



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



The Voice

March
2010
*Articles translated
into six languages*

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

Youth summit held on historic civil rights anniversary

State of the Youth Address draws 100 to Garfield Community Center

BY LYNN SEREDA
Section 8 Tenant

Feb. 1, 1960 is a very important day in civil rights history. On this date, four African American college students in Greensboro, North Carolina sat down at a lunch counter in Woolworth's, which didn't serve blacks.

Although they were not served lunch on this day, similar non-violent protests ignited across the south, and six months later, the original four students were finally served lunch.

The event is comparable to Rosa Parks sitting in the front seat of a public bus, something African-Americans were forbidden to do in many places.

The 50th anniversary of this important action by youth inspired the Hidmo Community Empowerment Project, with support from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, to hold an event called the State of the Youth Address, at Garfield Community Center.

Please see "Youth" on Page 5

Happy Lunar New Year!



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Ladies in the Rainier Vista neighborhood perform a dance in traditional Vietnamese dress during a celebration of both the Lunar New Year and Black History Month Feb. 25 at the Neighborhood House Rainier Vista Center. The Year of the Tiger began Feb. 14.

A voice for the voiceless

A newcomer to Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day shares his thoughts

BY LISA WOOD
SHA Resident

"This is my first time here," Curtis Coleman shared with me over our sandwiches. "It's been exhilarating, thrilling and worthwhile to see people who are interested in helping people who are less fortunate."

Coleman was discussing with me his first trip to Olympia for Housing and Homeless Advocacy Day, held Feb. 12 this year.

Coleman and his wife currently reside in a local transitional dwelling in Seattle, and he feels very fortunate to have what he's got. He shared with me that "there are



PHOTO BY LISA WOOD

The dome of the capitol building in Olympia stands against gray skies on Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day.

people who are way less fortunate than me and I will go home tonight and go out and do outreach with my church." Coleman said his day started with a bus

Tax time

Have you filed your 2009 tax return? Turn to Page 4 for important tax information, including free tax prep sites, how to use the earned income tax credit, and news about the first-time homebuyer's tax credit.

ride to Olympia, alongside a variety of people doing all different levels of advocacy work: some with organizations, some homeless, some currently not homeless and some involved for spiritual reasons.

He was almost left speechless when at early morning meetings he was guided and directed in how to talk with the legislators and senators to get his voice heard.

He learned about the One Night Count,

Please see "Advocacy" on Page 3

Neighborhood House
Jesse Epstein Building
905 Spruce Street
Seattle, WA 98104

Nonprofit org.
U.S. postage PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit #8887

In this issue

Health Notes LEND SUPPORT TO SOMEONE WITH CANCER	Page 2
One to grow on COOL-WEATHER CROPS ARE READY FOR PLANTING	Page 3
Tax time YOUR TAX-DAY PRIMER	Page 4
Translations EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT	Page 8

Quotable

"Bedbugs like to stow away in secondhand items, moving from one infested house or apartment to another."
— Bedbugs are becoming an increasingly persistent problem in Seattle and King County. For more information, see the related story on Page 2.



Health Notes

A column devoted to your well-being

How to lend support when someone you know has cancer

BY PAM MCGAFFIN
Special to The Voice

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

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

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

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

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

- Be yourself. Don't try too hard to do or say "the right" things, just be sincere in your desire to lend a hand.
- Listen. Sometimes it's better to be patient and listen than to start a conversation. Remember to talk about all the things you used to talk about before cancer.

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

- Provide stability. Help your friend with cancer adjust to new routines while continuing as many regular activities as possible to maintain a sense of normalcy. Assure your friend that he or she can depend on you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Seattle Youth and Families Initiative

Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn invites community members to participate in the Seattle Youth and Families Initiative this month.

Community members will gather at one of five workshops to discuss how to make Seattle a healthy and positive place for children and their families.

Meetings for the general public will be March 8 at Van Asselt Elementary

School, 8311 Beacon Ave. S.; March 15 at Denny Middle School, 8402 30th Ave. S.W.; and March 22 at the Garfield Community Center, 2323 E. Cherry St.

All meetings are 7 – 8:30 p.m. Previous meetings were held Feb. 22 at the Rainier Community Center and March 1 at Northgate Elementary School.

For more information, go to <http://youthandfamilies.seattle.gov>.

The Voice

Editor

Tyler Roush
206-461-8430, ext. 227
tylerr@nhwa.org

Reporters

Craig Grella
Chung Ping Lam
D.J. Nollette
Ernestine Robles
Lynn Sereda
Pamela Wilcox
Lisa Wood

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.

Bedbugs: The bad, the ugly, and what is being done to get rid of them



PHOTO COURTESY SEATTLE HOUSING

Two Seattle Housing employees show the proper disposal method for bedbug-infested furniture at Denny Terrace. The items should be wrapped in plastic before taking them out through the building. Once in the trash area, items should be labeled with a warning about bedbugs.

BY PAMELA WILCOX
SHA Resident

They're tiny, persistent and bloodthirsty — and many people don't even know they have them.

Bedbugs — and how to kill them — were on the agenda of the Jan. 21 meeting of the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH).

At the January meeting, Dave Hickok of Public Health – Seattle & King County and Heather Barr of the Healthcare for the Homeless Network presented information on the current bedbug scourge and how to treat the problem.

Bedbugs have been a major problem since at least the 1930s, when they were the No. 1 pest, according to Hickok and Barr. In the 1950s, the use of the pesticide DDT helped eradicate them. However, the use of DDT was banned in the United States in 1972 as it became recognized as a major environmental toxin.

Today, the top reason for exploding bedbug populations is that people don't realize that they have them, Hickok said. Their bites are commonly mistaken for mosquito or flea bites, and some people don't even exhibit a reaction to bedbug bites — no red welts or identifying marks develop on the skin.

Because bedbugs are reclusive and nocturnal, most people won't notice them unless they know to look for them.

This is particularly troubling, because bedbugs must be caught early — one female can lay nearly 32,000 eggs in six months.

In a struggling economy, the increase in the use of secondhand clothing and furniture compounds the problem. Bedbugs like to stow away in secondhand items, moving from one infested house or apartment to another.

Landlord and tenant duties

Given the extent of the problem, what responsibilities do tenants and landlords

Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness

The Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH) works collaboratively to ensure the safety and survival of people who are homeless and to end the crisis of homelessness in the region.

The SKCCH meets on the third Thursday of each month from 9 – 11 a.m. at the East Cherry YWCA, located at 2820 E. Cherry St. in Seattle. Their Web site is www.homelessinfo.org, or e-mail skcch@homelessinfo.org for more information.

have to keep bedbugs at bay?

According to the state's Residential Landlord Tenant Act, the landlord must provide "a reasonable program for the control of infestation by insects, rodents and other pests at the initiation of the tenancy and, except in the case of a single family residence, control infestation during tenancy except where such infestation is caused by the tenant."

It is the tenant's duty to report bedbugs as soon as you realize you have them, and to help in preparations to get rid of them.

The New York State Integrated Pest Management program Web site at www.nysipm.cornell.edu has detailed information on how to treat bedbug infestations. Though some of the information is specific to prevention in shelters and group living facilities, it is a helpful starting point for anyone wanting to learn more about bedbugs.

Seattle Housing has taken steps to control bedbugs. The housing authority has brought in a dog that can detect bedbugs and hired three extra staff to focus on the problem. SHA has provided mattress covers and bedbug traps to residents in buildings where

Please see "Bedbugs" on Page 5



Please recycle me



Be safe

Scammers and con artists often wear sheep's clothes

BY SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP
Special to *The Voice*

A couple of weeks ago I was returning home from lunch with my father, when I encountered a woman who claimed to be from the IRS. She claimed that my landlord had a dispute with the IRS and the IRS was going to put a lien on his property. I would have to pay half of my rent to the IRS instead of my landlord. She showed me ID and gave me her card. Her car had federal license plates.

I was suspicious. I told her I was going to check her out to make sure she was legitimate. Anyone can make up a bunch of business cards, create a fake ID and a really clever con artist could figure out a way to get license plates that at least looked real. I did check her out. I spoke to my landlord and I put a call into the IRS. I looked the number up on the web, I did not use the number she gave me. It turns out she is the real thing.

Con artists are very good at sounding legitimate — they call you up or knock on your door and present you with identification that looks real, but isn't always legitimate. There are ways to protect yourself from this kind of fraud.

Before you give anybody any money or allow him or her in your home, check the person out. Call the agency or business he

or she claims to be from. Confirm that he or she is who and what he or she claims to be. Do not use the contact information the person in question gave you. That contact is just going to confirm whatever the suspect told you. Instead look up the phone number or Web site on your own.

If the person is legitimate, he or she will not mind having their stories checked out. If you write out a check to a con artist, you may be risking more than just a few dollars. Once the suspect gets hold of your routing and account numbers (these can be found at the bottom of the check), the suspect will have access to information that can be used to drain your bank account.

Many people in public housing may think they are not likely to be victims of fraud or identity theft. This is not the case. You can still be a victim. So protect yourself. Don't just accept the word of a stranger who claims that you owe them money. Don't hand over personal and financial information to someone you don't know is legitimate.

Kelly McKinney (206-323-7084) and Allan Davis (206-323-7094) are Community Educators for Seattle Neighborhood Group. Call them for crime prevention information and assistance.



PHOTO BY LISA WOOD

A trip to Olympia for Housing and Homelessness Advocacy day offers a glimpse into the chambers of the state Legislature.

Advocacy

Continued from front page

conducted during the early morning of Friday Jan. 29, which counted a total of 6,246 people living on the streets of Seattle and surrounding areas.

Armed with those facts and his desire to want to make a difference and be a voice for the voiceless, he was completely prepared to go speak to those who made the decisions about how to help the homeless in his community.

Elizabeth Maupin has been to Housing and Homeless Advocacy Day for three years in a row now.

"Affordable housing is in short supply in my area and the lack of affordable housing is the reason for homelessness in Issaquah," she said.

Maupin is co-coordinator for the Inner Faith Coalition, a faith-based nonprofit organization devoted to maintaining a

safety net for those without housing, or for whom housing is unstable. She described the work as "solution-based" support.

Upon learning that there were 6,700 seniors on the waiting list in Washington for affordable housing, Maupin said she is personally involved with the homeless because "they are my brothers and sisters. But for the grace of God go I."

Coleman and the others who got to speak with people that represented the 11th District said that they truly felt that their voices had been heard. Coleman and others urged their legislators to pass HB 3177 and SB 6817, which concern the Housing Trust Fund program.

Given the opportunity to express how very important it is to each and every one of them that these actions be taken, the group said it truly felt like their mission was accomplished.

As we boarded the bus, Coleman said, "Oh I will definitely be back next year and I will let my voice be heard."



One to grow on

Garden tips for community gardeners

This year, it's not too early to begin planting your cool weather crops

BY ANZA MUENCHOW
Special to *The Voice*

Germination is the sprouting of a seed to create a new plant. With such an early, beautiful spring, germination is happening all around us outdoors. How can we gardeners improve the germination of the seeds we plant?

All seeds have specific requirements for germination — temperature, water and air primarily. For the best results in your kitchen garden, here are some suggestions for early cool season crops.

First, let me suggest sprouting some delicious parsley in your garden. Parsley seeds want a chill period, maybe a couple of weeks of cold, near freezing temperature. This is easily accomplished when you plant parsley seeds outside in January or February.

They will then sprout when the soil warms in March. If you haven't planted parsley yet, you may want to put the seed in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for a couple weeks before planting. The seed takes weeks to sprout, unlike the Brassica seeds which germinate in three to five days.

Peas and favas are amazing in that they germinate in such cold soils. Planting on Presidents Day seems early, but not this year. I've seen gardens with peas up already. Some people like to soak their seeds before planting, hoping to speed up the germination.

This works well for large seeded crops like peas and beans, but don't soak more than a couple hours. Seeds really need air to germinate, and they could just rot if they don't have enough air. That is why soggy soil is not good for germination.

Using inoculant (freeze dried, nitrogen fixing bacteria) when planting legume crops like peas and beans works well for boosting growth, but doesn't actually help with germination.

How warm does the soil have to be to plant outside? Most of the early season crops like Brassicas (radish, kale, turnip, broccoli, cabbage, arugula, bok choy, etc.), lettuce, spinach and beets can germinate in soils 45 degrees and will tolerate soil temps up to about 65 degrees. The optimal temperature is about 55 degrees, but remember the soil temp is not the same as the air temperature. Take off your gloves and feel the soil on a sunny day on the south face of your raised beds. It may actually be warm, though the cool breeze keeps you wrapped

in a winter jacket.

Spinach likes at least 50 degrees — just remember that you can plant your spinach when you see dandelions blooming in your garden, assuming you haven't weeded them all out during the winter. Carrots like it slightly warmer, so wait another two weeks to plant them.

Be aware that the soil can also be too warm for germination. That might explain why you can't get a good lettuce crop started in August. Seeds have a thermal range of optimal germination. The different seed varieties may vary too, so check your seed catalogues and get to know the seed suppliers for the optimal germination temperatures.

How deeply do you plant the seeds? The rule of thumb is to plant twice the diameter of the seed. Of course large seeds can be deeper than small ones. But don't let the seeds dry out ever. Carrots and dill especially like to see some light through the soil to germinate.

That is why I enjoy using floating row cover for my seed beds. These lightweight garden blankets warm the soil a couple degrees while controlling the moisture by not allowing the wind to dry things out. Consider keeping a few used pieces of row cover around for whenever you seed a bed. It will keep birds from eating the seeds too.

The seeding of warm season crops (squash, beans, corn) will be during May, when the soil is regularly above 60 degrees and often more than 80 degrees. I'll discuss those seed requirements in the next garden column. Because tomatoes, peppers and eggplant take so long to make fruit after planting, we have to start them in special greenhouse conditions to germinate the seeds and then transplant them out later.

Another method for early harvests of leafy spring crops is to use transplants. You can buy them at high prices in plant stores or start your own indoors about six weeks before the last frost date (usually April 15, but probably earlier this year).

Young plants can grow in lower temperatures than those in which the seeds can germinate.

Just make sure to keep the soil moist and you'll have lots of transplants. Have a wonderful spring!

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.

Write a letter to the editor

The Voice welcomes your feedback. Send your letters by e-mail to tylerr@nhwa.org, or by regular mail to:
Neighborhood House
The Voice
905 Spruce St., Suite 200
Seattle, WA 98104
Letters may be edited for length. For more information, contact Tyler Roush, Voice editor, at 206-461-8430, ext. 227.



Neighborhood
House

Tax time: What you need to know, and where to get assistance

It comes every year: the time to review your annual earnings and file a tax return with the Internal Revenue Service. Fortunately, there are resources available for low-income individuals and families to make the annual tax chore a breeze. Read on for more information about free tax prep sites, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and information on the first-time homebuyer's tax credit.

Free tax help available through United Way

BY VOICE STAFF

If your household made less than \$50,000 last year, you're eligible to receive free assistance in preparing your tax return through United Way of King County's Free Tax Prep Campaign.

Help is available through April 15 at several sites throughout Seattle and King County. You don't need to make an appointment, but because demand is high and tax prep sites can be very crowded, arrive early to ensure you can be served as soon as possible.

The multilingual volunteers who provide tax help have been certified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Don't show up at a tax prep site empty-handed. You'll need to bring with you:

- Any W-2 form, 1099 forms, and other end-of-the-year income statements that you received from all of your employers and sources of income
- A copy of last year's tax return, if you have it
- Social Security card number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number and birthdates for every person to be claimed on your tax return
- Childcare provider name, address, and tax ID number
- Anything else you think might affect your return, even if you're not sure
- If you want your refund deposited directly into your bank account, you'll need to bring your bank account number

For more information about free tax prep assistance, please call 2-1-1 or 1-877-211-9274 or go to unitedwayofkingcounty.org/taxhelp.

Below is a list of free tax prep sites operated by the United Way of King County. Services available in languages besides English are listed in parenthesis.

SEATTLE

Beacon Hill

El Centro de la Raza
2524 16th Ave. S.
5 - 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays (Spanish)
and 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturdays (Spanish)

Central District

Yesler Community Center
917 E. Yesler Way
5 - 9 p.m. Thursdays
and 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturdays

Downtown

Express Credit Union
1741 Fourth Ave. S.
6 - 9 p.m. Thursdays
and 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturdays

Seattle Public Library

1000 Fourth Ave.
Noon - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
Noon - 4 p.m. Saturdays (Spanish and Chinese)
and 1 - 5 p.m. Sundays (Chinese)

File your taxes online

With a computer and an internet connection, you can file your taxes online. Visit www.icanefile.org to learn more about completing a free electronic 2009 tax return.

The site will also help eligible taxpayers and their families claim the Earned Income Tax Credit.

I-CAN E-File is operated as a non-profit and was created by the Legal Aid Society of Orange County.

Anyone is eligible to file a federal return through I-CAN E-File.

Lake City

Lake City Neighborhood Service Center
Second floor, 12525 28th Ave. N.E.
5 - 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturdays

Rainier Beach

Rainier Beach Community Center Lab
8825 Rainier Ave. S.
5 - 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays

AUBURN

Auburn Valley YMCA
1620 Perimeter Road S.W.
6 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays (Spanish)
Noon to 4 p.m. Sundays

BELLEVUE

Hopelink
14812 Main St.

Please see "Tax help" on Page 5

You might be eligible for Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

Federal income tax returns are due by April 15, and as you're filing taxes, you may want to apply for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Low-income working individuals and their families may be eligible to receive a tax refund between \$457 and \$5,657 if they apply for EITC.

Eligibility

To qualify, you must meet certain requirements and file a tax return, even if you didn't earn enough money to be obligated to file a tax return.

You may be eligible for the EITC if:

- You have three or more children and earned less than \$43,279 (or \$48,279 if married and filing a joint return) in 2009
- You have two children and earned less than \$40,295 (or \$45,295 if married and filing a joint return) in 2009
- You have one child and earned less than \$35,463 (or \$40,463 if married and filing a joint return) in 2009
- You do not have children and earned less than \$13,440 (or \$18,440 if married and filing a joint return) in 2009

In addition, you must have no more than \$3,100 in investment income for the year, and you must have a valid Social Security Number.

If you are filing a joint return, your spouse also must have a valid Social Security Number, and all qualifying children you use to claim the EITC also must have valid Social Security Numbers. New for the 2009 tax year, qualifying children must be younger than the taxpayer claiming the child (unless the child is disabled), and the qualifying child must not have filed a joint return except to claim a refund.

In order to qualify, you cannot file your taxes under the "married and filing separately" status. The EITC has no effect on certain welfare benefits.

In most cases, EITC will not be used to determine eligibility for Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps, low-income housing, or most Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) payments.

EITC history

Congress originally approved the tax credit in 1975 as a way to offset the burden of Social Security taxes on low-income people and to provide an incentive to work.

When the EITC is more than the amount of taxes that you owe, you will get a tax refund if you claim and qualify for the credit.

Either way you'll have to act fast if you want to tap into the home buyer tax credit this year. Under the expanded plan, buyers must be in contract to purchase a home by April 30 and close by June 30 of this year. For members of the armed forces and certain other federal employees serving outside the United States., those deadlines are extended by one year to April 30, 2011 and June 30, 2011.

Information for this report was compiled the Internal Revenue Service's newsroom article "First-Time Homebuyer Credit Questions and Answers: Basic Information."

First-time homebuyer tax credit extended to April 30

Qualified buyers may receive up to an \$8,000 tax credit

BY CRAIG GRELLA
SHA Resident

President Obama's Worker, Homeownership and Business Assistance Act of 2009 included a tax credit for first-time home buyers as a way to help stimulate the ailing economy. In November 2009, the tax credit was expanded to include not only first-time homebuyers but also existing owners purchasing new homes.

The plan gives buyers a tax credit of 10 percent of the purchase price of the home up to \$8,000 for first-time homebuyers and \$6,500 for those who have had ownership in a home over the past three years.

For example, a home purchased at \$200,000 would give you the full \$8,000 credit. Ten percent of \$200,000 is \$20,000, which is more than the maximum credit of \$8,000. A home purchased at \$60,000 would offer a \$6,000 credit.

A tax credit gives you a dollar for dollar

reduction in the amount of income tax you owe the government in any particular year, regardless of your tax bracket. Tax credits are different, and more desirable, than tax deductions which serve only to reduce the amount of your taxable income, from which your actual federal tax due is calculated.

For example, if in 2009 you received wages of \$35,000 (gross income) and fall into the 28 percent tax bracket, your approximate tax due would be \$9,800 (28 percent X \$35,000 = \$9,800). A tax credit of \$8,000 would reduce your tax due to only \$1,800.

On the other hand, a tax deduction of \$8,000 would reduce your taxable income of \$35,000 to \$27,000. Your taxes would then be calculated on that lowered gross income figure. Twenty-eight percent of \$27,000 yields a tax due of \$7,560. The tax credit saves you \$5,700 more than the tax deduction.

Qualifying for the tax credit is relatively easy and there are only a few guidelines which need to be met in order to be eligible:

- The buyer must be at least 18 years of age
- The home must be used as a primary

residence

- The home must not be more than \$800,000 in price; and
- Your modified adjusted gross income must be less than \$125,000, or \$250,000 if you are married and filing taxes jointly.

A partial credit can be extended to buyers who make up to \$20,000 more than the income limits listed above, or between \$125,000 and \$145,000 for individuals or between \$250,000 and \$270,000 for those who are married and filing jointly. The tax credit is phased out and unavailable for buyers with income levels above those maximum numbers.

Claiming the tax credit requires completion of just one form, IRS form 5405, which can be filed with your Federal Income Tax Return (IRS Form 1040). That form is available online at www.irs.gov.

You'll also need to supply a copy of your purchase settlement statement, known as a HUD-1, which is provided by your lender or title company at the close of the purchase transaction. If you purchased a qualified home in previous years but did not claim the credit you may be able to file an adjusted return. A qualified CPA should be able to guide you in the right direction.

Organ, eye and tissue donation can save lives

Donate Life Today maintains confidential donor registry for Washington

BY DONATE LIFE TODAY
Special to The Voice

More than 100,000 people in the United States are waiting for a life saving organ transplant, including more than 1,600 of our Northwest neighbors. Ethnic minorities in particular are facing a public health crisis and are in desperate need of more organ, eye and tissue donors.

Ethnic minorities make up more than 30 percent of the US population but comprise 53 percent of individuals on the national organ transplant waiting list. This disparity happens for a number of reasons. For one, many of the conditions leading to the need for a transplant- such as diabetes and hypertension- occur with greater frequency in communities of color.

Although it is possible for a patient to match a donor from another ethnic group, transplant success rates increase when organs are matched between members of a similar ethnic background. The lack of donated organs in communities of color can be contributed to higher death rates and longer waiting periods for transplantation.

Kaden was diagnosed with a very rare liver disease called Progressive Familial Intrahepatic Cholestasis Type 2, just after his first birthday. This disease impairs the liver, causing it to harden and fail. In November of 2006, Kaden was placed on the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS) transplant waiting list. One month later, Kaden received a liver transplant from a deceased donor. It was a complete success! The teams of doctors were amazed at Kaden's swift recovery.

Since his liver transplant, Kaden has transformed into a very healthy 4-year-old little man. He is running, walking, climbing and talking. He is full of energy and full of life. Kaden's parents are so grateful to the donor family, whose generosity in their darkest hour saved Kaden.

"We want to thank the donor family from the bottom of our hearts. Without their compassion and kindness, we would not have our precious little boy. Kaden has his own Guardian Angel now and we will never forget the life lost and the gift that was given to Kaden," they said.

One organ, eye and tissue donor can save or enhance the lives of more than 50 people. Unfortunately there is a misperception that ethnic minorities do not have equal access to organ transplants, which contributes to the crisis. The fact is UNOS regulates the strict federal, regional and local system to



PHOTO COURTESY DONATE LIFE TODAY

Kaden, now four years old, received a life-saving liver transplant as an infant.

ensure ethical and equitable distribution of donated organs.

In addition, many people are unaware that most religions support donation as one of the highest expressions of compassion and generosity.

Donate Life Today is the organ, eye and tissue donor registry in Washington, a confidential database of donation registrations to be accessed and carried out only at the time of death.

Register today at www.DonateLifeToday.com or say "yes" to the heart on your driver's license. You may also call 1-877-275-5269 for additional information and to request a brochure. Please talk with your family and friends about your decision to donate. Together we can save lives.

Tax help

Continued from Page 4

1 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays (Russian)
1 to 9 p.m. Thursdays (Spanish)
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays (Russian/Chinese)

Crossroads Mall

Address: 15600 N.E. Eighth
5 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays (Spanish/Russian)
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays (Spanish/Russian)

FEDERAL WAY

Multi-Service Center

1200 S. 336th St.
5 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

KENT

Washington Women's Employment and Education Center

515 W. Harrison St.
5 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays (Vietnamese)
1 to 4 p.m. Saturdays (Vietnamese)

SEATAC

SeaTac Airport, Airport Jobs Office

Take Elevator 1 from the ticket counter level to level M
5 to 8 p.m. Thursdays
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays

The Village at Angle Lake Community Services Building

4040 S. 188th St.
6 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays (Spanish)
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays (Spanish)

SHORELINE

Hopelink

15809 Westminster Way N.
(Next to Marshall's in the Aurora Square Plaza)
5 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays

WHITE CENTER

White Center Assembly

10237 16th Ave. S.W.
5 to 9 p.m. (Samoan)
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays (Samoan)

YWCA Greenbridge

9720 Eighth Ave. S.W.
5 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays (Spanish)
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays (Spanish)

Bedbugs

Continued from Page 2

bedbug infestations are a problem.

What is the situation like for other tenants in Seattle and around the state? According to the Tenants Union of Washington State, they have received many complaints about bedbugs in recent months. Common concerns include landlords who are slow to respond to an infestation or who apply cheap, toxic or ineffective treatments.

The Tenants Union recommends that tenants watch out for landlords who try

to charge them for bedbug extermination, especially if there have been multiple cases within a building.

Bedbugs and your pets

What about pets? There are conflicting reports about whether bedbugs will feed on dogs and cats.

At the SKCCH meeting I spoke with Sarah Magyar, who lives in Columbia City's Lilac Lodge, a Southeast Effective Development (SEED) property. She said that her dog's veterinarian prescribed an anti-parasitic that deters bedbugs from feeding on her dog.

A resident of Denny Terrace also recommended Frontline, an anti-flea medication applied to the base of a pet's neck. It is best to ask a veterinarian about the best course of treatment.

Most importantly, if you think you have a bedbug problem, get help immediately. Trying to go it alone against bedbugs can be ineffective, or even make the problem worse. Do not try a do-it-yourself remedy; first notify your building manager that you have a problem. Then leave the extermination to the experts.

Youth

Continued from front page

An intergenerational audience of 100 people attended to hear a panel of young people from youth-led organizations from Central and South Seattle talk about issues from their perspective.

In a break-out session, small groups from the audience discussed topics that concerned them, with older adults being encouraged to allow the young people to do most of the speaking.

Jason Davison, one of the organizers of the event said, "it was a great success from the diversity of panelists and youth participants who were able to come together with residents and share their perspective. ... It is a rare thing to see so much diversity in one room."

The room featured a display called the Clothesline Project. T-Shirts which were decorated with anti-violence slogans and graphics were hung from a clothesline.

Lulu Carpenter, an organizer, said that the idea for this project came from a project at Washington State University that she and Rahwa Habte of the HIDMO CEP were involved in.

It was part of an event called A Week Without Violence. Women were encour-



PHOTO BY LYNN SEREDA

T-shirts bear anti-violence messages, on display at the State of the Youth address, a community youth summit held last month at the Garfield Community Center.

aged to write on T-Shirts about violence and the way it affected them.

This project was adapted to address violence and the concerns of youth in the Central District. Carpenter said "it was a great way for people to begin talking

before the forum, and a great way to heal through art."

Even though the concerns of youth may seem very frightening to people, such as the young lives lost to incarceration or even violent death, many of the things talked

about at the forum are the kinds of issues that have been affecting youth for many generations.

Many mentioned needing someone to care about them and listen to their concerns about everyday life. When the subject of youth mentors came up, some of the youth mentioned they could tell the difference if someone was just acting as a mentor because they were paid by an agency, or if they really cared.

Almost all of the young people mentioned the lack of youth space and safe places to hang out and be with other young people as extremely important.

Genevieve Arunga of Umojafest Peace Center mentioned the fact that just the price of renting space at community centers was a barrier for low-income youth.

But she also described an exciting program called the Youth Stakeholders Program, which Umojafest has going. It emphasizes providing a positive culture for youth to work in, and includes writing groups and a program on exploring career opportunities in Hip Hop Music.

"Educate and Elevate," she said is the goal of her program. Indeed, it seemed that the youth forum had this theme front and center all evening!

CLASSIFIEDS

THE MARKETPLACE OF THE VOICE

**A community
credit union
that believes
in me.**



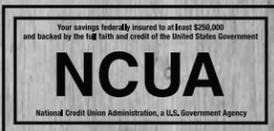
We're Express Credit Union – providing fair and affordable financial services to everyone! Become a member and we'll deposit \$5 to start your account.* So come in or call to join today.

You must live, work, worship, or attend school in a Washington state school district to be eligible to apply for ECU membership.

Express Credit Union
1741 4th Ave S. • Suite A • Seattle WA
206.622.1850 • www.expresscu.org

express
credit union

Affordable financial services for everyone.



*Offer cannot be combined with other promotions. \$5 deposit available after 60 days of continuous membership.



South Seattle Community College

...in West Seattle

WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU!

...start here, go anywhere!

- **College Transfer** (206) 768-6600
- **Professional/Technical** (206) 764-5394
- **Adult Basic Education/ESL/GED** (206) 764-5363
- **High School Programs** (206) 764-5805
- **Continuing Education** (206) 764-5339
- **Online/Distance Learning** (206) 764-7930
- **Four-Year Degrees** (206) 764-5387



South Seattle Community College, 6000 16th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98106 • (206) 764-5300 • www.southseattle.edu
NewHolly Learning Center, 7058 32nd Ave S, 2nd Floor of NewHolly Learners Bldg., Seattle, WA 98118 • (206) 768-6642

CLASSIFIEDS

THE MARKETPLACE OF THE VOICE



SMALL-BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES Local Section 3 Business Concerns

We are an equal opportunity employer and request profile information from small business concerns and suppliers including Minority-owned small business concerns, Women-owned small business concerns, and Section 3 small business concerns.

Contact Absher's Community Outreach Coordinator **Stephanie Caldwell**

at
(253) 446-3457

or
Stephanie.Caldwell@AbsherNW.com

INVITATION TO BID

Seattle Housing Authority – Lake City Village

Andersen Construction is soliciting bids for Sitework and Structural Concrete from qualified subcontractors on the above referenced project.

Bid Date: March 15th at 2:00 PM

Pre-Bid Meeting Onsite March 2nd, 2010 10:00 AM

All parties interested should register as a bidder at www.bxwa.com.
Choose Posted Projects/General Contractor Project Areas/Washington/
Andersen/Projects Bidding/Lake City Village.

Documents are also available for review at the Andersen office and The CDCC at 105 14th Ave Suite 3C, Seattle WA.

Project Contact: Jerrod Kowalewski – jkowalewski@andersen-const.com
Andersen Construction Company, Inc

228 SOUTH MEAD STREET SEATTLE, WA 98108
206.763.6712 (PH) 206.763.6710 (FAX)



We are an equal opportunity employer and request Qualifications from all interested firms, Including emerging small business, women-owned, disadvantaged and minority enterprises.



We understand you.



And, we care.

- Primary Medical & Dental Care
- On-site Pharmacy
- Acupuncture
- Immunizations
- Sports Physicals
- Mental Health Care & Counseling
- Specialty Care Referrals
- Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
- Assistance Getting Health Insurance

INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT MEDICAL & DENTAL CLINIC
720 8th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98104
Tel: 206.788.3700

HOLLY PARK MEDICAL & DENTAL CLINIC
3815 S Othello St, Seattle, WA 98118
Tel: 206.788.3500

www.ichs.com

FOR SALE

Typewriter (electric) coronomatic 1200. Best offer. Phone evenings 206-361-1411



WorkSource Provides

- Job Preparedness Workshops
- One on One Career Guidance
- Weekly Hiring Events

These services are FREE and open to the public. Translation services are available upon request.

Visit our website:
www.worksourceskc.org.

Locations

- Auburn: 253.804.1177
- Renton: 206.205.3500
- Rainier: 206.721.6000
- Seattle Downtown: 206.436.8600
- North Seattle: 206.440.2500
- Redmond: 425.861.3700
- South Seattle Community College: 206.764.5304

To place your ad in

The Voice

contact classmgr@nwlink.com

today!

Marketplace coupon

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

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

Write your ad here (one word per line)

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

Mail to: PPC, PO Box 80156, Seattle, WA 98108 Fax: 206-461-1285
E-mail: classmgr@nwlink.com w/subject line "The Voice"

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.

Double down
ONE PARTY FOR TWO CULTURES AT RV
See Page 5



SHA NEWS

March
2010

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

SHA policy for utility allowances to change

BY SHA STAFF

Tenants who rent housing at High Point, NewHolly and Rainier Vista are invited to meetings at each of these communities this month to hear about a change Seattle Housing Authority is making to its way of dealing with small changes in utility rates, changes that affect the "utility allowances" it grants to tenants and others. (See sidebar on Page 2 for times and places; interpreters will be on hand.) Others whose rent is subsidized by SHA are welcome to attend these meetings, as is the public.

Every year, and at other times if rates go up or down by a certain percentage, Seattle Housing Authority recalculates utility allowances for participants and tenants whose rent it subsidizes. Seattle Housing provides these allowances, which are meant to ease households' burdens of having to pay for rent and utilities, to tenants who pay their own utility bills.

Management plans now to make mid-year adjustments to utility allowances only when rate changes cause an adjustment of more than \$10 per month for most households. When utility allowances are lowered, the portion of the rent paid to Seattle Housing increases at the same time. When utility allowances increase, the rent portion decreases.

Under federal regulations, Seattle Housing's tenants, with few exceptions, pay no more than 30 percent of their income for rent (including utilities). In calculating rent, Seattle Housing provides a utility allowance to tenants whose rent does not include utilities.

Utility allowances are designed to make it possible for low-income households to keep enough money back

Please see "Allowance" on Page 2

Green Lake Plaza fire claims life of elderly man

Seventh floor apartment destroyed; 15 residents displaced

BY SHA STAFF

An intense fire burned in a seventh-floor apartment at Green Lake Plaza on Monday, Feb. 15, killing one resident and displacing 15 others.

The fire broke out at about 1:30 p.m., originating in a single unit on the seventh floor. The occupant of the apartment, Alphonso Goldwire, 69, was killed.

Soon after the fire started, heavy smoke

and flames billowed from the apartment's windows, which had been blown out by the force of the fire.

The building's fire alarm system alerted the Seattle Fire Department, which responded with more than 100 firefighters. They classified the blaze as a two-alarm fire. It was brought under control in about 15 minutes and was extinguished by about 2 p.m.

The cause of the fire has not yet been determined. It is under investigation by the Seattle Fire Department and the Medical Examiner's office. A report on the cause of the fire is expected this month.

Please see "Fire" on Page 7



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Fire damage can be seen on the side of Green Lake Plaza. The fire originated on the seventh floor.

Blakeley Manor residents raise money for Haiti

BY D.J. NOLLETTE
SHA Resident

Blakeley Manor residents held a special meeting late in January to discuss using general fund money for Haiti relief. The meeting was extremely well attended. There was an outpouring of concern for the people in Haiti and more than \$400 was raised, including \$100 from the general fund and at least \$300 from anonymous donors.

"I would really like to thank everyone," Carolyn Hindman said. "People gave so freely, they really opened their hearts up."

A large number of Blakeley Manor residents had also experienced catastrophe and displacement in their past and especially wanted to help. There was enthusiastic discussion about what we should do to help and which relief agency would be the best choice for helping people in Haiti.

Doctors Without Borders, an international humanitarian organization, was selected. For more information about Doctors Without Borders, or if you want to contribute, visit www.doctorswithoutborders.org.



PHOTO BY D.J. NOLLETTE

Bob Fletcher (front, left) and Lael Cohen (front, right) were among the Blakeley Manor residents who raised money to support relief efforts in Haiti.

"There is such a great need for help in this time of crisis, and will continue to be for quite some time," Lael Cohen said. "We would like to encourage others to donate. Small donations actually really

add up."

Many residents left the meeting feeling good that they could extend assistance to Haitians devastated by the earthquake.

New HUD rule requires Social Security number for housing assistance

SHA can no longer provide initial subsidy to undocumented residents

BY SHA STAFF

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has issued a new rule about documents that applicants for housing assistance must show. This new rule took

effect on Jan. 31 and Seattle Housing began applying it on March 1.

The new rule requires that Seattle Housing Authority make changes to the way it processes applications. It will affect both the Low Income Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs.

Applicants and household members must now provide a Social Security number to be admitted to housing or receive a voucher. (Some immigrant household members may

be exempt from this requirement.) This information is also required when additional members join a household, by marriage or birth, for example.

HUD also requires that every housing authority now use HUD's national "Enterprise Income Verification System."

This system ties information about an applicant's income to a national data base

Please see "HUD rule" on Page 2

In this section

SHA News	Page 2
DISPUTE RESOLUTION TRAINING	
Point of View	Page 3
RESPITE CARE PLANS AT JT INCH AHEAD	
High Point Herald	Page 4
NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT A BIG SUCCESS	
Rainier Vista News	Page 5
EVENT CELEBRATES TWO CULTURES	
NewHolly Notes	Page 6
WHERE TO FIND JOB TRAINING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD	
Yesler Happenings	Page 7
RINGING IN THE LUNAR NEW YEAR	
Translations	Page 8

Allowance

Continued from front page

from their payments to Seattle Housing to cover their utility bills. The allowance is expected to apply to all resident-paid utilities — heat, lights, gas, water and sewer. Utility allowances vary with the size of the unit and the types of utilities used by the household. Large units tend to use more utilities than small units, so their allowances are higher.

When utility allowances are lowered, the portion of the rent paid to Seattle Housing Authority increases. When utility allowances increase, the household's portion of the rent decreases.

The goal of utility allowances is to keep the total amount a household pays for rent and utilities fairly constant at around 30 percent of monthly income. If a tenant's income is so low that the utility allowance exceeds the amount of the rent due from the tenant, SHA pays the difference directly to the tenant.

For example, under federal regulations a public housing tenant with \$300 per month of income pays \$90 per month (30 percent of income) toward rent. The housing authority might calculate that the household's utility bills (especially if the tenant pays for heat) total \$100 per month. In this case,

Come learn about utility allowance changes

SHA will hold meetings this month to discuss changes to the way it calculates the utility allowance. Interpreters will be on hand at these meetings.

Rainier Vista

Tuesday, March 9
from 6 – 7:30 p.m.
McBride Court Community Room

High Point

Wednesday, March 10
from 6 – 7:30 p.m.
Neighborhood House
High Point Center

NewHolly

Thursday, March 11
from 6 – 7:30 p.m.
The Gathering Hall

where the \$100 utility allowance is greater than the tenant's rent, the housing authority would pay \$10 directly to the tenant or to the tenant's utility company.

Before utility allowances are changed, every affected household will receive a letter from Seattle Housing Authority with the specific changes that apply to their unit.

Rent and utility allowance

Assume that a Low Income Public Housing program household with an income of \$ 1,000 per month rents a two-bedroom townhouse for \$ 300 per month. The utility allowance is \$ 105 per month.

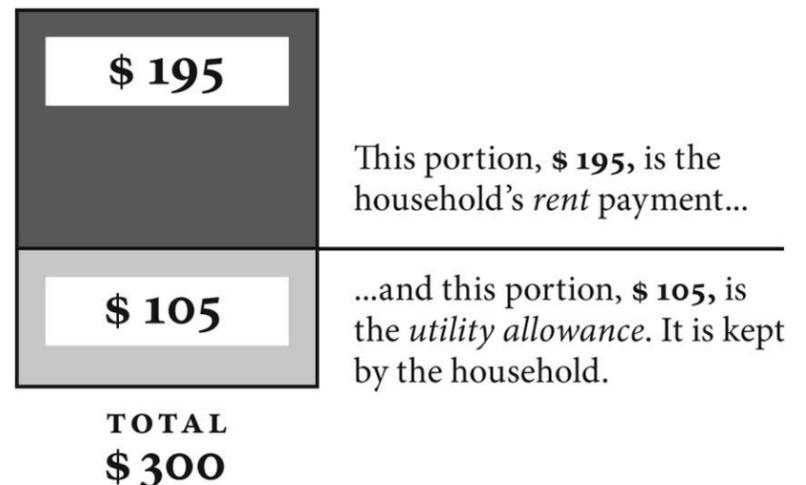


CHART COURTESY SHA

The above chart describes how a utility allowance figures into a tenant's rent.

Because Seattle Senior Housing Program tenants are not covered by federal regulations, utility allowances do not affect them.

Workshops for SHA residents offer dispute resolution tips and training

BY ERNESTINE ROBLES
SHA Resident

Quarrels among neighbors are becoming a growing problem in many apartments and neighborhood communities, and can pose serious threats.

A lot of the problems could be resolved, if people were willing to learn how to remain calm, use clear communication skills, and learn how to use mediation tactics when necessary.

Without basic training skills needed to resolve these issues, some conflicts between neighbors can be very damaging.

With this in mind, the Seattle Housing Authority Resident Leadership Development Team sponsored two separate dispute resolution training sessions, directed by the King County Dispute Resolution Center of Seattle.

These training sessions are geared to "help improve the quality of life for people living in SHA, by offering the tools for getting at the root of conflict, de-escalating difficult interpersonal dynamics and preserving the quality of important relationships," according to program materials.

The first training session, on Monday, Feb. 8, was held at Lake City House from noon to 5 p.m. The program consisted of three sessions in total, one per week. Tenants from other SHA apartment complexes were invited to attend. A lovely lunch with beverages was provided, and plenty of snacks were served.

These trainings offered residents different ways of dealing with real life problems, by addressing cultural sensitivity and how to de-escalate aggressive confrontations.

Instructors provided everyone with informative material to read, as well as group discussions, questions and answers, and role playing in which everyone had a chance to participate.

After chatting with several guests, it was quite obvious that people are tired of the same recurring problems and are desperately looking for other methods to resolve them.

The class offered different methods of resolving situations, such as "Accommodation," "Collaboration," and "Compromise," to name just a few.

The instructors stressed the need to "think (calm down), listen (identify your interest), and collaborate (evaluate your solutions)" when and if a conflict arises.

Obviously there is a desperate need for resolution among the masses. Additionally, conflicts of any nature cause good people to get hurt, move to other places, or even lose their apartments, at the same time affecting the whole population by upsetting the peace of a shared community. There is a need and desire to reside in a safe and comfortable environment.

But before you even have a problem, meet your neighbors. Creating a bit of good-will goes a long way.

It would be a good start to ending some of the more serious issues in your community.

With these useful tools we can take back our neighborhood and start the change to promote peace, once again, in our community.

Having a good neighbor has its advantages, and like it or not, we are all neighbors, and we ought to be better at it.

HUD rule

Continued from front page

built on Social Security numbers.

If the income reported by an applicant does not match income information in the EIV system, then the housing authority is required to determine why there is a mismatch.

At its regular meeting on Feb. 15, the Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners approved a new policy governing rules staff will follow in this area.

In the past, Seattle Housing has allowed applicants to begin receiving assistance without verifying citizenship or providing a Social Security number. This information was then requested at the first annual review.

If one or more members of a household were undocumented residents, then the household's subsidy was reduced.

Now subsidy will be reduced starting from admission if any members of the household are undocumented.

A single individual who makes up a "household of one" will not be admitted or receive assistance unless he or she is able to provide a Social Security number, with a few exceptions as noted above.

Existing residents and participants over 62 years old as of Jan. 31, 2010 will not be required to produce a Social Security number.

According to Property Management Administrator Cindy Sribhibhadh, the Housing Authority has known that a change in this area as been coming for over a year.

An earlier version of the regulation contained stricter regulations regarding proof of citizenship.

"Since we knew this was coming, we've been encouraging people to provide the required information. We estimate that there are only about ten residents who will now need to provide their Social Security numbers," she said.

Housing Authority staff members estimate that nearly a dozen policies will need to be revised as a result of the new regulations. Procedures and forms will also be updated.

The new rule affects applicants for housing assistance most directly, but could also affect families already receiving assistance.

Seattle Housing Authority residents who have questions about this issue may contact their property manager. Housing Choice Voucher participants may contact their case worker.

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.



Neighborhood House

Strong Families. Strong Communities. Since 1906.

POINT OF VIEW

NEWS ABOUT THE SEATTLE SENIOR HOUSING PROGRAM AND SEATTLE'S HIGH-RISE COMMUNITIES

As scaffolding comes down, new exterior of Schwabacher House is revealed

By SVEN KOEHLER
Seattle Housing Authority

The cherry trees blooming along the streets of Ballard have some competition this spring. Instead of old, dull, grayish stucco, the façade of Schwabacher House has blossomed with a colorful new exterior panel system in contemporary hues of tan, blue and cream.

Schwabacher House is a four-story apartment building in the Seattle Senior Housing Program that was wrapped with scaffolding for the duration of fall and winter while the leaky old windows and stucco façade were removed and replaced. Starting in mid-February 2010, workers began dismantling the scaffolding and the new exterior was revealed.

With the scaffolding gone, residents could finally make full use of the new windows that were installed earlier in the project. The windows have a much higher insulation value than the previous ones and should save residents on heating costs while reducing the overheating from the sun on the bright south side of the building.

Several of the apartments on each floor have small decks off the living room. A big change is a new handrail system that replaced the old wooden railing. The new rails feature large glass panels that help lend a modern look to the building.

The decks also received a new waterproof coating to help drain the rain and prevent water from pooling and causing damage. During construction, damage to the wood on the decks was discovered, which highlights the importance of taking care not to damage the surface of the decks. Residents of all buildings should take note that storing heavy items or nailing things to the deck can cause damage with long-term consequences. Heavy planters and permanently-affixed satellite dishes are often the culprits, and must be avoided.

The building's new exterior uses a rain screen system that both sheds water and lets it drain quickly without letting it get stuck in the walls to cause damage, as described in *The Voice* in October 2009. Not only is it functional, but the exterior panel system allowed the designers to update the aesthetics of the building to a more modern look that both residents and neighbors appreciate.

The extensive repairs were necessary to address potential damage to the building from water that worked its way through the old exterior walls. This is not an uncommon problem among wood frame buildings built in Seattle around 25 years ago, according to CDK Construction Services, the contractors selected by Seattle Housing Authority to do the work.

"We've seen this situation a lot with stucco buildings, and this work is kind of like our bread and butter," said Fred Dresser, job site superintendent.

While there was no doubt that the end of the work was long awaited, the job the contractor did was well-appreciated. At least one neighbor wrote a letter praising the excellent work, and several residents commented that they will miss the daily interaction with the work crews.

"Most everyone agrees the crews were great. They were very professional, even when things did not come out as expected. We'd like to say thank you," said resident Gary Stanchfield.

Work continues at Reunion House, Willis House

The work at Schwabacher House was the first among three capital improvement projects in the Seattle Senior Housing Program that are currently underway. Two others began earlier this year, with similar scopes of work. The contractor for these projects is another experienced local company, Charter Construction.

Reunion House on Capitol Hill has been wrapped in scaffolding since the beginning of the year. Work is progressing swiftly, as there are only 28 apartments in

Please see "Construction" on Page 7

A Lunar New Year party at Beacon Tower



PHOTO BY CHUNG PING LAM

Beacon Tower residents gathered to mark the Lunar New Year at a party Feb. 8. Food and entertainment were provided by the Tzu Chi Foundation.

Bedbug prevention starts at your doorstep

By SVEN KOEHLER
Seattle Housing Authority

A lot of the focus on bedbug control is about how to combat these pests if they get into your home. However, fortunately most people will never have a visit from these unwelcome guests. It might just be luck, but there are also some measures that residents can take to reduce the chance of ever having bedbugs.

The first precaution that experts recommend is to be very wary of any used furniture or other second-hand items that you are considering bringing into your home. The reason is simple: Bedbugs or bedbug eggs may hitch a ride on infested items that are taken from one home to another.

Of course, not every used item is infested with bedbugs. However, bedbugs hide in tiny spaces, such as in between the seams of mattresses, under buttons, or in zipper pulls, according to Bill Petersen, the head of Seattle Housing Authority's pest control team. Unless you really know how to spot the signs of bedbugs, you can easily overlook them. Add to this

the fact that they can live more than a year without feeding, and you begin to realize why it is hard to be sure an item is not infested.

The obvious way to see if an item is infested is to look for actual bedbugs, which are about the size and color of an apple seed when they are adults. Their bodies are flat and round, almost as wide as they are long, with a tiny head and antennae. If you've never seen a picture, the Internet is a good source for photos, or you can ask your property manager for materials that have been posted in buildings.

Bedbugs spend most of their time hiding, except when they come out to feed at night. If they are disturbed from their hiding spots and are out in the open, they are easy to spot. They can crawl quickly, but they don't run as fast as cockroaches, don't jump like fleas or fly around like mosquitoes.

But there are other signs of bedbugs that are less easy to see. Bedbug eggs are sticky and pearly white in color, shaped like a grain of rice but only about as long as three grains of

Please see "Bedbugs" on Page 5

Respite care proposal at Jefferson Terrace inches forward

By SVEN KOEHLER
Seattle Housing Authority

Without the snow-clogged streets and shivering cold temperatures of last winter to remind us, the plight of people living in Seattle without a roof over their head might not have been on people's minds much this past winter.

But there is a dedicated group at Seattle-King County Public Health (SKCPH) and Seattle Housing Authority who are plugging away at plans for a new medical respite program, which is a way to serve homeless people who need a safe place to get well after being discharged from the hospital. Recently, some residents of Jefferson Terrace have also been involved in the process.

Medical respite programs provide temporary housing for those who

would otherwise be forced to try and recuperate on the streets. Experience has shown that trying to heal from an injury without housing is very difficult and often lands homeless people right back into the hospital. So, this type of program is a priority for the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, an effort of agencies and charities that Seattle Housing supports.

SKCPH currently operates similar programs in other locations in Seattle, but there is a need for more capacity, explained Janna Wilson, program director. While not a medical facility, a respite care program includes nursing care, visiting medical staff, social services and 24/7 on-site supervision.

Jefferson Terrace is the largest Low Income Public Housing building owned by the housing authority. It is located on First Hill, in close proximity

to several hospitals that would refer patients to the program. In fact, Harborview Medical Center, the region's largest hospital, is right next door.

The respite care program would be located on one floor of the 17-story, 299-unit building. The apartments on the floor would be converted to 21 rooms for respite beds, usually with double occupancy, plus office space for support staff. A new, independent entry and security enhancements are also planned.

Residents have been active in supplying feedback at several steps along the way in the planning process. Most recently, two residents and an attorney representing them participated in the comment period for the Environmental Assessment for the project. This

Please see "Respite" on Page 6

HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY

High Point comes together for first Neighborhood Night

By TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

Fun and games. Snacks and refreshments. Raffle prizes. And a chance to meet and socialize with neighbors.

The first High Point Neighborhood Night offered a little something for everyone.

Members of the High Point community gathered at the Neighborhood House High Point Center the evening of Feb. 5, the first guests arriving at the new building at 6400 Sylvan Way a few minutes before the 7 p.m. start time.

The event was sponsored by the High Point Neighborhood Association, Seattle Housing Authority and Neighborhood House.

In the High Point Family Center, a spacious area just to the right of the building's main entrance, children and their families gathered to play boardgames, cards, and to read books.

While his sons Abiel and Harim played Trouble with their mother, Arcely, High Point resident Victor Osejo voiced his approval for the new neighborhood center.

"It's very handy, very good for the whole West Seattle community," Osejo said. "And the good thing is, there's going to be a lot of programs here."

He said that more community events like the High Point Neighborhood Night — the first of many planned for the neighborhood — will help build community and create a safe, positive atmosphere in High Point.

While he enjoys living in the neighborhood, Osejo said there are still some isolated problems that need to be addressed.

As an example, Osejo said that his car was stolen about six months ago. Police recovered it, in decent condition, the next day, and speculated that a youth had taken it for a joyride.

Osejo has kept a positive outlook about the incident, and said that with the youth programming offered at the High Point Center, it will be a better place for teens to invest their energies.

As for his own family, Osejo said that he and his wife were planning to attend some of the scheduled exercise classes at the center.

"She's coming in the morning, and I'm coming in the afternoon," Osejo said. "Got to keep in shape!"

Elsewhere in the Family Center, Manisha Kumar, 12, was learning to play a new card game. Between rounds, she said of the Neighborhood Night that "It's fun and entertaining, and you get to learn new things."

Tables were set up in the large conference room opposite the Family Center. Neighbors gathered to fix plates of food or get a cup of coffee. At one table a father played a game of chess with his son.

A few guests browsed informational tables set up by service providers at one end of the room. Others took self-guided tours of the neighborhood center, where they learned about the building's array of green features.

In the teen center, an impromptu drum circle jam session took shape toward the end of the evening.

Cynthia Clouser, a High Point resident and regular volunteer, said she was very pleased with the event.



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Brothers Harim (center) and Abiel Osejo play a boardgame with their mother, Arcely, in the Family Center of the Neighborhood House High Point Center during the first High Point Neighborhood Night.

"I like that a lot of people came," she said. "It looked like everybody was busy."

She said the new center provides a much better venue for community events.

"I feel so much better in this building," Clouser said. "The old one was kind of stuffy, but this one is a lot more cheerful and bright."

To find out when the next High Point Neighborhood Night will be held, visit the High Point Center's Web site at www.nhwa.org/high-point and click "Calendar of Events," call the High Point Center at 206-588-4900, or ask Community Builder Genevieve Aguilar at gaguilar@seattlehousing.org or 206-696-3148.



PHOTO BY MICHELE MOSHER

A giant inflatable baby bottle promotes the bottle exchange at the Neighborhood House High Point Center.

High Point Center hosts baby bottle exchange

MICHELE MOSHER
Seattle Housing Authority

A giant inflatable baby bottle dominated the corner of Sylvan Way and Lanham Place Feb. 9, at the front entrance to the Neighborhood House High Point Center.

The 50-foot woman — and her baby — have not moved to the High Point neighborhood.

Rather, the oversized bottle advertised a baby bottle exchange at the Neighborhood House High Point Center, where low-income mothers could trade in bottles containing the toxic chemical BPA for new ones at no charge.

Dheman Ali expressed her gratitude for the baby bottle exchange. "This event makes me happy and less worried, especially because the cost to replace the bottles is expensive," she said.

WashPIRG, the organizers of the baby bottle swap, approached Neighborhood House to host this event at the new High Point Center, an environmentally friendly neighborhood center serving low-income families with children. Mothers with their children gladly swapped out their toxic baby bottles for Evenflo Classic baby bottles.

Participants were encouraged to fill out a form at the event with their personal message to their legislators about why it is important to protect Washington families from BPA. The messages were delivered in large baby bottles to the state legislators by the Washington Toxic Coalition.

Information on safe products were available to educated parents and consumers to look for the green "BPA Free" label when purchasing baby bottles and sipping cups.

BPA, or Bisphenol A, is an industrial chemical used in some plastics. Scientific studies have shown that the chemical may be harmful to humans, with infants and young children at greatest risk from exposure to BPA.

Get your fitness on at the High Point Center

Neighborhood House offers free exercise classes at the High Point Center four days a week.

Active For All with Lena meets from 2 – 3 p.m. Mondays. Be Active with Willie Austin meets from 10:30 a.m. – noon Tuesdays and Saturdays. There's a women-only exercise class offered 5 – 6:30 p.m. Fridays.

All classes are free and open to all ages over 13. For more information or to register, call 206-588-4900, Ext. 609.

For more events at High Point, visit the center's Web site at www.nhwa.org/high-point.

Public meeting to discuss utility allowance changes

Wednesday, March 10, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Neighborhood House High Point Center

Interpreters will be on hand. For more information, see the related story on Page 1 of this section.

RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

Bridging two cultures

Rainier Vista residents mark Lunar New Year and Black History Month with joint celebration

BY TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

Black History Month and the Lunar New Year came together this month in a multicultural celebration at the Neighborhood House Rainier Vista Center.

For Rainier Vista residents, the Feb. 25 event helped bridge two of their neighborhood's most prevalent cultures.

Ed Frazier, a longtime resident of the neighborhood, said that melding the two cultural events into one celebration helped build community.

"Having Black History Month and the Lunar New Year combined, it gives better culture and community between people," he said.

He credited the Neighborhood House Rainier Vista Center as helping to make that possibility a reality.

"In the past, there wasn't really a facility where you could have a community gathering like this," Frazier said. "Here we can be multicultural and get the people together for this (celebration)."

The party featured good food, a presentation on black history, traditional Vietnamese music and dance, games and other entertainment.

Neighborhood House, Seattle Housing Authority, Horn of Africa Services and the International District Housing Alliance and the Rainier Vista Multicultural Committee sponsored the event.

Vay Nguyen, a resident of Rainier Vista, said she had fun, and called the celebration "interesting." Though she apologized for her limited English, her enthusiasm for the

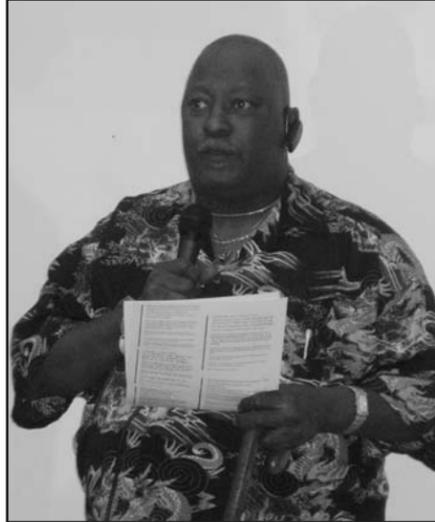


PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Ed Frazier, of Rainier Vista, offers remarks on Black History Month as part of the community celebration.

night was evident in any language.

A sumptuous buffet of multicultural foods kicked off the evening. Guests dined on noodles, chicken, fried potato pancakes, curry soup and homemade gumbo, among other items. Dessert included sticky rice cakes stuffed with mung bean or banana — traditional Lunar New Year fare.

After dinner, Frazier offered his thanks to the guests who turned out for the event, who numbered at least 100. The Horn of Africa Services then presented a video about Black History Month, created by one of the group's youth tutoring students.

Along with its black history presentation, Horn of Africa Services also organized a bake sale to raise funds for Haiti earthquake relief.

Youth from the tutoring program worked the crowd throughout the evening, offering cupcakes, brownies and sambusas at 50 cents apiece.

"We asked our students what they would like to do, and they said they wanted to



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Rainier Vista's multicultural event, which combined a Lunar New Year party with a celebration of Black History Month, featured a dance by several Rainier Vista women in traditional Vietnamese dress.

make traditional foods to help Haiti," said Fahmo Abdulle, program coordinator for Horn of Africa Services after-school tutoring program.

Students prepared all the treats for the bake sale.

Following the black history presentation, Rainier Vista resident Dang La offered the crowd best wishes for the Lunar New Year. Van Vo, of Seattle Housing's The Job Connection program, interpreted.

"We wish you good health, like a powerful tiger," La said, a reference to the Year of the Tiger, which began Feb. 14. "We hope the American economy will improve, and our way of life restored."

He concluded, "We live in the United States, but we still remember to celebrate our good culture, which we share with you today."

Ladies from the Rainier Vista neighborhood, wearing traditional Vietnamese dress, then regaled the crowd with a group dance. Tien Duong-Le, of IDHA, led the group,



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Sticky rice cakes (above), a staple of Lunar New Year cuisine, and homemade gumbo were both on the menu at the multicultural celebration.

presenting them as Miss USA representatives from the past decade.

Each lady took a turn being introduced to the audience. At the conclusion, the crowd treated the group to a round of applause.

A round of games and a social hour capped the evening.

Bedbugs

Continued from Page 3

salt. They are visible to the naked eye, but are very hard to see. Young bedbugs start out as small as a pinhead. You may see their dried-out skins since they shed every time they grow until they reach adult size.

Besides the presence of actual bedbugs, a telltale sign that an item has been infested is their excrement. You may see clusters of tiny spots or streaks that look like black ink or dark brown mud. This is digested blood, and is found in areas where bedbugs have been hiding, like corners, folds and crevices.

Similarly, if you see small bloodstains or smears on chairs, mattresses or sofas, this might be where a bedbug was squashed during feeding.

If used furniture is clean and light in color and you have good eyesight, you may be lucky to spot these signs of an infestation. But what if the bedbugs have crawled deep inside the cushions of that brown couch, or slipped into the interior of that box spring? What if they are hiding in the screw holes of that wooden chair or inside the drawers of that nightstand?

It is very hard to check an item thoroughly enough to be sure there are no bedbugs hiding

somewhere, so when in doubt, avoid things that were thrown out!

Not just furniture, but other household items can also harbor bedbugs. Clothes that have not been washed in hot water and dried in a hot dryer are perfect places for bedbugs to hide. Since their bodies are so flat, they can slip into any narrow space, even thinner than a credit card, even between a picture and its picture frame. They have been found inside clock radios and CD players. The list of hiding places seems endless.

Since you can buy used items cheaply or get them for free, it is a tough choice to decide if a used item is worth the risk.

"There is a real safety concern about bedbugs spreading from items that people throw away. This was one of the reasons we stopped allowing 'free tables' in our buildings," explained Pamela Rorvik, a Property Manager in Seattle Housing Authority's Low Income Public Housing Program.

A look around the dumpsters at most apartment buildings often reveals discarded items sitting around that seem to be in good shape. It may be tempting to re-use an item someone else threw away, but anytime you bring used items into your apartment, you risk making someone else's bedbug problem your bedbug problem.

Large items like mattresses or furniture are especially tricky. These items are likely to harbor lots of bedbugs, which can escape in the process of transporting them out to the trash area. The problem gets worse because the items often sit around in full view of people who might decide to take the items home, bedbugs and all.

If you notice friends or neighbors taking home discarded items that are possibly infested, warn them about their mistake!

If you have a bedbug-infested item that you need to dispose of, don't just set it out and forget it. The right thing to do is wrap it in plastic and mark it with a warning about the bedbugs.

Try to take the item out to the trash dumpsters as close as possible to the trash pick-up time so it does not sit around. Your property management team can assist you.

The good news is that Seattle Housing Authority's solid waste service is equipped to dispose of large plastic wrapped items if they are placed by the trash pick up area right along with the regular waste.

The bad news is that items that are disposed of improperly cannot be picked up on the regular route. Another truck needs to be dispatched with a crew using protective gear. This is expensive.

Public meeting to discuss utility allowance changes

Tuesday, March 9, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
McBride Court Community Room,
Rainier Vista
Interpreters will be on hand. For more information, see the related story on Page 1 of this section.

RV tech center open house

The Neighborhood House Technology Center at Rainier Vista will host an open house at 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 23, at its headquarters in the Neighborhood House Rainier Vista Center.

Contact Kate Farmer at katef@nhwa.org or 461-4568, ext. 211 for more information.

When disposal is done the wrong way, there are extra costs, and these costs may be passed on to the person who threw the item away improperly. When the cost of dealing with bedbugs is factored in, a used item that might be infested is not a good deal!

NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

Improve literacy and job skills with South Seattle Community College at NewHolly Campus

BY LAURA GENTRY

Seattle Housing Authority

South Seattle Community College owns and operates a learning center on the second floor of the Learners Building, just above the library, on the NewHolly Campus. The center offers an array of programs and courses for English-speaking and non-English-speaking adults and youth seeking to improve their literacy and job skills in order to transition to college or entry-level employment.

The center offers three program options: English as a second language (ESL) literacy, Adult Basic Education (ABE) / General Educational Development (GED) preparation, and Worker Retraining.

The programs offered have proved to be a popular educational resource for South Seattle. Tina Miller, who works in the Basic & Transitional Studies program, estimates there are approximately 120 students currently enrolled in morning classes, 25 students in afternoon classes and 130 in evening classes. The Saturday Worker Retraining program has approximately 120 students enrolled.

ESL Literacy program details

The center offers morning and evening classes for high-intermediate ESL and computer skills. Students must take an ESL placement test before enrolling in a course. Placement tests are offered once or twice per quarter and students can join a class, space permitting, at any point during the quarter once they've taken their test. There is a \$25 fee per quarter, per student to join a class. If you are interested in taking a placement test, call 206-768-6642 to make an appointment.

ABE/GED Preparation program details

Open enrollment for these morning preparation classes is based on space availability. If you are interested in enrolling, you can register in Room 205 of the Learners Building from 9 a.m. to noon Mondays through Thursdays.

Worker Retraining program details

There are Community Corrections and Protective Services training programs offered each quarter for ten weeks. Classes run Monday through Friday from noon to 6 p.m. To register, you must be at least 21 years old with no felonies on your back-



PHOTO BY LAURA GENTRY

The Learners Building at the NewHolly Campus is home to a South Seattle Community College learning center.

ground check and pass a skills assessment test.

If you would like to make an appoint-

ment, call Wendy or Carrie at 206-764-5835 or 206-768-6667. Paid and unpaid internships are also available.

Plan your next meeting or celebration at Lee House



PHOTO BY LAURA GENTRY

Lee House in the NewHolly neighborhood

The lower floor of Lee House, known as the Harry Thomas Community Center, is available for public and private community meetings, parties and other events.

The center is made up of two rooms: A 10-foot by 20-foot meeting room with fireplace and access to the back yard and a 10-foot by 12-foot meeting room with a kitchenette.

The kitchenette is equipped with a sink, mini refrigerator and microwave. The back yard is equipped with a sizable deck and there are tables and chairs available for any number of seating options.

Standing capacity for the space is 50 people. Banquet seating accommodates approximately 20 people and festival seating accommodates approximately 25 people.

Lee House is located in the NewHolly community at 7315 39th Ave. S.

Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis.

Pricing

Community organizations and nonprofits
Weekdays: 2-hour meetings: \$40,
4-hour meetings: \$60
Weekends: 2-hour meetings: \$50,
4-hour meetings: \$80

Private and Business Rentals

Weekdays: \$25 per hour
Weekends \$35 per hour

A reservation deposit of \$50 is required to hold your date and is refundable unless you cancel your event. A damage deposit of \$100 is required and is refundable at management's discretion depending on the condition of the center at the end of your event. The damage deposit is \$200 if liquor is served at your event.

For reservations, contact Shazia Choudhary, Lee House Events Coordinator, at 206-760-3280.

NewHolly celebrates Lunar New Year



PHOTO BY LAURA GENTRY

The Vietnamese Friendship Association hosted a Tet Celebration on February 11 at the NewHolly Gathering Hall. Tet is a Vietnamese New Year celebration marking spring's arrival as based on the Lunar calendar. Nearly 180 community members and 20 volunteers attended the celebration that included games, crafts and food. To learn more about the Vietnamese Friendship Association, visit vfaseattle.org.

Respite

Continued from Page 3

process is mandated since a federal grant promised several hundred thousand dollars to the respite program for start-up costs.

The next step for Seattle Housing and SKCPH is to negotiate a lease for the seventh floor of Jefferson Terrace, which has been on hold during the Environmental Assessment project. Once the lease begins, this would free up the funding for further planning of construction to convert the floor to the new use. If construction is able to get underway this summer, the program could open in late fall or winter, after all support services contracts are in place.

Public meeting to discuss utility allowance changes

Thursday, March 11, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
The Gathering Hall, NewHolly
Interpreters will be on hand. For more information, see the related story on Page 1 of this section.

But the next step before the lease is signed includes another round of resident participation. At meetings throughout 2009, residents requested updates on the progress of the program and opportunities to see and comment on the lease. This process should be ready to proceed this month.

YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

Greeting the Lunar New Year

Yesler Terrace marks the Year of the Tiger

By TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

March may come in like a lion, but February this year was reserved for the tiger.

Residents of Yesler Terrace celebrated a new year on the Vietnamese and Chinese calendars this month, with a Lunar New Year celebration Feb. 23.

The Lunar New Year, or Tet, was Feb. 14, and marked the start of the Year of the Tiger on the lunar calendar.

The International District Housing Alliance sponsored the Lunar New Year event, which was held at Neighborhood House in Yesler Terrace.

Tram Duong, a volunteer at the event, said the Lunar New Year is meaningful within the Vietnamese community in Seattle because it helps bring everyone together.

"The New Year is a time for the whole community to get together and celebrate," she said. "In Vietnam, families come home to celebrate (the Lunar New Year). Here, we don't have as many Vietnamese families, so everyone is like family."

At one end of the room, Gia Phan poured from a bottle of wine he brought to the party, passing cups around to guests at his table. The libations weren't just to mark the Lunar New Year — today was his 80th birthday.

"I have two occasions to celebrate," Phan said. "Firstly, the Lunar New Year. Secondly, I'm an octogenarian."

He paused, considering whether he has forgotten something. In a moment it came to him: "And my golden wedding is this year. So, three occasions to celebrate!"



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Tay Quach (center), of IDHA, serves soup to Fitsum Abraha (left) at the Yesler Terrace Lunar New Year party.



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Close to 100 guests turned out for the Yesler Terrace Lunar New Year celebration.



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Thu Bui (left) and Dinh Tran sing a Lunar New Year song. The Year of the Tiger began Feb. 14.

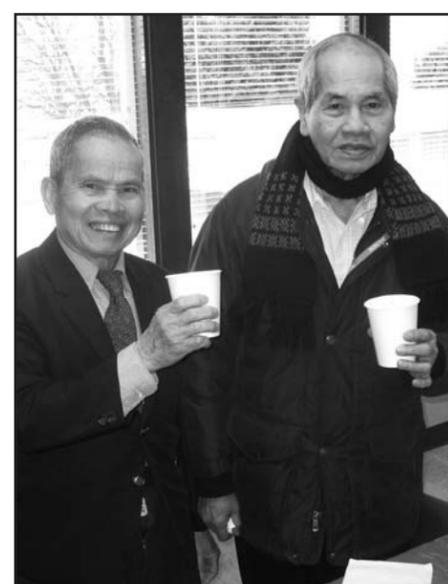


PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Gia Phan (left) and Thu Bui raise their cups in a toast. Phan was celebrating his 80th birthday.

Construction

Continued from Page 3

this building.

The old stucco has been removed from much of the building, and the first units have had new windows installed.

Scaffolding has just arrived at Willis House, which overlooks Green Lake. The window, roof and exterior replacement work at this 42-unit building is scheduled to last until late summer, when residents can look forward to getting their view of the lake back when their newly refreshed building is unveiled. Meanwhile, the removal of the stucco has just begun, so residents have been getting accustomed to the sounds of work progressing.

Work nearing completion at Bell Tower

Another Seattle Housing building set to emerge from its scaffolding cocoon this spring is Bell Tower. While the painting of Bell Tower's 17-story northeast façade, facing First Avenue, is complete, there was a delay on the other half of the building.

Residents on the southwest side enjoy a view of Elliot Bay, but in return, the salty air that blows against the building from the bay has created some special concerns for the painting process. There was a change in tactics in order to properly prepare the

concrete surface for a long-lasting paint job.

The painters had to apply several coats of a paint stripper, an environmentally-friendly product called "Clean-Strip." After each coat, they had to remove the layers of old paint and patching material by washing down the surface. Fine detailing was done by hand-scraping.

The extra time and effort taken to remove the old paint down to bare concrete was worth it.

"We now have a clean concrete surface that we can be confident will work well with the paint product. That means we can tackle the rest of the project these next few weeks," said Project Manager Juan Medina.

Other work at Bell Tower nearing completion is improvement of the ventilation system and the hot water supply system. New water heaters have been installed, and in the next few weeks further adjustments will be made to balance both the hot water flow and the air flow.

Some milestones have been reached, for example the reopening of the parking garage. With the spring-like weather conditions, the front patio is receiving more use by residents these days, after security enhancements (to keep vagrants out) were completed last month.

Fire

Continued from front page

All building occupants were evacuated to the building grounds. Once the fire was extinguished and the Fire Department had determined that it was safe to enter, residents congregated in the first floor community room.

Red Cross volunteers assisted, providing food and beverages for all and arranging shelter for those whose apartments could not be immediately re-occupied.

Firefighters and Seattle Housing Authority employees worked together to allow residents limited access to their apartments as needed over the next several hours.

Seattle Housing Authority electricians and construction workers began work immediately to reset all of the building's fire alarms, and began the necessary re-wiring to restore the seventh-floor alarms.

This work was completed by about 7 p.m. the same day, and residents were then able to begin returning to their apartments.

Apartments on the seventh floor and the apartments directly above and below the unit that burned were temporarily without electricity and thus not habitable.

Residents of those units stayed with friends or relatives overnight or were housed temporarily at the nearby Green Lake Community Center. In all, 15 people

were temporarily displaced.

Carpenters and electricians worked to restore electricity to the seventh floor and to clear away smoke damage and repair doors that were damaged as firefighters went door to door to make sure that residents had been evacuated.

The apartment in which the fire started was completely destroyed in the blaze, and apartments adjacent to it were damaged by smoke and water. Overall damages to the building are estimated at between \$225,000 and \$300,000.

Green Lake Plaza, a Low Income Public Housing property, contains 129 one-bedroom and studio apartments. Many residents of the building are elderly or disabled or both.

Built in 1971, the masonry building is not equipped with sprinklers. (At the time of construction, Seattle building codes did not require sprinkler systems.)

Exterior walls and those between each apartment are made of concrete, and interior hallway walls are made of drywall on metal studs.

Use of these materials makes the building highly fire resistant, as demonstrated by the containment of this fire.

Friends and family of residents needing information about their welfare may call the Green Lake Plaza office at 206-527-6000.

