



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



The Voice

August
2009
*Articles translated
into six languages*

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

Finding therapy, success through art

*For young Greenbridge
artist, creativity forms
bridge to the outside world*

By TYLER ROUSH
The Voice Editor

Adam Auxier's first experience with art came at a very young age.

The medium: Crayon or colored pencil. The canvas: A wall in his family's house.

"When I was barely two, I started drawing on the walls," Adam said.

Of course, many parents will expect that a child might dabble in Abstract Expressionism on a bedroom or living room wall. But for Adam's mother, Yvonne, the response was anything but conventional: She encouraged it.

"He colored the walls, and we'd wash the walls," Yvonne said. "And when we couldn't wash them anymore, we painted them and started over again."

For Adam, who is autistic, practicing art is about more than personal expression — it grounds him. Yvonne, an artist herself, recognized that drawing on the walls helped Adam focus on the outside world, and kept him from slipping into the world of autism. Art was a part of his occupational therapy.

"I kept enticing him into this world, and that's what art did for him," she said.

It wasn't easy — supporting Adam meant

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PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Adam Auxier displays some of his art, on display at his family's gallery in a Greenbridge live-work unit. For Adam, who has autism, his love of art has been therapeutic.

New housing policy outlined at Chicago conference

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, Brookings Institution's Bruce Katz outline strategies to re-focus federal housing policy

By SHA STAFF

At a housing conference in Chicago last month, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan outlined broad new approaches to federal housing policy under the Obama presidency.

He began by describing steps that HUD is already taking to help get communities back on their feet.

"That work began with the Recovery Act — through which HUD is pumping some \$14 billion into communities across the country," he noted. "And our work continues with the President's 'Making Homes Affordable' plan..." which assists homeowners in obtaining loan modifications.

Donovan stressed that, "all of these initiatives are predicated on restoring HUD's bedrock commitment to building and preserving affordable housing nationwide. ... Each of these efforts is based on our shared belief that if there isn't equal access to safe, affordable housing, there isn't equal opportunity. ... The truth is when you choose a home, you also choose the schools your child attends, you choose transportation to work. You choose a community."

Donovan described the "Sustainable Communities Initiative" as an effort to combine these factors. This initiative encourages cities to develop integrated housing, land use and transportation plans.

"Today, families spend nearly 60 percent of their budgets on housing and transportation costs. That's not only unacceptable — during an economic downturn, it's unsustainable. And so, the goal of this initiative is to articulate a vision for growth tailored to specific metropolitan markets that federal housing, transportation, and other federal

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Bedbug problems have increased in Seattle, King County

By SHA STAFF

Bedbugs are tiny insects that live in mattresses and furniture. They come out at night and bite humans, then run back to their hiding places before dawn.

Unfortunately, there has been a major increase in bedbugs across the United States in the last ten years. In the past, powerful pesticides such as DDT were effective in poisoning them. But DDT caused harm to people and other animals, so it is not used anymore. Bedbugs are once again becoming a problem.

The problem has gotten so bad that the

Environmental Protection Agency and HUD held a conference about a month ago to address the issue. Bill Petersen, Seattle Housing Authority's pest control expert, attended the conference.

Bedbugs can enter your home in lots of different ways. If you have been traveling to other parts of the world, they can hitch a ride in your suitcase and then crawl out when you get home. They could also come from guests in your home or apartment. Another way to get bedbugs is by bringing in mattresses or furniture that you have found on the street. Often, the reason that people have thrown these things away is that they have bedbugs

in them and they are trying to get them out of their home.

Bedbugs are not known to carry diseases. But some people are allergic to their bites, and find red itchy spots on their skin if they are bitten.

Seattle Housing has begun to see more problems with bedbugs. According to Petersen, it has become a widespread problem in Seattle. Even if you are an excellent housekeeper, you can have bedbugs in your house. Other rental apartments, private homes and even fancy hotels are having problems with

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Health Notes

A column devoted to your well-being

Regular blood-pressure checks can save your life

BY PAM MCGAFFIN
Special to The Voice

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, has been called the “silent killer.” Without symptoms, it can severely damage arteries and organs and lead to heart attack and stroke.

Only in severe cases, does hypertension carry warning signs – fatigue, confusion, changes in skin color – which is why healthy adults should have their blood pressure checked every one to two years, says the Healthy Aging Partnership (HAP).

HAP, a coalition of 40 Puget Sound area not-for-profit organizations dedicated to the health and well-being of older adults, recommends more frequent checkups for those with risk factors for heart or blood-vessel disease.

Risk factors include: high blood pressure in the past; smoking; being overweight; diabetes; age (45 and older for men; 55 and older for women); and a family history of coronary artery disease and/or early fatal heart attacks.

Blood pressure tests measure the force of your blood against the walls of your arteries. With high blood pressure, that force is too strong and usually means the arteries have been narrowed by a build-up of plaque.

A blood-pressure reading consists of two numbers. The systolic, or top number, measures the pressure when your heart has just finished pumping blood into your arteries. The diastolic, or bottom number, is the pressure between beats when the heart is relaxed.

So what is high? A reading of 140 or above (systolic) and 90 or above (diastolic) is considered high. Prehypertension is now defined as 120 to 139 (systolic) and 80 to 89 (diastolic).

These new, more stringent national guidelines are based on research that shows the risk of heart disease and stroke increases at lower blood-pressure levels

than previously thought.

Here are some tips from HAP to prevent the silent killer from sneaking up on you:

- Free blood pressure checks are provided at some public health centers, senior centers and through local screening programs. To find out about services in your area call HAP’s free and confidential help line at 1-888-4ELDERS (1-888-435-3377).

- Blood pressure readings from automated testing devices, like those found in stores and pharmacies, may be unreliable and need to be confirmed by a doctor or health professional. A diagnosis of high blood pressure typically requires three or more high readings on successive doctor’s visits.

- Lifestyle choices can lower your risk. Maintain a healthy weight, stop smoking, exercise, limit alcohol, cut back on salt and processed foods, and eat more fruits, vegetables and whole grains.

- Find ways to manage or reduce stress, including deep breathing, yoga or walking.

- In addition to lifestyle and behavior changes, doctors may recommend that patients with hypertension take medications to lower their blood pressure and use a home blood pressure monitor to keep track of their progress.

- Know the warning signs of heart attack and stroke. Call 911 immediately if you experience a sudden, severe headache, chest pain, weakness or paralysis in your face or limbs or other symptoms.

- Visiting Nurse Services of the Northwest provides home monitoring programs that give patients more control over their own health and help them remain independent for as long as possible. Telehealth devices record vital signs, including blood pressure, and send them over phone lines to a registered nurse on duty. The Lifeline program connects residents to a 24-hour emergency monitoring system via the push of a button on a wrist band or pendant.

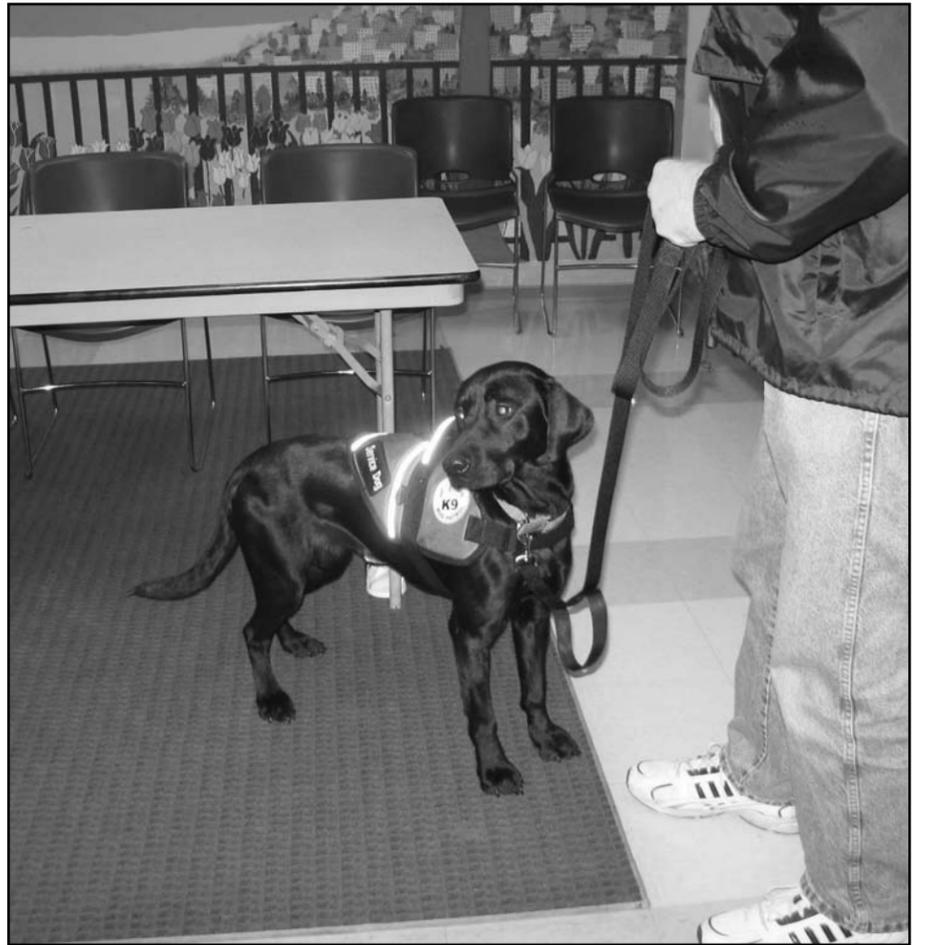


PHOTO BY CLAIRE MCDANIEL

Taylor, the 1 ½ year old Lab, gives a demonstration of his bedbug seeking skills at Denny Terrace at a resident meeting.

“Bugsy” to the rescue!

Bedbug dog helps eradicate pests

BY CLAIRE MCDANIEL
Seattle Housing Authority

There’s a new solution to controlling bedbugs at Denny Terrace and she goes by the nickname of “Bugsy.” The 1 ½ year old black Labrador Retriever’s name is actually Taylor. Taylor was given a reprieve from doggie death row at a Kentucky animal shelter.

After 600 hours of training in Florida by famous Master Dog Trainer, Bill Whistine, she was ready to go to work. Whistine has over 15 years experience training bomb, arson and drug detecting dogs and has been featured on the Animal Planet

and Discovery TV Channels.

In the past, chemicals had been used to fight bedbugs in SHA buildings. They proved to be ineffective and had to be used six or seven times to produce results. SHA researched new technologies and discovered the “bedbug dogs.”

These dogs are so effective that it takes only one or two visits to produce the desired results — eliminating bedbugs. Every unit can be inspected and the resident only needs to leave the unit for about 5 minutes while the dog works. There’s no more guess work because the dog has the ability to pin point the location of the pests.

Denny Terrace residents gathered to watch a unique demonstration at a meeting in their building on a cold April

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Bedbugs

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them!

To take care of these problems, Seattle Housing is treating for bedbugs in several ways. A bedbug-sniffing dog has been added to the Housing Authority “staff.” (See related story on Page 3.) Once the dog identifies places where bedbugs are hiding, the problem is treated with substances such as Cedar Oil and diatomaceous earth or with special heating equipment which raises the temperature in the room to kill them.

According to Petersen, the heating equipment is very effective, except when an apartment is too cluttered. If there are lots of places for the little bugs to hide, then the heat can’t always reach them. People’s apartments are often small, and it is difficult to let go of prized possessions. However, if there are boxes of papers, clothing, knickknacks or other possessions that cannot easily be moved or dusted around, then bedbugs will go deep into those boxes or piles to avoid the heat.

Seattle Housing Authority will continue to work with residents to solve these problems. Please let your manager know if you suspect you may have bedbugs in your apartment.

What can you do to prevent bedbugs?

- If you notice red itchy spots on your body, look for the cause of them. If you find bedbugs, be sure to let your property manager know about them.

- Don’t give bedbugs easy places to hide. Remove piles or boxes of stuff from your apartment so that it is not too cluttered. If you have too much stuff, consider giving it away or going in with some neighbors to rent a storage unit.

- If you discover bedbugs in your mattress, do not try to remove it yourself. Let Seattle Housing staff help you by bagging it up in plastic so that bedbugs are not distributed to other apartments.

- Do not bring in furniture that you find on the street or in the dumpster.

- Be cautious about allowing guests to bring suitcases or backpacks into your apartment. Give them large plastic bags to store their luggage in. Sometimes when people have been traveling around the country or staying in homeless shelters, their backpacks can provide a home to bedbugs.

Program offers discounts on prescriptions for Washington residents

Washington state residents—particularly those without access to health insurance, are advised of a program that offers discounts on prescriptions.

The Washington Prescription Drug Program (WPDP) Discount Card is a free program sponsored by the Washington State Health Care Authority.

All Washington State residents are eligible to enroll — there is no income or age criteria.

The WPDP is part of an interstate agreement with the Oregon Prescription Drug Program (OPDP) Discount Card.

Together, the programs have enrolled over 250,000 people. Washington enrollees alone have saved nearly \$8 million since the program began in February of 2007, with an average savings of \$19 per prescription.

Most prescriptions — about 84 percent — are filled with generic drugs.

More information is available online at www.rx.wa.gov, or by calling 206-521-2027.

The Voice

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The Voice, the newspaper of Neighborhood House, is published monthly with the support of Seattle Housing Authority 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. The Voice is published online at www.nhwa.org and at www.seattlehousing.org.

A picnic in the park



PHOTO BY AMBER SHEEN

Neighborhood House's Cecilia Manyari (left), Maria Torres (center) and Eduardo Hernandez pose for a photograph at the Neighborhood House Early Head Start Picnic. For more information on Neighborhood House Head Start, call 206-461-8430, Ext. 247. For Early Head Start, call 206-760-9330 Ext. 10.

Be safe

Seattle's Night Out against crime

BY SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

Every summer, Night Out is the first Tuesday in August.

In Seattle, Night Out has been wildly successful. Over 1,000 groups registered with the Seattle Police Department in 2008.

The idea of Night Out is simple – it's a chance to organize your building or residential block, have fun and get to know your neighbors. Statistics show that neighborhood crime is lower in areas where folks know and care for each other.

Some Night Out groups gather in common areas. For example, The International District/Chinatown has organized Night Out venues at the Panama Hotel, Hing Hay Park, and the International Children's Park.

In some of Seattle's residential areas, neighbors receive city permission to close down a street for a gathering. Many of Seattle's Night Out events are organized by Block Watch groups.

Block Watch is a proven crime prevention tool. Their job is to be the "eyes and ears" of the neighborhood and report crime or suspicious activity to Seattle Police. Block Watch members learn lead-

ership, witness and report skills from SPD Crime Prevention Coordinators.

In Seattle Housing Authority high-rise properties, SHA Community Builders assist residents to organize events and activities. Night Out is one of the events during the year when residents, building management, service providers, and Seattle Police can come together and build more awareness about preventing crime.

For some Night Out groups, food is key. Food is the great organizing tool. Who would turn down an opportunity to attend an event to sample local cuisine contributed by neighbors?

Be on the lookout for notices about your local Night Out event and join in. If you would like additional information on forming a Night Out event, go to the Web site www.seattle.gov/police/nightout.

The Night Out message is that connecting with your neighbors is a key crime prevention strategy. Work on safety issues together.

Allan Davis (323-7094 and Kelly McKinney (323-7084) are Community Education Coordinators for Seattle Neighborhood Group. Call for crime prevention information or schedule "Be Safe" presentations.

School supplies available

Having trouble paying for school supplies? Here are a few opportunities to get backpacks, jackets, and other classroom essentials for your family.

- People's Institutional Baptist Church, located at 159 24th Ave., is having an Educational Resource Fair from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, August 8. Books, jackets, backpacks, school supplies and other parenting tools will be provided for families with school-age children. You must register online

in advance at www.edrsf.org.

- R.O.A.R. is making appointments with families and caregivers to provide backpacks and school supplies. Appointments are available until Thursday, August 13. Your family must live within Seattle city limits, and one person in your family must have a job or be receiving Social Security. Call 206-634-1977, Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to make an appointment.



One to grow on

Garden tips for community gardeners

By hand, blade, or even flame, get at those pesky weeds

BY ANZA MUENCHOW
Special to The Voice

Why does it seem that the weeds grow faster than the desired row crops we plant?

How much weeding can one gardener accomplish in a single summer?

The organic gardener (who doesn't even consider using herbicides) has many strategies for managing the weeds. The weeds would win because of their sheer number alone, except that the organic farmer can plan ahead. Using your knowledge of the natural sciences will keep you, the gardener, on top of the game.

One of the first things I learned about farming, especially in a new area that has great weed pressure, is to start the plants in trays in a greenhouse and then transplant seedlings into a carefully prepared (and weed-free) bed. At least the seedlings have a chance to grow before the multitude of weed seeds germinate.

Set the seedlings much closer than the seed package recommends and this will crowd out weeds, especially for lettuces and Brassicas. You can eat some of the little plants as you thin them, leaving some to grow larger.

Use lots of weed-free mulches wherever you can get them. Aged manure or some llama doo will add some nitrogen to your garden as well. Mostly, gardeners try to collect free mulch and recycle organic products.

I usually have some leaf mold around from raking up all those fall leaves. I keep the leaves covered or in plastic leaf bags during the off-season. The certified organic Cedar Grove Compost is a good product, always weed-free. A three-inch layer of this will stop many of the pesky annual weeds.

If your garden weeds are perennials, very tough in nature and invasive, consider covering with cardboard or several thicknesses of newspaper before layering on the compost. This is called "sheet mulching." If you plan to start gardening a new area next year, try sheet mulching the ground now. By next spring the soil will have fewer weeds and be much richer.

As for other methods of weed control,

let's look at the mechanical removal of different weeds. Many gardeners till the soil, which works for most annual weeds but can cause problems with perennial weeds that propagate by their roots.

Tilling Canada thistle or crab grass is not advised. Forging these out is the best plan. You can explore the many different hand removal techniques.

There are wheel hoes (for between long rows) and hand hoes. I use my Japanese style hori hori, which looks like a long thick knife. It can scrape the surface with the toothed side and yet it can dig deep to get the dock or dandelion roots out. The hori hori never breaks.

There are some annual weeds and grasses you can scrape off the surface of the soil and there are those that need to get more of the roots out, too. You'll learn the major weeds in your area. Be sure to remove annual weeds before they set seed, which is happening now.

So get up early, before the day gets hot, take a strong cup of coffee to fortify you and get at those weeds.

Start in a relaxing way, then build up speed and proficiency, training your body into the physical routine. You'll be done before you know it, for that bed anyway.

Some organic gardeners use flaming to control weeds. I've only used the "dragon" technique in stone paths or patios. One carrot farmer described how she uses flaming because carrot seed germinates so slowly in the spring.

If you time it just right, you can flame the early weed sprouts before the carrot seed comes up. That early carrot weeding is so tough, I am tempted to try it sometime.

The main strategy is to keep your soil covered, with mulch or with plants. Try your best to not water the weeds. Using a drip system (not overhead sprinklers) can allow you to put the water just where you want it, not in the paths. Prevent the weeds from getting any light or water and you'll stay ahead of the game.

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.

Bugsy

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morning.

Bill Petersen, Pest Control and Grounds field supervisor, has been assigned to be the dog's handler. Petersen brought in Taylor to demonstrate how she works.

First Petersen said, "There is a lot of misinformation floating around about bedbugs. They do not transmit diseases but they will bite you and feed on your blood."

He then cautioned the crowd that, because she is a young dog and usually works with few people around, Taylor is easily distracted. His advice was to be as quiet as possible while she was working. Taylor wore her blue vest that identified her as a working SHA dog.

Petersen brought her around the room on the leash commanding her to "seek" until she came across the tightly sealed glass jar of bedbugs that he had hidden under

the table. When she got to the bugs, she sat down to signal that she had spotted her target. Taylor then got a treat and a pat on the head for a job well done.

Denny Terrace resident Judy Frank thinks Taylor is beautiful.

"I'm so glad she's come to help us. We've been fighting a losing battle here," she said.

In each unit where bedbugs are found, the ThermaPure Heat treatment is used to kill them. It involves cranking the temperature up to 130 degrees for 3 to 5 hours to "cook" the bedbugs and kill them. This method has been used in various hotels around the country in places such as Las Vegas.

The dog will come back regularly to verify that the bugs are gone.

After the demonstration, Denny Terrace resident Anne Marie Burks said, "I think the dog is wonderful and I'm glad she's going to do this for us!"

Our Voices: Assaye Abunie, Amharic translator, youth mentor

By TYLER ROUSH
The Voice Editor

Assaye Abunie is a father, a tech-savvy businessman, a community leader, a mentor and a media mogul. All of that, and he still finds time to do the Amharic translation for The Voice each month.

Assaye started with The Voice three years ago. An elder member of the Ethiopian Community Mutual Association contacted Assaye about problems with The Voice's Amharic translation.

"He showed me how it was written," said Assaye, who noted a number of errors and poor writing in the translation.

"Interpretation has to have meaning," he added.

He contacted then-editor Stacy Schwandt, who hired him to do the Amharic translation. It's a job for which he's well suited — his business, Ethio Digital & IT Services (EDITS) which is located at 2301 S. Jackson Street Suite 101F Seattle, WA offers a translation service of its own.

EDITS is a multi-service agency with a technology emphasis and a focus on project development. It's how he makes his living.

How he makes a difference is through the Multimedia Resources and Training Institute (MMRTI), a program that trains young people in multimedia and technology.

Perhaps the most significant arm of the institute is the Ethio Youth Media TV Program, which trains youth in broadcast journalism.

"We teach them how to be journalists—how to be reporters in their community," Assaye said.

The end result is a weekly television program produced and directed by young people. It airs on the Seattle Cable Access Network (SCAN) Sundays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. and Mondays from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Ethio Youth Media TV recently held a youth conference and recognition night, celebrating its third year. Thirty-five certificates were distributed to youth who had participated in the program since its inception in 2006.

He's recently begun work with the City of Seattle's youth

To learn more about EDITS or Ethio Youth Media TV, contact Assaye Abunie at 206-838-6359.



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Assaye Abunie (left) with students in his mentorship program: Adriana Fernandez, Deelauna White, Zachary Dong and Jonathan Williams.

employment program. Four of his students were at work in his office on a recent afternoon.

"We're doing a project on gang violence," Deelauna White said. "We're interviewing people and asking them what we think they should do to help keep kids out of the streets."

He said he works with youth because too often they don't receive the support they need to thrive. Even worse, the children of immigrants often find themselves in between two cultures, confused about their own identities.

"They're caught between two worlds," he said.

But because immigrant and refugee families face so many challenges just in everyday life, it's difficult to give youth the attention they deserve.

"For us, it's hard," said Assaye, a father of three. "The kids need the biggest attention here."

He acknowledges that youth violence, gang activity and a lack of HIV/AIDS awareness have been problems for not only the Ethiopian community, but many immigrant com-

munities in the area.

And while there are a number of organizations that serve the Ethiopian community, "we have to work together to build one big community center where everyone comes to share information, socialize with each other, and have fun."

He hopes that improved communication will lead to fewer duplicated efforts among service providers.

To that end, he is working on a new project, the Multimedia Resources and Training Institute Enabling Communities (MMRTIEC), which has a target completion date in the fall of 2009.

While his area of emphasis is within the Ethiopian community, Assaye has aspired to reach across cultures. He said his goal is "to share with other communities that whoever comes here, we are open.

"It's just like The Voice — anyone can come and tell stories."

Artist

Continued from front page

hours of work each day. Because strangers are especially intimidating to an autistic child, Yvonne rarely saw friends, and couldn't have guests come to the house.

And for more than two years, he quit speaking entirely — a difficult turn for a child whose first word, Yvonne said, was a perfectly articulated "cracker."

Finally, at three and a half, Adam began to talk again. At four, he finished his first painting.

Now 11, Adam practices art daily, his style and subjects

crossing a broad spectrum. There are drawings of landscapes. Of superheroes. Of rock concerts.

The family has a live-work unit in KCHA's Greenbridge neighborhood, where many of his pieces are on display in their gallery.

There's not one specific thing about art that Adam can single out as his favorite.

"I don't have a favorite — I like it all," Adam said. "I like the utensils; I like the pictures I draw; I like the backgrounds; I like the foregrounds."

Not limited just to art, Adam also enjoys acting and playing music. He has a synthesizer and a drum set at home.

His art is starting to catch on in the local arts community. In June he entered three pieces in the Normandy Park Arts Festival.

"Draft Punk," a digital creation using Paint that depicts a robotic music duo in concert, won first prize in Adam's age group. (French duo Daft Punk, with a slightly different spelling, were the inspiration behind the piece.)

Adam collected a \$10 prize, and later sold a copy of "Draft Punk" at the arts festival.

The next arts event on his calendar is the Normandy Park Arts Commission's Christmas festival.

In the meantime, Yvonne hopes to open up her Greenbridge studio to other disabled artists. Yvonne's mother, a disabled artist, already uses the space periodically. Her goal is to have other artists try out the space once a week while operating the gallery.

The gallery, located at 9839 Eighth Ave S.W., Suite 201, is currently open for limited hours Wednesday through Friday, with hours posted.

If Adam is there in the gallery, chances are he's working on his next masterpiece. "His inventiveness, his creativity — all the work it's taken to get here, it's really paid off with where he is day," Yvonne said.



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

"Draft Punk" (above) won Adam Auxier a first-place ribbon at the Normandy Park Arts Festival. Much of Adam's art has a humorous quality to it. The piece at right appears to depict a large flower. But rotate this page 90 degrees to the left and it becomes something else — a man with a leafy tail.



Dance 'til dusk with Seattle Parks and Rec

Lots of fun things are happening in Center City parks this summer, including the Dancing 'til Dusk program, which features live music and free dance instruction at Occidental and Freeway parks every Thursday evening through Labor Day.

Each session begins with a free dance lesson from 6–7 p.m. in the dance style chosen for that evening. Lessons start at a rudimentary level and build in complexity over the hour. Be on time to get the most out of the lesson. Lessons do not require a partner or previous experience.

Walk, take the bus, ride your bike or hop on the light rail. If you drive, parking is available on the street or in lots close by. Meters are free after 6 p.m.

Aug. 6 — Maia Santell and House Blend, swing (East and West Coast) and blues in Freeway Park, including blues lesson with Ari Levitt from 6–7 p.m.

Aug. 13 — Tumbao, salsa and Latin in Freeway Park, including salsa lesson with Jodi Fleischman from 6–7 p.m.

Aug. 20 — Steve Rice Orchestra, waltz, swing, foxtrot, polka and more in Freeway Park, including waltz lesson with Lilli Ann Carey and Jamie Shamseldin from 6–7 p.m. (This is a Ball Blanc, so wear something white — T-shirts to tuxedos, shorts to ball gowns.)

Aug. 27 — DJ Gatorboy, Louisiana night in Occidental Park, including Zydeco basics lesson with Sean Donovan and Lilli Ann Carey from 6–7 p.m.

Sept. 3 — KGB, waltz, swing, foxtrot, polka and more in Occidental Park, including waltz lesson with Lilli Ann Carey and Jamie Shamseldin from 6–7 p.m. (Also a Ball Blanc, so wear white — be it a T-shirt or tuxedo.)

The dance will be followed by an outdoor presentation of "Shall We Dance," the RKO movie production with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Bring a blanket or chair and something to keep you warm!

LINK light rail is here!

By **JIM BUSH**
SHA Resident

After several years of construction (including the complete rebuilding of Martin Luther King Way), Seattle has entered a new era of public transportation, joining many other cities in having light-rail service.

People have some questions about the new service:

Where does LINK go? It currently operates between Downtown Seattle and the Tukwila International Boulevard Station (north of the airport, which will get service later this year), with at least ten stops along the route.

Where can I catch LINK? You can board a LINK train at any of the following locations:

- The Downtown Tunnel (all stations except Convention Place)
- The Stadium Station, at Royal Brougham Way
- The SoDo Station at S. Lander Street
- Beacon Hill Station (under Beacon Hill at 15th and Lander)
- Mt. Baker Station (near the QFC and Rite Aid stores)
- Columbia City Station (MLK and South Edmunds)
- Othello Street Station (MLK and South Othello)
- Rainier Beach Station (MLK and South Henderson)
- Tukwila/International Boulevard Station

How Much does it cost to ride LINK? The amount you pay depends on how far you travel. Details are on the Sound Transit Web site (www.soundtransit.org) or by calling 1-800-201-4900 (TTD relay: 711).

How accessible is LINK? LINK is totally accessible to persons with disabilities. All stations in the downtown tunnel have elevators, as do the Beacon Hill, Mt. Baker and Tukwila/International Boulevard stations. The Sta-



PHOTO BY CLAIRE MCDANIEL

Sound Transit representative Jennifer Dice (left) answers a rider's questions at the new Columbia City Link light-rail station.

dium, SODO, Columbia City, Othello and Rainier Beach stations are street-level and have ramps to their boarding platforms.

All trains are "level-boarding" and have at least four spaces for wheelchairs or scooters.

All boarding platforms have visual and tactile warning strips at their edges and you'll be able to hear a train com-

ing (they have electronic warning bells).

Inside the trains, there is a recorded announcement indicating the next stop for that train and which doors will open upon arrival (each train has doors on both sides).

It should be noted there is a bit of a gap between the platform edge and the inside of the train cars.

Housing

Continued from front page

investments can support. "

Donovan also described the "Choice Neighborhoods Initiative." This program, which has some similarities to the HOPE VI program, would broaden the scope of redevelopment to include schools, child care, health care, public transportation and retail businesses.

Donovan noted that, "At the core of all of these ideas is the same concept: Planning communities in a more integrated, sustainable and inclusive way isn't separate from advancing economic opportunity for the families we're trying to reach - it's absolutely essential."

In addition to outlining these new initiatives, Donovan stressed the need for transformation at HUD itself.

"Too often, HUD hasn't been a catalyst for change, but a barrier to it. "

(The complete text of Donovan's address is available in the News and Reports section of www.seattlehousing.org.)

Katz outlines five elements of national housing policy

Bruce Katz followed Donovan with an address entitled "A New Generation of Federal Housing Policy." Katz is a Vice President at the Brookings Institution and founding Director of the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program.

Katz provided details on Donovan's vision, outlining five central elements of emerging national policy:

- The restoration of sanity, transparency, and fundamentals to mortgage finance and the process of home buying and homeownership
- A return to balance in housing policy, with attention and leadership and resources

dedicated to making rental housing affordable in safe, quality communities

- The use of housing policy to advance communities of choice — where families can live close to decent schools, quality retail and decent amenities

- The positioning of housing as a vehicle for energy efficiency at the building scale, and sustainable, transit friendly growth at the metropolitan scale

- The renewal and transformation of HUD itself — to both lead and support the national response.

His address outlined specifics of how the proposed HUD budget represents "a return to federal leadership on rental housing. The budget will, for the first time, capitalize an Affordable Housing Trust with \$1 billion. The Affordable Housing Trust Fund represents the first major federal housing production program since the creation of the HOME program in 1990."

Katz also spoke to the need for transformation and reform at HUD — "In television terms, an extreme makeover." He asserted that, "Externally, the agency acts as either an enforcer or a passive investor rather than an active partner."

He also called for examining the sustainability of HUD's budget, 75 percent of which is dedicated to renewing Section 8 rental subsidies and maintaining public housing.

"In many respects, HUD has become a Department of Renewals and Maintenance and has ceased to be an effective player in addressing the rising challenge of housing un-affordability and newer energy and environmental imperatives," Katz said. "Something has to give."

(The complete text of Katz' address is available in the News and Reports section of www.seattlehousing.org.)

Tips to stay cool in hot weather

Skyrocketing temperatures in the last week in July have put local health officials on high-alert for heat-related medical problems. Heat can lead to serious medical problems, particularly for older adults, young children, people with chronic illness, and people with weight or alcohol problems.

The Voice printed a similar article in its July issue. With temperatures in the 90s persisting, this is a reminder about taking precautions in hot weather.

Protect yourself and your loved ones from heat exhaustion and heat stroke by following these recommendations:

Stay cool

- Cover windows that receive morning or afternoon sun.
- Dress in lightweight clothing.
- Check up on your elderly neighbors and relatives.

Drink liquids

- Drink plenty of water or non-alcoholic beverages. Alcoholic and/or caffeinated beverages may cause dehydration.
- Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink.

If you go outside

- Limit your direct exposure to the sun.
- Do not leave infants, children, people with mobility challenges and pets in a parked car, even with the windows rolled down.

- Avoid or reduce strenuous activity.
- Limit outdoor activity to morning and evening hours.
- Avoid sunburn. Use a sunscreen lotion with an SPF (sun protection factor) rating of 30 or better.
- Check with your physician if you are concerned about heat and the specific medications you are taking. Certain medications may increase sensitivity to the heat. Do not take salt tablets unless directed to by a physician.

Recognizing heat exhaustion and heat stroke

Overheating occurs when people's bodies are not able to cool themselves quickly enough and can lead to symptoms of heat exhaustion, including muscle cramps, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea and vomiting. If you notice someone with signs of overheating, move the person to a cooler location, have them rest for a few minutes and slowly drink a cool beverage. Seek medical attention for them immediately if they do not feel better.

In severe instances, people can suffer heat stroke, which can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not provided. Symptoms of heat stroke include:

- an extremely high body temperature (above 103°F)
- red, hot, and dry skin
- rapid, strong pulse
- nausea, confusion and unconsciousness



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

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TRANSLATIONS

TRANSLATED ARTICLES FROM THE VOICE

Bedbug problems have increased የትኩረት ችግር መጨመር ትኩረት ትንሽ ነፍሳት የሆኑ በአልጋና በቁሳቁስ የሚኖር ነው። ማታ በመውጣት ሰውን በመንከሰና ጎረቤቱን ቀንኮሎ ከመምጣቱ በፊት ተመልሰው ወደ ምሽጋቸው ይገባሉ።

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የሚያሳክክ ቀይ ምልክት ያሳያል። ትኩረትን ለመከላከል ምን ማድረግ ያስፈልግሃል? ቀይ የሚያሳክክ ምልክት በሰውነትህ ካየህ መንስኤው ምን እንደሆነ እውቅ። ትኩረት ካገኘህ ወዲያውኑ የቤቱን ማናጀር እንዲያውቅ አድርግ። ለትኩረት ምንም የመደበቂያ ቦታ አትሰጣቸው። የተጠራቀመ ወይም ብዙ እቃ የያዘ ሳጥን ካለ ከአፓርትመንትህ ውስጥ አውጣ። ካልጋህ ውስጥ ትኩረት ካገኘህ ከአስተዳደር ቢሮ አንድ ሰው ተናግረህ ፍራሹን እንዲያወጡልህ አድርግ። መንገድ ላይ ወይም ቆሻሻ መጣያ ውስጥ ያገኘህውን የቤት ቁሳቁስ ወደቤትህ አታምጣ። እንግዳ ወደቤት ሲመጣ ሻንጣ ወይም የእቃ መያዣቸውን ተጠንቀቅ። ትልቅ የፕላስቲክ ባግ ለእቃቸው ማስቀማጫ ሰጣቸው።

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ይንድርን ። ንትኩረት ከመይ ጌርካ ትከላኸሎም

- አብ ሰውነትካ ቅይሕ ነድሪ ምስእትርኢ መንቀለኡ እንታይ ምኽኑ ፍለጥ። ትኩረት ምኽኑ አንተድኣ አረጋጊጽካ ተቐላጢፍካ ንማናጀርካ ትሕብርኪ
- መሕብኢ ቦታ አትፍጠረሎም ጋዕገልጠም አብ ገዛኻ ደራራብካ አይትኹምር
- አብ ፍርናሽ ትኩረት ምስትረክብ ንማናጀር ሓብሮ መታን ክድርብይዎ ። አብ ጉሓፍን ተደርብዩ ዝጸንሓካ አቅሑት ቤት ን ገዛኻ አይትምጽእ ኢጋይሽ አብ ገዛኻ ክመጹ ከለዉ ነቲ ሓዞምም ዝመጹ ባልጃን ሳንዱቅን ተግዘቦ ብጥንቃቄ።

Bedbug problem have increased **ጭንቀት፡፡ ጭንቀት፡፡ ጭንቀት፡፡ ጭንቀት፡፡ ጭንቀት፡፡** ሌላው መንገድ ደግሞ ከመንገድ ዳር ያገኛቸው አልጋ ወይም ቁሳቁስ ሌላው መንገድ ነው።

ትኩረት በሽታን እንደማያገንዙ የታወቀ ነው። አንዳንድ ሰዎች ግን ሲነደፉ ሰውነታቸው ለውጥ ያመጣል። በተነደፉ ጊዜ ሰነታቸው

Bedbugs Постельные клопы – это крохотные насекомые, которые живут в матрацах и в мебели. Они выползают по ночам и кусают людей, а потом перед рассветом снова прячутся в свои укромные места.

Клопы могут попасть в ваш дом разными путями. Если вы путешествовали в другие страны, они могли проехаться с вашим багажом, а потом выползти, когда вы приехали домой. Они могут также появиться от гостей вашего дома или квартиры. Другая большая проблема с клопами возникает, если вы приносите в дом матрасы или мебель, которые нашли на улице. Постельные клопы, насколько известно, не являются переносчиками болезней. Но некоторые люди аллергичны к укусам клопов и обнаруживают красные зудящие пятна на коже в местах укусов. Что вы можете сделать для предупреждения появления клопов?

- Если вы заметите красные зудящие пятна на теле, поищите их причину. Если вы обнаружите клопов, обязательно сообщите об этом управляющему вашего дома.
- Не создавайте для клопов места для укрытия. Уберите кучи коробок, вещей из квартиры, чтобы не было загромождений.
- Если вы обнаружите клопов в своём матрасе, скажите об этом управляющему, чтобы кто-нибудь помог вам вынести матрас.
- Не заносите в дом мебель, которую вы нашли на улице или в мусорном ящике.
- Будьте осторожны, позволяя своим гостям приносить чемоданы или рюкзаки в свою квартиру. Давайте им большие пластиковые мешки, чтобы они положили в них свой багаж.

ጭንቀት፡፡ ጭንቀት፡፡ ጭንቀት፡፡ ጭንቀት፡፡ ጭንቀት፡፡

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Quý vị phải làm thế nào để tránh nạn bị rệp

Nếu thấy có vết cắn đỏ trên cơ thể, hãy tìm nguyên do. Nếu biết có rệp, hãy thông báo cho ban quản lý biết.

Đừng để rệp có chỗ dễ dàng để ẩn nấp. Hãy liệng bỏ các thùng, các đóng giầy dày ngập trong căn nhà quý vị.

Nếu tìm thấy có rệp trong nệm, xin hãy báo ngay cho ban quản lý để họ vất bỏ nệm đó.

Đừng đem vô nhà các nệm, ghế nệm người ta đã liệng bỏ ở các thùng rác lớn

Hãy cảnh giác khi cho khách đến nhà với các hành lý, vali. Hãy đưa cho khách các bao nhựa lớn để gói các hành lý lại.

Dhibaatada kutaanka oo sii korodhay

Kutaanku waa cayayaan yar-yar oo gasha joodariyaasha iyo fadhiga. Habeenkii bay ka soo baxaan meesha ay maalintii isku qariyaan deedna qaniinaan dadka, intaan waagu beryinna ku noqdaan goobahoodii.

Kutaanku siyaabo kala gedisan oo badan ayuu ku imaan karaa gurigaaga. Sida hadii aad wadan kale aaddo, wuxuu ku soo dhuuman karaa boorsadaada, markaad guriga timaadona ka soo bixi kara. Sidoo kale haddii marti kuu timaaddo wuu soo raaci karaa ama haddaad firaash iyo kuraas aad dariiqa ka soo qaadatey.

Kutaanta laguma yaqaan cudur

fidin, balse dadka qaarbaa haddii ay qaniinto ku caarooda iskuna arka meelo gudguduudan oo jirka ka mid ah. Haddaba side looga hortagaa kutaanka?

- Haddii aad isku aragto meelo guduudan raadi sababta. Haddii aad hesho kutaantii, u sheeg maamulka guryaha.
- Ha u samayn meel kutaantu ku dhuumato. Bkisyadana iska tuur
- Haddii aad kutaan ku aragto firaashkaaga u sheeg maamulka si ay qof ugu soo diraan ka bixiya shuqdaada.
- Ha soo qaadan alaab bannaanka taalla
- Hana u ogolaan martidu inay boorsooyin la soo galaan gurigaaga. Hadday arintaas dhacdo, sii bac ay alaabta ku ritaan.

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.

Riding the Link
LIGHT RAIL OPENS
See Page 5



SHA NEWS

August
2009

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

Managers considering more smoke-free buildings

BY SCOTT FREUTEL
Seattle Housing Authority

Many housing authorities around the country are banning smoking in all Low Income Public Housing Buildings. Both King County Public Housing and the Housing Authority of Portland (Ore.) have recently made this move.

Seattle Housing Authority managers are discussing whether to make more Seattle Housing Authority buildings smoke-free.

One of the agency's public housing buildings, Tri-Court, is already smoke-free. This three-building, 86-unit development on North 143rd Street became smoke-free when it was renovated a few years back.

According to Bruce Garberding, a Seattle Housing senior property manager, Tri-Court is marketed as a nonsmoking building, and many people ask to move into the building for just that reason. Many people make this request because of lung and respiratory diseases.

"It's been a great success," he said of the complex's ban on smoking anywhere on its grounds. "I cannot remember the last time I had a report about a tenant or a guest smoking on the property."

Planners are considering whether Lake City Village, a community under development, should be smoke-free when it opens in late 2011.

And last month the agency's Seattle Senior Housing Program sent questionnaires to all its residents asking what they thought about making its 23 buildings smoke-free. The responses, which are due this month, will help determine whether that program moves to adopt a no-smoking policy in some or all of its buildings.

The Department of Housing and Urban

Please see Smoking on Page 4

Denny Terrace receives grant from City of Seattle for computer lab

BY CINDA LIUM
SHA Resident



PHOTO BY MARCIA JOHNSON

From left, Delia Burke, Program Advisor & Technology Matching Fund Manager, Denny Terrace resident Cinda Lium, Center Park residents Dorene Cornwell and Laura Harding, and David Keys, Community Technology Program Manager, are pictured at a recent meeting of Seattle's Energy & Technology Committee.

As a representative of Denny Terrace, I attended the City of Seattle Energy & Technology Committee meeting at the Seattle City Council chambers on July 15. The committee approved 19 technology projects for funding for the 2009-2010 Bill Wright Technology Matching Fund.

The Denny Terrace Computer Mini Lab Project is one of the projects that received funding. More than \$10,000 was awarded to start a computer lab at Denny Terrace.

The funding will help purchase the computers, printers, supplies and staff time to do this.

Denny Terrace residents have formed a Denny Terrace Computer Lab (DTCL) Committee, which will oversee and manage the lab. The residents will be matching the funding amount by donating volunteer hours valued at \$15 an hour by participating on the DTCL Committee, volunteering in the computer lab and helping develop a small technology resource center. The resident volunteers will supervise, monitor and offer problem-solving assistance in the lab.

The computer lab will be open ap-

Please see Technology on Page 4

Nickels announces partnership for 2010 Census

BY THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Census Day is April 1, 2010. To ensure a full count, communities across the country are organizing now. Mayor Greg Nickels has announced a partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau and the Seattle 2010 Complete Count Committee headed by former Mayor Norm Rice, former Seattle City Councilmember Martha Choe and Rogelio Riojas (president of SeaMar Community Health Centers).

"It's extremely important that everyone in our city is counted," said Mayor Nickels. "Seattle's Complete Count Committee will work with our community to raise awareness and understanding of the census and to make sure traditionally undercounted populations are represented."

"As one of the fastest growing communities, Hispanic people have a great deal at stake in ensuring that programs for Hispanic seniors, youth, and others are funded - from social services to job training," said Riojas. "Census means money and power for our community," he added. By law, funding for more than 170 government programs must be distributed according to Census counts.

The Census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution and conducted every 10 years. The Census also determines Congressional



PHOTO BY KENNY PITTMAN

Census staff and Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels pose for a photo at the 2010 Census Complete Count kickoff event in July

representation, electoral college counts, and is used to draw local school district and state legislative boundaries.

"We're pleased that the city of Seattle

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Get to know your RAC officers

The Resident Action Council held its elections in late June. The Voice staff submitted questionnaires to the officers and assembled the profiles you see below. To get in touch with your RAC officers, call 206-322-1297.

Name: Doug Morrison
Position: President
Place of residence: Ballard House
RAC member for: 10 years

What inspired you to run for RAC office? To be of service to my fellow SHA residents and give back what I received. By using my 30 years experience in the medical profession, I've been in a giving capacity, and I want to share that with people.



What are your goals as a RAC officer? I want to continue to develop positive communication between SHA residents and SHA staff. For a long time there's been that void where it's "them vs. us," or vice versa. We're beginning to knock those barriers down.

How should RAC serve its members? We should be available to everyone who is a resident of SHA. Our bylaws now say it — anyone who holds a lease. That includes people in Scattered Sites, Section 8, SSHP.

Name: Robert Jones
Position: Vice President
Place of residence: Olympic West
RAC member for: One and a half years

What inspired you to run for RAC office? I love where I live, and if I can do something to help the other folks that live here, and live in SHA buildings, I want to do that, because I believe in giving back.



What are your goals as a RAC officer? To do the best job I can and never forget that I represent the residents in the RAC buildings. And that when I go somewhere, representing RAC, I'm not just there representing myself — I'm also representing SHA and the RAC members, and other residents.

How should RAC serve its members? If somebody thinks that there's a way we can do things better, we need to listen to them, look at things and go from there. If we can incorporate it we will, and if we can't, we'll give the person who suggested it an honest reason why we can't.

Compiled by Tyler Roush and Jim Bush
Photos by Tom Keane

Name: J M (Jim) Bush
Position: Secretary
Place of residence: Center Park
RAC member for: 12 years, although I have lived in LIPH since 1977



own community and surrounding neighborhood) in which they live, as well as being able to participate in the governmental processes on the local, county, state and federal levels.

What inspired you to run for RAC office? I was recruited in 1997 by Wendy Galliard, a former VISTA worker for this organization, and became its elected Secretary in 1998 after the previous officer moved out of state.

What are your goals as a RAC officer? I think my goals as an officer with this organization are the same as they are for the other officers — to enable this entity to effectively reach out to our constituency (LIPH residents in SHA communities) and give them the tools needed to ensure they are able to exercise their rights as tenants and active members of the community (within their

How should RAC serve its members? By reaching out and involving them in the decision-making process where practical. We are doing this already by having our business meetings in various locations throughout the City of Seattle where practical. We are currently reviewing our bylaws to determine how to make them more responsive to the membership and hope to have any needed revisions adopted by the end of the year.

Name: Michael Hearte
Position: Treasurer
Place of residence: Olympic West
RAC member for: Four years



irregularities in that council's finances.

What inspired you to run for RAC office? To better help the residents of all SHA buildings by maintaining the financial integrity of RAC.

What are your goals as a RAC officer? To assure that RAC and all community councils maintain accurate and complete financial records. This includes the investigation and audit of any community council's financial records when a resident believes that there have been

How should RAC serve its members? Be active in the protection of the rights of the Residents as well as to activate the residents to participate in the representative government of the community councils and RAC in the protection of their rights. I strongly feel that the RAC must be more proactive in the everyday activities that SHA puts upon the residents as well as to enhance resident welfare and standard of living in the SHA communities.

Name: Lois Gruber
Position: Ombudsperson
Place of residence: Lake City House
RAC member for: Six years



not hindering us in our work together. I have a lot to learn in what this really means.

What inspired you to run for RAC office? I feel real strongly that when people work well together, it's not only more enjoyable, but our best efforts and talents take us farther in the direction we want to go. Antagonism and fighting really disturb me. I believe it can render any group of people ineffective.

What are your goals as a RAC officer? Helping every part of our resident-leader organizations work more effectively and enjoyably. The other goal is for me to become more skilled and

How should RAC serve its members? That's a question I've been asking, and as an executive committee, we've been asking. On that one, I would really like to know what the larger community wants and needs. I think that's the only place that answer can come from. One thing that's clear to me is we will be better off if we, all of us, make the bylaws of our councils more specific and useful as a tool in running and governing our communities.



Reader's viewpoint

Readers of *The Voice* share their ideas

Respite care at Jefferson Terrace requires considerations

Dear Editor,

My name is Dennis Bejin. I am a resident of Jefferson Terrace, which is a Seattle Housing Authority residential high-rise. I am also concerned about the "Medical Respite Plus" unit that is being planned for the seventh floor of our building.

I am currently the Facilitator for the "Jefferson Terrace Safety Club." In 2008 the Safety Club helped prevent the Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC) from taking over management of Jefferson Terrace. This being the case, I believe SHA would now like to eliminate the Safety Club and thus prevent important question from being asked.

In fact, however, I am much less concerned a medical respite plus unit in our building than I was about an entire takeover of our building. Further, I think such a unit would be a valuable contribution for people in need of additional help after being released from a hospital.

This being said, it doesn't mean certain questions shouldn't be asked. First, there is the question of whether SHA and "King County Public Health Department" are painting an accurate picture of what the medical respite "plus" unit actually represents?

Currently the picture being painted is that it's a place where the homeless, who are hospitalized and need follow-up care, can go to recuperate. This is a wonderful idea. The problem is it's not entirely accurate. The unit is called a medical respite "plus" unit. The "plus" means that 70 percent of the unit's population will have serious mental health

issues and or chemical dependency and behavioral problems. This is why safety and security is such a major factor and require question being asked.

While either a separate outside elevator or staircase is being planned, it remains to be seen whether this plan can be implemented.

Residents of Jefferson Terrace will be able to submit a complaint if there are problems between the two populations. However, there is no feedback mechanism directly to the "resident" who made the complaint. SHA management, not the resident will be notified of the resolution. I think this kind of secrecy only promotes problems.

Patients on the respite unit will be allowed to come and go and they will not be allowed to use illegal drugs on the unit. However, the area surrounding Jefferson Terrace is notorious for its illegal drug dealing. It means an easy fix and then a return to the unit for a relaxed evening. This is not what residents want.

The relocations of residents currently on the seventh floor of Jefferson Terrace must also take place. Good plans are in place, but whether these plans can be implemented remains to be seen.

No lease should be signed between SHA and the King County Public Health Department before these issues can be resolved and are put in writing. Until then I will continue to ask questions.

These opinions are mine and mine alone.

Sincerely,
Dennis Bejin

About The Voice

The Voice is a monthly newspaper published by Neighborhood House with financial support from Seattle Housing Authority and King County Housing Authority.

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 tyler@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

What are the obligations of SHA, resident councils to HUD regulations?

BY TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

Citing violations to HUD's code of federal regulations, SHA withdrew recognition from the Bell Tower resident council in late May.

The agency and the resident group are working to resolve the issues that SHA said prevented the council from serving as a duly-elected body. Meanwhile, the incident brings to light the complexities of the relationship between the housing authority and its various resident councils, and the code of federal regulations (CFR) that binds them both.

What is SHA recognition?

Being recognized as a duly-elected resident council by SHA means access to resident participation funds — money that helps to fund council operations.

Resident participation funds in 2008 amounted to approximately \$126,000. Sixty percent of the funds are allocated to resident councils in SHA buildings.

Per HUD's code of federal regulations, resident councils must be determined to be "duly-elected" to have access to a share of these funds.

In part, a duly-elected council must have open, fair elections, and follow its own by-laws, according to John Forsyth, SHA's community services administrator.

Resident councils do have the option not to access resident participation funds, Forsyth said.

But, he continued, "It's not our wish not to recognize them. It's our strong preference that they be recognized."

When it is determined that a council has not met the minimum requirements of a duly-elected council as outlined in the code of federal regulation, SHA's first step is to notify the council of what needs to be done to bring itself back into compliance with the CFR.

The CFRs bind not only resident councils, but SHA as well.

"If we don't withdraw recognition, we could be in violation of our own responsibilities with HUD," Forsyth said.

In the case of Bell Tower, recognition — and the resident participation funds that go with it — was withdrawn after it was determined that the council had compromised its duly-elected status, Forsyth said.

Council chairman Kenneth Jennings, elected to the Bell Tower resident council in April, challenged the notion that the council was not "duly-elected."

"The League of Women Voters supervised the vote we had here April 3," he said. "We had a good election, the highest turnout in the last 14 years."

The resident council and SHA staff have since been working to resolve the problem and restore recognition to the Bell Tower council.

"We're not trying to keep residents from being organized," Forsyth said. "It's very rare that we withdraw funds."

One floor of Jefferson Terrace to become medical respite facility

Grant of stimulus funds to local health department makes new use possible

BY SVEN KOEHLER
Seattle Housing Authority

Addressing homelessness in King County is a puzzle that many are working to solve. The Seattle Housing Authority and Public Health of Seattle and King County hope they have one piece of the puzzle. The two agencies are partnering to locate a medical respite care facility on the seventh floor of the Jefferson Terrace Apartments.

In June, the project was approved for an economic stimulus grant of \$375,000 through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"People don't automatically know what we do when they hear the word 'respite'" explained Heather Barr, a public health nurse who works with the program.

Medical respite care offers temporary housing for homeless people who need a safe place to heal after being treated and

discharged from local hospitals. Health care staff provides services daily to support recuperation for people who might otherwise never get well if they remain homeless.

Before the project is approved, SHA and Public Health staff met with residents of Jefferson Terrace for an informational meeting and question-and-answer session about the proposal.

Among their concerns, residents asked how security would be handled at the facility. Public Health's Janna Wilson explained that patients would be admitted through an elevator between the sixth and seventh floors.

That elevator, which would be constructed this fall, would open to the outside. Respite patients would not have access to the sixth-floor lobby area, and would not use the building's regular elevator, except in the case that a patient must be moved from the facility on a stretcher, Wilson said.

An alarm system and respite security staff would ensure that patients don't access the rest of Jefferson Terrace through the building's stairwell.

Residents also asked that a system be in place for Jefferson Terrace residents to file complaints and report problems about the respite unit. Wilson proposed a quarterly "respite roundtable" meeting, comprised

of Jefferson Terrace residents and SHA and respite staff. A system will be in place for residents to express day-to-day concerns, she added.

The Ten Year Plan

The respite care unit fits the mission of the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County, of which SHA is a member.

The Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness is a regional effort that addresses conditions that contribute to homelessness. Its goal is to increase the availability of affordable housing and coordinate the supportive services that help people remain housed and as healthy as possible.

"Providing a location for this kind of facility is one way that SHA can contribute to serving our community's homeless population as part of the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness," explained Tom Tierney, SHA's Executive Director.

The partnership is not looking to establish a full-blown medical facility at Jefferson Terrace. While in respite care, patients do not need intensive medical care and are well enough to get around on their own.

Nurses will help change dressings and

Please see Respite on Page 5

The homeWorks team stays together

SVEN KOEHLER
Seattle Housing Authority

It is too early to tell if it will be a tearful occasion as the construction workers from WG Clark say farewell to the homeWorks project. They will join residents and SHA staff at West Town View on August 11, marking the final Construction Completion Celebration of the original homeWorks project. WG Clark is a local Seattle construction company that served as the general contractor for the 5-year-long project spanning 22 Low Income Public Housing buildings.

In mid-July, Frank Burns, the homeWorks project manager, announced that WG Clark won a new round of competitive bidding to be the contractor for the renovation of Bell Tower.

"This company has a proven track record of working in our buildings with speed, quality and respect for residents, so we are pleased they are back for more construction using the successful homeWorks formula," Burns said.

Residents of Bell Tower could meet members of the WG Clark crew at the construction kick-off meeting at the building at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5.

Just as in the previous projects, homeWorks at Bell Tower will focus on protecting the building infrastructure. This will help ensure Bell Tower can serve as quality housing for those with low-incomes well into the future. The most noticeable changes from the outside will be a new exterior paint job and new windows. On the inside, residents will notice an improvement to the hot water supply and ventilation system, plus upgrades in the common areas.



PHOTO BY SVEN KOEHLER

WG Clark begins packing up and leaving West Town View, the last of the original 22 homeWorks buildings. They are heading to Bell Tower to start work in early August.

A difference between Bell Tower and most previous homeWorks buildings is that the work is being funded directly by the federal government instead of using the tax credit program. For residents (and staff) at Bell Tower, this means that there will be no tax credit paperwork to deal with.

Other funding comes from incentives to increase energy efficiency. Roxanne Navrides of SHA's construction group has worked with the City of Seattle Office of Housing to secure funds for insulation, new

lighting and thermostats for the apartments, and better heating in the common areas.

Reducing the environmental impact of the high-rise buildings is part of SHA's long-term asset management strategy. Looking into the future, DKA architects, another member of the original homeWorks team, is in the early stages of planning for eventual construction at Denny Terrace and Jefferson Terrace. The hope is that SHA could tap into federal funding for work that helps lower energy usage.

HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY



Diversity on display at High Point



PHOTOS BY TOM PHILLIPS

An estimated 300 people attended the High Point Diversity Festival, held in the High Point Commons Park July 4. Dancers from the High Point Samoan Assembly of God Church (left) performed during the event, which was organized by the High Point Neighborhood Association. High Point resident Cynthia Clouser helped lead event planning, with support from association trustees, Seattle Housing Authority and SHA Community Builder Genevieve Aguilar.

Technology

Continued from front page

proximately 12 hours per week. The other eligible matching sources will be \$600 from the community benefits funds, SHA staff time, and other donations such as supplies, equipment, printing, and other items that will count towards the match.

The Denny Terrace Computer Mini Lab Project will:

1. Increase technology literacy for low-income residents by providing a computer lab with internet access. The lab will provide opportunities for people to enhance their computer skills, work together, and have fun. People will be able to send and receive e-mails with friends, family, businesses, health providers and others. They will also be able to pay bills, shop, and receive coupons.

2. Provide residents opportunities to access vital resources such as social services, government benefits, health and wellness, housing resources and recreation programs.

3. Encourage residents to be involved in civic engagement activities and community and neigh-

STAR Center lab also receives award

The Center Park Resident Council received a City of Seattle technology grant through the Bill Wright Technology Matching Fund for the STAR Center computer lab.

Center Park residents Dorene Cornwell and Laura Harding attended the City of Seattle Energy & Technology Committee meeting July 15.

borhood events.

4. Increase self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life of the people living at Denny Terrace.

5. Encourage residents to participate in job-preparedness activities and employment and volunteer opportunities such as educational classes, resume writing, interviewing skills, and job and volunteer search.

To learn more about the Denny Terrace Computer Mini Lab Project, please contact me at 206-322-3291 or cindalu@ymail.com.

Solar panels top High Point Center



PHOTO BY TONY KUO

A worker installs a solar panel on the roof of the Neighborhood House High Point Center. Plans are in the works for a second array of solar panels, making the building 100 percent energy-neutral. To learn more, visit www.nhwa.org/solarpanel.

Smoking

Continued from front page

Development, which guides policies for public housing agencies across the country, last month issued a notice that "strongly encourages" public housing agencies to implement no-smoking policies in some or all of their public housing units.

The notice pointed out that over 112 public housing authorities and housing commissions across the country have already implemented no-smoking policies.

Some ban smoking altogether, some permit smoking in certain areas outside the building, and some permit residents to continue smoking until a designated date or the renewal of a lease.

The HUD notice points out that, according to the American Lung Association, cigarette smoking is the number one cause of preventable disease in the United States. Elderly and young people and people with chronic illnesses are especially vulnerable to the adverse effects of smoking.

Environmental tobacco smoke — what most of us call "second-hand smoke" — can migrate between units in multifamily

housing, causing respiratory illness, heart disease, cancer, and other adverse health effects in families who live with or near a smoker.

The Portland Experience

The experience of the Housing Authority of Portland in converting to all-nonsmoking units in the Housing Authority of Portland went pretty smoothly, according to Erik Fabian, a property manager in the Housing Authority of Portland's real estate operations division, thanks to a lot of consultation with residents.

The City of Portland hired a consultant in 2007 to analyze nonsmoking trends across the city. One of the consultant's findings was that both landlords and residents were demanding nonsmoking communities.

"We were kind of surprised and inspired by that," Fabian said recently, "and we wondered if the results would be mirrored in the Public Housing community."

Working with the county health department and the American Lung Association, the Housing Authority of Portland surveyed all its Public Housing residents. The response rate was 50 percent; of those who responded, about half wanted the agency

to move to a nonsmoking policy.

On a follow-up survey, a strong preference for bans on tenants' smoking in their units emerged — but, just as strongly, the people responding did not want to ban smoking everywhere on the grounds of public housing buildings. (In Oregon, smoking is prohibited within 10 feet of an occupied building; in Washington, the prohibition extends to 25 feet.)

Over the next year and a half, the Housing Authority of Portland worked closely with residents to develop a nonsmoking policy, according to Fabian.

Foremost among the concerns raised were the effects of second-hand smoke on employees and nonsmoking residents: it was noted that cigarette smoke is as dangerous as asbestos, and as likely to cause cancers.

Also discussed were the dangers of fires caused by careless smoking, damage to carpets and countertops from cigarettes, and the substantial costs of renovating a smoker's unit before renting it to a new tenant.

Once reasons for moving to a nonsmoking policy were set forth and agreed upon, the Housing Authority developed a plan to reach every one of its Public Housing residents. Agency executives and building

managers held meetings with tenants at every apartment complex.

Representatives from the county health department and the American Lung Association spoke at those meetings, and a 60-day comment period was opened.

According to Fabian, the comments that came in were all over the place.

"Some smokers, not many, protested the very idea of nonsmoking buildings, and even a few nonsmokers protested on the grounds that prohibiting smoking was an infringement of smokers' rights," he said. "We listened to their concerns and considered them carefully."

In the end, the Housing Authority of Portland moved to ban smoking in all its buildings. Tenants who smoke will be provided some time to quit, and are being referred to resources to help them quit smoking. For now, smoking will be allowed on some building grounds, but not near the buildings.

"Our whole policy was successful in part because in developing it we were not attacking smokers but instead smoking itself, based mainly on health grounds — and we worked from the beginning to get and listen to people's views," said Fabian.

RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

Columbia City celebrates light-rail opening

By CLAIRE McDANIEL
Seattle Housing Authority

The new Sound Transit Link Light Rail Columbia City Station is a welcoming presence in the center of Martin Luther King Jr. Way South between South Alaska Street and South Edmunds Street in Rainier Vista.

Riders may access the station from South Alaska or South Edmunds streets by crosswalk. The station includes public art, seating to make your wait for the next train more comfortable and bicycle parking so you can leave your car at home on sunny days.

As a train goes by you hear the ding, ding, ding of the warning bell. It sends a message to cars and pedestrians that it's approaching. The train then whooshes by. Quite a few riders are already using this new mode of transportation and there is excitement in the air.

Several friendly and knowledgeable Sound Transit people were available on this hot day in July soon after the grand opening. They are there to explain how to buy tickets, how to use the Orca card reader, and to answer any questions a new rider might have.



PHOTOS BY CLAIRE McDANIEL

A girl (top) waits for the train at the Columbia City Light Rail station, which is home to a unique art installation (above).



PHOTO BY CLAIRE McDANIEL

Riders fill the train car on the new Link light rail line that runs through Columbia City.

"People have been very positive, at Columbia City Station in particular. There have been lots of families, people with kids and strollers," said Jennifer Dice, a representative from Sound Transit.

One surprising bit of information from one of the Sound Transit Event Staff was that people working in downtown Seattle have been hopping on the train at the Westlake Station to have lunch in Columbia City. It seems they are "tired of their lunch options downtown."

They then take the train back to work. She said that "the Columbia City merchants have done a great job with flyers and promotions."

Hopping on the train and making a short

trip from the Columbia City Station to the Stadium Station and back, through a tunnel and up over the city on an overpass, was surprisingly smooth.

But, as can be expected, the bugs are still being worked out of the system. There was a six-minute delay coming back due to a door that wouldn't close all the way. Passengers were good-natured about it and the train was eventually on its way again.

While riding on the full-to-capacity train, a woman from Tukwila was going on her first ride into downtown Seattle. She's looking forward to eventually being able to go all the way to SeaTac Airport.

Next issue we'll have a report on Othello Station in NewHolly.

Summer meal programs at Rainier Vista



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Rainier Vista volunteers Kathy Smith (center) and Chris Smith serve a meal to a youngster at the Neighborhood House Rainier Vista Center, part of the noontime summer lunch program that serves free meals to youth. The program continues through Aug. 21, weekdays at noon at RVC.

A community kitchen program will begin with a community cooking event from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Aug. 10 at Rainier Vista Center. Each month, participants will learn new recipes and cook batches of food to share.

The cost is \$5 per person. Pre-register for the event by calling Neighborhood House Rainier Vista site manager Kate Farmer at 206-461-4568, Ext. 211, and bring a spice to donate and four Tupperware containers or freezer bags.

Respite

Continued from Page 3

give medicine. Staff is present around the clock to ensure well-being and security, and a doctor is on-call. Special services such as counseling and housing assistance are also available.

Jefferson Terrace, a Low Income Public Housing building in Seattle's First Hill neighborhood, offers a good fit for the proposed facility. Three major hospitals are just blocks away. The building's main entrance is directly across the street from Harborview Medical Center — a great advantage. Referrals to the facility would come from hospitals all around King County.

After regular meetings and updates since November 2008, the proposal enjoys support among current residents of the building. Many share the goal of ensuring that a temporary safe haven is available for the homeless to regain their health, and to have access to resources for seeking permanent housing somewhere else.

"The way I look at it, it is a positive thing. For me at age 70, if I didn't have my apartment here at Jefferson Terrace, I could see being in the position of having to use the services of the program myself," said Harry Williams, who has lived at the building for almost 10 years.

To accommodate the respite care facility, minor modifications are planned to the seventh floor of the 17-story Jefferson Terrace building. The studio apartments on this floor will be converted to semi-private rooms with one or two beds for respite care patients. Nearly all residents of the seventh floor have decided to move to apartments on other floors of Jefferson Terrace, with moving assistance from SHA. Some residents are moving to other properties.

A staff station and security cameras on the floor will provide oversight. Men and women will be housed on different wings of the floor.

Construction is slated for the fall of 2009, with the goal of opening the doors in early 2010.

The \$375,000 grant for the respite care facility was part of a total of \$1,025,635 that was awarded to Public Health Seattle and King County Funds were allocated from the formula-based Capital Improvement Program as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, directed at improving health care through community health centers. The grant was awarded through the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

The two agencies seek to sign a lease for the program this summer.

Calling all writers!

The Voice is seeking resident reporters to pen articles about their community. A \$25 stipend per article may apply. For more information, call Editor Tyler Roush at 206-461-8430, Ext. 227, or e-mail tylerr@nhwa.org.

NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

Coming soon: an upgraded grocery store and new apartments and shops

Safeway and Othello Partners unveil new projects near the light rail station

By SHA STAFF

Even though it's less than a month old, Seattle's new Link light rail system is already having a profound impact on the shape of the NewHolly neighborhood. In the past month alone, two important development projects have been given the green light — and both have cited light rail as central to their success.

After years of waiting, much-needed improvements to the Safeway grocery store at the northwest corner of Othello Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Way are set to take place early next year. On the southeast corner of the same intersection, ground has already been broken on a transit-focused complex of apartments and retail space that will be ready for tenants in less than two years.

On July 16, Safeway announced their plan to invest \$3 million in a comprehensive remodel of the 55-year-old grocery store building. The project includes a new bakery, along with new produce, meat, seafood, and wine sections. The store will feature an updated interior with wood flooring and a freshly landscaped exterior.

Residents have been waiting a long time for the changes to be announced, but they'll only have to wait a few months to see them happen. The project kicks off five months from now in January and is expected to be completed just three months later.

The anticipated impact of light rail

was an important part of Safeway's decision to upgrade the store on Othello Street.

"Light rail is going to make the neighborhood an integral part of the city, because you can get here easily," explained Gary Slabaugh, Safeway's regional vice president of real estate.

Safeway's decision came just days before light rail service began, and only a couple of weeks after the announcement of a new residential and retail development nearby.

Ground has already been broken on the project, known as The Station at Othello Park. Developed by Othello Partners, the 420,000 square-foot complex will be primarily residential, with more than 350 one- and two-bedroom apartments. It will also offer 20,000 square-feet of space for shops at street level.

The project will be unlike any other currently underway in the city.

"The Station at Othello Park represents the first new mixed-use development to break ground along light rail," said Steve Rauf, president and CEO of Othello Partners. "It's an important step forward in



GRAPHIC COURTESY OTHELLO PARTNERS

A digital rendering shows The Station at Othello Park development, scheduled for completion in 2011.

Seattle's future as a transit-oriented city."

Seattle mayor Greg Nickels expressed a similar opinion.

"For a long time we've known that light rail will transform our city," Nickels said. "And it's about more than how we get around. It's about how we live. This groundbreaking is a significant step forward and an example of light rail's potential to create great communities."

The Station at Othello Park will be constructed to achieve the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED-Silver certification. It will also meet Built Green and Built Smart standards, achieving rigorous environmental

benchmarks through the use of recyclable and energy-efficient materials. Environmentally sensitive building practices will be used during construction as well.

People will be able to move into the new apartments in the first half of 2011. Most rents will be at market rates, but some units will be available only to people earning 80 percent of area median income or less.

Othello Partners is also working through the permitting process for the two-acre lot on the northeast corner of Othello and MLK. Under their current plan, the site would feature an additional 370 apartments and another 18,000 square-feet of retail space.

Hundreds attend Vietnamese Resource Fair at NewHolly Gathering Hall

Event features Vietnamese Service Provider Network

By TYLER ROUSH
The Voice Editor

Some 250 members of the Vietnamese community attended the Vietnamese Resource Fair July 17 at the NewHolly Gathering Hall, coming to mingle with neighbors and connect with service providers.

"Our hope and goal with the fair was to connect the Vietnamese community with resources and services that are available to them," said organizer Jennifer Duong, of Seattle Neighborhood Group. "Especially with newer immigrants and refugees, they don't know where to look."

More than 35 providers attended the fair, touting services that included child care, elder care, job and career programming, ESL, citizenship, youth activities, real estate and health care.

Duong said that organizers were very excited with the attendance.

"We were really surprised that we had that many — it's been hard working with our community, getting them out to events.

"Especially for a first event, we're really happy with the result and look forward to next year," Duong said.

The Vietnamese Friendship Association and member organizations of the Vietnamese Service Provider Network organized the event.

The Vietnamese Service Provider Network is exactly what it describes — a network of organizations that offer services in the Vietnamese community.

The network currently includes Asian Counseling and Referral Service, Vietnamese Friendship Association, SHA Job Connection, Seattle Neighborhood Group, Neighborhood House and ReWA.

To access the network, a client can contact any of the participating organizations, Duong said. If that organization doesn't offer the necessary service, a referral is made to another provider.

In the meantime, Duong said the network hopes to expand its membership.

Census

Continued from front page

has assembled one of the country's largest and most diverse Complete Count Committees," said Ralph Lee, director of the Seattle Regional Census Center, which covers a five-state area. "The 2010 Census is the largest peacetime mobilization in U.S. history. As such, we simply can't do it alone. We must rely heavily on community partners," said Lee.

By law, more than 170 federal programs must distribute their funding according to census counts. Census funding is used for highways, bridges, schools, hospitals,

economic development, job training, and social programs, such as Medicaid and Head Start — \$300 billion per year.

Census information is never shared with law enforcement, welfare or immigration officials. Even the President cannot request Census information on individuals. All Census information is kept confidential for 72 years. Census employees take a lifetime oath not to release any Census information. This is punishable by \$250,000 and/or five years in prison.

For more information, please contact Deni Luna at 206-200-7935 or Dulce Roa at 425-698-5934.



Visit the NewHolly Community website at
<http://www.newholly.org/>

You'll find a Directory of Services, announcements of neighborhood events and community projects, a link to The Voice resident newspaper and much more.

For more information about the Vietnamese Friendship Association, contact Phung Nguyen at 206-724-9480, or phung@vfaseattle.org.



Neighborhood House

Strong Families. Strong Communities. Since 1906.

YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

Citizen Review Committee evaluates planning concepts for Yesler Terrace

Report will be discussed by Seattle Housing Board of Commissioners in August

BY VIRGINIA FELTON
Seattle Housing Authority

Working with Seattle Housing Authority staff and consultants from CollinsWoerman, the members of the Yesler Terrace Citizen Review Committee have completed their evaluation of planning concepts.

An evaluation report has been assembled by the consultants on behalf of the committee and will be formally presented to the Board of Commissioners at its next regular meeting on August 17. This meeting will be held in the Yesler Terrace Community Center beginning at 5 p.m.

In its work over the past year, the CRC has been considering planning issues around the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace. CollinsWoerman prepared three "site concepts" for their consideration. The concepts were designed to provide everyone involved in the project a way to consider a wide range of possibilities for the redevelopment.

The CRC was not asked to choose a favorite concept. Instead, they looked at how each concept treated important variables that could affect the final design.

The three concepts showed how different design variables might be treated on the site. These variables included the following factors:

- how the slopes and flat places on the land would be used (topography)
- how retail shops might be placed on the site
- how office uses could occupy the site, including where they should be placed and how tall the office buildings should be
- how streets and sidewalks would be placed – and changed from the current pattern (circulation)
- how the five to eight acres of parks and open space could be distributed across the site
- how high-rise, mid-rise and low-rise buildings might be placed on the site – how massive they could be and how tall
- how the new neighborhood might connect to nearby neighborhoods, and how the transitions between Yesler and its neighbors might function

The CRC rated the various concepts against the Guiding Principles that were adopted by the Board of Commissioners in December 2007. CRC members and Yesler residents also provided comments about each of the variables above. Their ratings and comments will help guide the designers as they continue their planning work.

The comments from both CRC members and residents indicate what people like about the various concepts, what they don't like, and what questions the various concepts bring to mind.

For example, comments about open space included the following: "It would be best if there was a circulation pattern where you can walk the entire neighborhood without crossing a street so that pedestrians do not have to dodge traffic."

Another person commented that, "All plans and grids make it tempting to cut through secondary streets. All concepts should focus on traffic slowing through the neighborhood."

Working with the CRC evaluation, the design team is now working on a new "Concept D" that will be ready for consideration this fall. In September, the Board of Commissioners will provide further guidance to the designers based on their evaluation of the concepts and the comments and ratings of the CRC.

Volunteers refurbish Yesler Terrace Head Start playground



PHOTOS BY TYLER ROUSH

Student volunteers from the Seattle Archdiocese "One Week" service learning program spent July 29-30 — in 100-degree weather — sweeping, painting, spreading barkdust and generally refurbishing the Neighborhood House Head Start playground at Yesler Terrace. The students (clockwise from top left) included Nick Welch, with wheelbarrow; Katie Morgan, with rake; Hannah Andrascik and Mindy Shetler, painting; and Andrew Whitehouse, Daryll Perry and Sarah Gonzales, shoveling barkdust. Other helpers (not pictured) included Roger Andrascik, Avio Brooklyn, Becky Denton, Pedro Gonzales, Pat Klein, Sheryl Morgan, Jen Rosenbrook, Jon Whalen, and Daisy the black lab. The group kept cool with plenty of water breaks in the shady, covered area near the playground.

Notes from the Manager

BY JUDI CARTER
Seattle Housing Authority

I know that sometimes it seems as if the people who manage Yesler Terrace just don't understand what it feels like to be a public housing resident.

I want to share a not so well known fact with you, our residents: Every single staff person who works in the Yesler Terrace Management Office used to live in public housing at one time in their life.

Not only that, all eight of the main-

tenance people, except one, also used to live in public housing. The one maintenance person who did not live in public housing lived in a church basement, which was perhaps not as nice as the public housing unit that I lived in many years ago.

My point is this: We all have had to prove what our income was, had to have our homes inspected, etc. We have been there. We raised our kids there.

We do understand what it feels like to live in public housing, and we try

to be as considerate of how you feel as possible.

Emergency preparedness tip for the month: Next month the children will return to school. They need to know your address and phone number, so if, in the confusion of the first few days of school, someone gets lost, they can tell a police officer who they are and who their parents are, and where they live. Practicing this information this month will get the children ready for next month.

Charles Parrish's art on display in August

Yesler Terrace resident and artist Charles Parrish announced that one of his pieces will be included in an exhibition at the Art/Not Terminal gallery, located at 2045 Westlake Ave. A preview will be held from 4-6 p.m. August 8, followed from 7-10 p.m. by a general reception. The exhibition closes Sept. 2.

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

Board to meet at Yesler Terrace

The SHA Board of Commissioners will hold its next regular meeting at the Yesler Community Center.

The Board meets at 5 p.m., Monday, August 17 at the community center, located at 917 E. Yesler Way.



Neighborhood House

