to stay in a hotel for part of the construction, like in some previous homeWorks buildings. For example, during work at Lake City House right now, residents are staying in a hotel for a few days while their windows are replaced.

However, in Phase III buildings, residents can expect to be able to sleep at home every night as usual, and with the exception of one work day, residents can be in their apartments as much as they please every day during construction.

"Most days there will only be minimal impact on residents, and we've found that people don't mind staying in their units to watch while workers are busy," Duncan said. "Every evening when we're done, we'll clean up and cover any areas that we worked on."

Those at the meeting were also introduced to Tracey Locke, SHA's new development manager.

She is taking over the reins from Stephanie Van Dyke, who met with many residents in the first two phases of homeWorks as she was instrumental in getting the project up and running. Van Dyke recently became the Director of Development.

Locke worked on commercial real estate management projects after serving on the SHA staff several years ago. She is pleased to be working at SHA again, and looks forward to contributing to the improvement of low-income housing through the homeWorks project.

HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY



Ringing in the Lunar New Year



PHOTOS BY TYLER ROUSH

Residents of the High Point neighborhood and Elizabeth House gathered Feb. 11 to celebrate the Lunar New Year. The Lunar New Year, celebrated as both Chinese New Year and Tet, or Vietnamese New Year, fell on Feb. 7 this year. Residents (left and above) played games and enjoyed a potluck lunch to mark the dawning of The Year of the Rat.

Construction moves forward on Phase II of High Point

BY JEFF ARNIM
Seattle Housing Authority

Redevelopment at High Point, Seattle Housing Authority's largest family community, continues to make impressive progress, with work now in full swing on the second and final phase of the project. When complete, the revitalized High Point will be a diverse neighborhood of more than 1,500 homes.

The infrastructure for Phase II is 85 percent finished. This work includes underground utilities like sewer, water supply, stormwater, phone, cable, and power and gas systems. It also covers the construction of curbs, gutters and roads.

"Infrastructure is nearing completion," said George Nemeth, a Seattle Housing Authority housing developer. "Some natural drainage swale installations and landscaping remain to be finished, but the entire site is now ready for home construction."

Rental housing construction is currently underway and progressing as scheduled. When all rentals are complete, 256 total units will have been built across 98 buildings in Phase II. There will be 28 one-bedroom, 71 two-bedroom, 130 three-bedroom, 25 four-bedroom and 5 five-bedroom units.

Of these 256 units, 150 will be reserved for very-low-income families earning less than 30 percent of Area Median Income (AMI). The remaining 106 will be designated as affordable workforce housing for residents earning up to 60 percent of AMI.

Absher Construction of Puyallup, the builder of the rental units in Phase I of High Point, is also in charge of rental housing construction in Phase II.

Phase II rental housing will not be entirely finished until March 2009, but



An aerial photo shows Phase II construction in the High Point neighborhood, which is already underway.

the first completed units will be ready for occupancy much sooner. Seattle Housing Authority expects residents to start living in newly completed Phase II housing in April.

Construction of for-sale housing has not yet begun. More than 400 units of homes for sale are also planned as part of Phase II construction, taking shape as a combination of homes, town homes and condominium flats. This includes 12 town homes being built by Habitat for Humanity.

Development is moving ahead on The Commons, a 3.5-acre park located at the center of the High Point neighborhood. When finished, it will feature a large lawn area with a viewing mound, an amphitheater, a P-patch, a children's play area, and an outdoor basketball court.

The park's grand opening is now less than three months away, with an opening ceremony planned for Memorial Day

weekend this May.

Progress is also being made on the High Point Neighborhood Center, a community gathering place that will eventually be home to a family center, a teen center, Head Start programs, youth tutoring and enhancement programs, Seattle Housing Authority's Job Connection program, and a variety of neighborhood associations.

In addition to being an important community resource, the Neighborhood Center will be environmentally friendly. It has been designed to achieve the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Gold certification, which recognizes it as an environmentally responsible building and a healthy place to live and work.

"Plans for the Neighborhood Center are complete, and the project is currently in the permitting stage," Nemeth said. The bulk of construction work on the Center is expected to take place next year.

Work plan

Continued from front page

100 percent occupancy was achieved for a short time. This program continues to be very popular, as shown by an overall vacancy rate of 1.4 percent in spite of a turnover rate of nearly 16 percent. There are now 820 people on the waiting list.

Phase I of the **High Point Redevelopment** is nearly complete, with 344 units of family housing, workforce housing and senior housing and 245 homes for sale finished.

Five Habitat units have been completed; a few market-rate units remain to be sold. High Point's natural drainage system has performed well through this winter's storms. High Point's Phase II is well underway — see related article on this page.

SHA is in the process of selling mixed-use sites at **Othello Station and Rainier Vista** for market rate housing and retail development. There is significant builder interest in these development opportunities.

New Market Tax Credits are being used to support the construction of Neighborhood House's High Point Neighborhood Center and the YWCA's facility at Greenbridge. SHA is currently evaluating opportunities for additional NMTC partnerships.

homeWorks remains an important part of SHA's work program. Phase I was recently completed on time and on budget, resulting in improved building integrity, aesthetics, water and air quality. Phase II is about halfway toward completion, and is also running on time and on budget. Phase III financing and permits are complete. Construction will start in March.

SHA is partnering with Opus and Nitze-Stagen to provide 70–90 affordable apartments in the **Qwest Field Project** as part of their "Northlot" development — a multi-block transit-oriented mixed-use project that will be constructed on the North parking lot of Qwest Field.

RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

Raining culture in Rainier Vista

BY UNIQUE SAUNDERS
Special to The Voice

Residents of Rainier Vista had the opportunity to let their taste buds explore the world.

The Rainier Vista Multicultural Committee organized a community potluck last month for those in the neighborhood to get to know each other. The potluck was the first of many upcoming community building events.

Rainier Vista is the home to a number of ethnic groups: African Americans, Caucasians, Chinese, Vietnamese, East Africans and Cambodians share the same backyards.

Tom Phillips, leader of the committee, said he thought it was important for all residents to get to know each other. But with such diverse backgrounds and many languages, he said, "It is a challenge."

A group of Hong Kong natives were among the first to arrive to Neighborhood House for the potluck. They tried communicating with others who had arrived early, but had difficulty — none of them spoke English. Although some residents found it difficult to converse, the smiles and gestures were enough; the atmosphere was friendly.

An abundance of food was spread on a long table. Though the aroma was enticing, attendees remained in their seats or wandered around chatting. Phillips announced multiple times for everyone to eat. Some did not even look in the direction of the untouched dishes. Others looked, but apparently no one wanted to be the only one eating.

Greetings and conversations continued. Children did not cease playing their games and laughing with one another. Some time had passed before Phillips decided to give



PHOTOS BY UNIQUE SAUNDERS

Rainier Vista residents Erin and Greg Briggs (left), with Raina, attended the community potluck Feb. 16. Participants (above) shared good food and good conversation as neighbors got to know each other.

To learn more

Check out www.rainiervista.org for more community events. Residents are welcome to join the Google group.

New Rainier Vista residents should send their email and home addresses to Christina@dolcideleria.com.

the introduction again.

This time a group of individuals stood on both sides of him repeating his words each in a different language. Finally, a line began to form and soon morsels from around the world rested on everyone's plates.

Hungry children devoured cupcakes and other desserts. Parents piled on beef short ribs, tofu curry, humus, egg rolls and winter squash meatless lasagna.

New home-owner Joel Feldman was among those who attended the potluck. Having only settled into his house with his wife one week prior, the potluck was an excellent way to integrate them into the neighborhood.

The Feldmans said they were searching for diversity and they wanted to live in a place where they could feel the neighborly affection. Rainier Vista is the perfect location and they see themselves there for the long run — for at least twenty-five years, they said.

Not only is Rainier Vista culturally diverse, but incomes vary as well. Home owners, renters and Section 8 families are all a part of the same community.

Kawsr Ali and her children have lived in the Rainier Vista neighborhood for three

years. She does not have to go far to meet people of different backgrounds; her neighbors come from all over the world.

She was excited about the potluck because she had only conversed with those who lived right around her. The event gave her the opportunity to meet those who live down the street and around the corner,

Though it is definitely a challenge uniting such a mixed community, the learning experience is valuable. People from all over Washington have heard about this neighborhood, and flock to it.

Bill LaBorde moved his family from Tacoma to live in Rainier Vista. He enjoyed seeing such a variety of people at the potluck with varying styles and languages. Not only was the potluck a way to introduce people, but it was a way for everyone to share their culture.

Nafiso Samatar, former Rainier Vista resident, starts new position at ReWa

BY SHA STAFF

Nafiso Samatar was a long-time asset to the Rainier Vista Community while she lived here — now she can continue to provide valuable assistance and guidance in her new role as Somali Family Advocate at ReWa, a position she began early this month.

Samatar has a long and distinguished record of service to the local refugee and immigrant community. She has received kudos and recognition from a variety of sources, including Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and former mayor Paul Schell, who recognized "outstanding work.....as a member of the Seattle Office for Civil Rights' African Advisory Board."

Samatar is a founding member of Somali Community Services of Seattle, as well as a founder and long-time volunteer for the African community Network.

Her superb interpersonal skills, problem-solving abilities, compassionate approach to social service and proven track record of success in dealing with families make her



Nafiso Samatar

a great person for this job.

Be sure to say "Hi!" to her when you see her around the neighborhood.

For more Rainier Vista news, turn to Page 2 for a story on the George P. Riley Group and a progress report on the Rainier Valley Teen Center.

Community notes

Nature Consortium releases spring schedule

The Nature Consortium has released its spring arts schedule for classes at the Rainier Vista Art Studio.

The group will offer classes from 4-6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Fridays at the studio, located at 4437 M.L.K. Jr. Way S.

Classes include Comics and Tricks on Mondays, Afro-Brazilian Drumming on Tuesdays, Eco Urban Arts on Wednesdays, Nature Made on Thursdays and Teen Art Studio on Fridays.

Eco Urban Arts is for ages 7-19, while Teen Art Studio is for ages 11-19. The other three classes are for ages 5-19.

To register, contact site coordinator Victoria Tangata at 206-501-0343 or tangata@naturec.org.

For more information, go to www.naturec.org.

Spring break art classes offered

Classes for youth ages 5-19 are available through The Nature Consortium during the week of March 31-April 4.

The classes, part of The Nature Consortium's Spring Break 2008, will be held from 1-3 p.m. each day at the Rainier Vista Art Studio, located at 4437 M.L.K. Jr. Way S.

Subjects include Eco Puppets on March 31, Nature Kicks on April 1, Origami and Magic on April 2, Salvaged Mobiles on April 3 and Art You Can Eat on April 4.

To register, contact site coordinator Victoria Tangata at 206-501-0343 or tangata@naturec.org.

For more information, go to www.naturec.org.

Lend a hand to clean up the Rainier Vista community

A community clean-up is scheduled at Rainier Vista Park this month.

Residents should meet from 10 a.m.-noon March 8 for the clean up.

For more information, contact Community Builder Naomi Chang at 206-722-4010, Ext. 2, or nchang@seattle-housing.org.

Rainier Vista is on the Web

To find out what's going on in your community, visit www.rainiervista.org.

The community Web site provides information about upcoming events, links to redevelopment news, and information on the new Google Group for Rainier Vista residents.

NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY VIRGINIA FELTON

Lee Dorigan, of the King County Public Health Department, addresses NewHolly community members during a meeting about the neighborhood's water quality in January.

NewHolly water sampling underway

BY JEFF ARNIM
Seattle Housing Authority

In response to concerns raised about the safety of water at NewHolly, Seattle Housing Authority is in the midst of testing units throughout the neighborhood to confirm the absence or presence of lead.

A total of 81 units will be tested, including 45 in NewHolly's Phase I, six in Phase II and 30 in Phase III.

"Water sampling should be complete by March 8, and test results should be available by the end of March" said Ed Tanaka, the construction project manager with Seattle Housing Authority charged with overseeing the testing.

The tests are being conducted by Med-Tox Northwest, an independent contractor that is developing and implementing a water sampling plan, with guidance from the Public Health department of Seattle and King County.

"Samples are being collected in accordance with EPA and Washington State Department of Health protocols, and will be analyzed using a Washington State Department of Ecology-accredited laboratory," Tanaka said.

Seattle Housing Authority is working with residents living in units whose water is being tested to schedule the testing on dates and times that are convenient for them. Residents in the selected units are being asked not to use any water for a minimum of

six hours prior to testing on their scheduled day, allowing Med-Tox to collect the most uniform samples.

"Three samples are collected from the kitchen faucet during testing," Tanaka said. "This includes one immediate cold water sample; one immediate hot water sample; and one hot water sample after a four-liter hot water flush."

Testing is being performed to help alleviate concerns raised by residents after a television news story aired in January, stating that lead had been found in the water in housing units at NewHolly.

The story cited a report prepared by Seattle Housing Authority in June 2006 that found lead in the water sample of one unit during the testing of malfunctioning heating systems in homes constructed in Phase I.

The heating systems at NewHolly are unusual in that they combine the water for heating with the hot water used for other purposes, such as bathing or doing dishes. The systems were designed and installed as an environmental amenity, to help conserve energy and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

After lead was discovered in the water of the heating tubes of the single unit in 2006, Seattle Housing Authority tested that unit and 18 additional Phase I units for the presence of elevated levels of lead. Elevated lead levels were not found in any of these samples.

Know what's happening by checking out the NewHolly community Web site

BY CLAIRE McDANIEL
Seattle Housing Authority

NewHolly residents can find interesting and useful information on the NewHolly community Web site at www.newholly.org, including upcoming events, existing community committees, neighborhood historical photos and specifics concerning vital services available to them.

The Directory of Services is currently being updated to ensure the most current descriptions of services and contact information is available and easy to find. Categories within the directory include Security, Child Development, Counseling, Education, Employment, Health and Youth & Family.

Other helpful web pages include a map and driving directions; a Neighbors &

Community page with photo galleries from various neighborhood events; a PDF with descriptions of NewHolly neighborhood committees you can join such as Traffic Safety/Crime Prevention, Community Clean-up and Welcome Wagon; and information about how you can reserve the Gathering Hall for birthday celebrations, anniversaries or seminars.

Please visit often to keep informed on matters of important community business as well as fun events happening in your neighborhood that will enable you to make new friends and work together for common goals that will improve the lives of all NewHolly residents.

For fun, you can find answers to the following brief quiz on the NewHolly community Web site at www.newholly.org. (Answers may be found below.)

- Answers
1. South Seattle Community College
 2. Services that build on strengths
 3. NewHolly Council Organizing
 4. A community to innovate
 5. Public-private collaboration
 6. Youth & Family
 7. Bus 106
 8. No
 9. 1940s
 10. No, that is the Memorial Day holiday.

Take the NewHolly Web site quiz

Get acquainted with the NewHolly community's Web site, then test your knowledge with this short quiz. The answers are available in the bottom left corner of the page.

1. What community college offers ESL classes to NewHolly residents?
2. Name one of the five values in the Mission Statement that the NewHolly Neighborhood cluster values and promotes.
3. Name one of the NewHolly committees listed in the PDF linked on the Neighbors & Community Web page.
4. Under what tab is there a link to the latest issue of The Voice resident newspaper?
5. Who should you contact to reserve the Gathering Hall?
6. On the Directory of Services Web page, in which category is Girl Scouts: Skills for Life located?
7. On the Map & Directions Web page, what bus number should you take to get to 32nd Ave. S.?
8. On the Directory of Services Web page, the link to the NewHolly branch of the Seattle Public Library can be found. Is the library open on Sundays?
9. On the home page of the NewHolly Community Web site there is a brief history of NewHolly. In what decade was Holly Park built?
10. Under the Calendar of Events tab, you'll see information about the Youth Tutoring Program. Is there any tutoring on Monday, May 26, 2008?

Patricia Fisher Endowed Scholarship available

The Seattle Association of Black Journalists is pleased to offer scholarships for African-American students in the state of Washington who are interested in careers in print, broadcast or photojournalism.

This is made possible through the Patricia Fisher Endowed Scholarship, administered by the Seattle Foundation. Awards are based on scholastic achievement, financial need, community service and a commitment to a career in journalism. Scholarships have ranged from \$500 to \$5,000.

Awards can be used at any accredited college or university in the United States. To be eligible, the student must be a high school senior or an undergraduate living in the state of Washington, or a former recipient who is reapplying.

To apply, the student needs to submit a completed application, two reference letters and a school transcript. The transcript must be official, and must be sent directly from the school to the scholarship committee.

Applications and all materials submitted must be postmarked no later than March 31. The scholarship winner(s) will be notified in May.

Applications can be obtained online at www.sabjonline.org.

YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

Community council adopts new Leadership Team

BY VOICE STAFF

Late last month, the Yesler Terrace Community Council held the first elections for its Leadership Team.

The group will function like an Executive Committee, but with more flexibility in its roles and a greater number of members.

Fifteen community members were named to the Leadership Team, including:

- Asha Ahmed
- Audry Breaux
- Morrice Condit
- Meza Desta
- Kadra Faarah
- Doretha Ford
- Faduma Isaq
- Abdisamad M. Jama
- Asha Jama
- Minh Nguyen
- Kristin O'Donnell
- Art Rea
- Aberash Tekola
- Cuong Tran
- Mebret Yihdego

Council bylaws allow for between five and 15 members on the Leadership Team.

The group is meeting March 4 to assign specific roles to its members and discuss representation to the RPF, JPAC, CRC and the RFQ evaluation team.

To establish the Leadership Team and adopt a new governance model required the participation of residents from across multiple cultures and languages. Service providers offered interpretation in four non-English languages at each meeting.

The International District Housing Alliance and Neighborhood House provided interpretation and other services at the meetings.

Check next month's issue of The Voice for a full story on the new Leadership Team and its role in the Yesler Terrace community.



Head Start students receive new books through Barnes & Noble drive

Keyshawn, a Head Start student at Yesler Terrace, holds a new book that he received through the Barnes & Noble book drive. The annual giving campaign collected books worth more than \$6,600 for Head Start students.

PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Redevelopment approaches Phase II

BY JUDITH KILGORE
Development Project Manager

In 2006, the Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners directed staff to begin the process of redeveloping Yesler Terrace. The SHA Board had four goals: a) meet affordable housing needs; b) be financially feasible; c) serve the needs of residents now and in the future; and d) provide amenities to the larger community.

In Phase I the Citizen Review Committee, using the Board's goals as a base and working closely with the residents and community stakeholders, developed the Yesler Terrace Definitions and Guiding Principles.

These were adopted by the SHA Board in December 2007. They are based on four community values: social equity, economic opportunity, environmental stewardship and one-for-one housing replacement.

This document serves as the foundation for Phase II of the project — development of conceptual site alternatives.

In Phase II the consultant team, chosen through a request for qualification process (see last month's article for more information), will work with residents, community stakeholders, and the broader community to develop several examples of potential site development.

Residents and the community will provide this input through workshops, community meetings, design workshops and other methods. Phase II of the project will begin in May 2008.

There will also be a Citizen Review Committee in Phase II; however, the CRC will not create the potential site alternatives.

The potential site alternatives will be developed based on the input provided by the residents and the larger community.

The focus of the CRC will be to review and comment on the potential site alternatives to ensure consistency with the Definitions and Guiding Principles.

Members from the previous CRC will be invited to participate again to provide a "bridge" between Phase I and Phase II of the project. The CRC will also expand its membership to reflect the impact the redeveloped Yesler Terrace will have on adjacent neighborhoods and throughout the region.

The SHA executive director will appoint the Phase II CRC. The first meeting is planned for May 2008.

Next month's article: How to build a healthy community.

Notes from the Manager

BY JUDI CARTER
Seattle Housing Authority

Is your faucet dripping? Does the water in your toilet run a long time after you flush it? These are serious wasters of water.

When the water is wasted, it does several very bad things: It drives up the amount of money that the housing authority has to pay for water, and uses up money that could be used for repairs and improvements.

If the water supply drops, our electric bills could go up again, because much of the electricity we use is made from hydroelectric dams.

And perhaps most importantly, wasting water is bad for the environment.

So, if you suspect that water is being wasted in your home, please phone 223-3758 and put in a work order to have it repaired. There is no charge for this type of repair, and in the long run, it could save you money!

Speaking of saving you money, when you allow a leak under the sink to just drip, it could cost you money.

If the water from a worn out drain pipe is not attended to, it could damage the cabinet, or the floor.

If these things are damaged because you failed to phone in a work order to have the leaky drain pipe fixed, you could face a large repair bill for fixing the cabinet or floor. Please phone in leaks of all kinds!

Emergency preparedness tip of the month: If you use prescription medications, try to set aside three days worth in a zip lock bag. Keep this in a place that would be easy to grab if you needed to leave your home quickly, because of a fire or other disaster.

Community notes

Garden training coming in April

Young green thumbs will have an opportunity to learn about gardening April 2 at the Yesler Youth Garden Training.

The free training will be held from 10:30 a.m.-noon April 2 at the Yesler Community Center, located at 917 E. Yesler Way.

The workshop will educate community members about what goes into sustaining a working youth garden — the structure, content, benefits and support. Participants will also identify ways the garden can give back to the community.

Teens, adults and seniors are all invited to attend.

The event is supported by The Nature Consortium, Becca Fong of Seattle Parks and Recreation, Gretchen Garber of Camp Long and Nature Consortium teaching artist Miriam Preus.

Participants should register for the event by contacting site coordinator Nedra Deadwyler at 206-830-0488 or nedra@naturec.org.

For more information, go to www.naturec.org.

Spring break art classes offered

Classes for youth ages 5-19 are available through The Nature Consortium during the week of March 31-April 4.

The classes, part of The Nature Consortium's

Spring Break 2008, will be held from 1-3 p.m. each day at the Yesler Community Center, located at 917 E. Yesler Way.

Subjects include Eco Arts on March 31, Enviro Jewelry on April 1, Mosaics on April 2, Nature Ceramics on April 3 and Origami and Magic on April 4.

To register, contact site coordinator Nedra Deadwyler at 206-830-0488 or nedra@naturec.org.

For more information, go to www.naturec.org.

Nature Consortium announces spring slate

The Nature Consortium has released its spring arts schedule for classes at the Yesler Community Center.

The group will offer classes from 4-6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Fridays at the community center, located at 917 E. Yesler Way.

Classes include Global Folk Arts on Mondays, Garden Art on Tuesdays, Street Dance on Wednesdays, World Percussion on Thursdays and Eco Urban Arts on Fridays.

All classes are for ages 5-19 except the Eco Urban Arts, which is for ages 11-19.

To register, contact site coordinator Nedra Deadwyler at 206-830-0488 or nedra@naturec.org.

For more information, go to www.naturec.org.

