



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



# The Voice

April  
2010  
Articles translated  
into six languages

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

## Washington state adopts partial ban on BPA in food and beverage containers

BY PAMELA WILCOX  
SHA Resident

Governor Christine Gregoire signed into law on March 19 a bill banning the use of the chemical bisphenol A (BPA) in baby bottles, sippy cups and other drink and food containers.

Under the law, drink and food containers for children under three cannot be sold in Washington if the containers are made with BPA. The law also prohibits the sale of sports water bottles containing BPA.

The BPA ban on children's containers will take effect July 1, 2011, and for sports water bottles on July 1, 2012.

Wisconsin, Minnesota and Connecticut, the city of Chicago and three counties in New York have passed similar laws banning BPA, a chemical that has been linked to a variety of health problems, including heart disease and cancer. A similar law in Oregon failed to pass.

The Washington Public Interest Research Group (WashPIRG) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public interest advocacy group that works to protect consumers from dangerous products.

Blair Anundson, a WashPIRG advocate, said he was happy about the new legislation, with the caveat that this was a long time in coming. He said that it has been known for a decade the BPA was unsafe, and that it is used in polycarbonate plastics and the lining of food and beverage cans.

Washington's new law doesn't take care of the larger issue of BPA in many food and beverage containers. However, a federal bill called the Poisonous Additives Act has been proposed. Representatives Jim McDermott and Jay Inslee of Washington are co-sponsors of the bill, which would ban BPA in all food and drink containers.

"It was long past time to test these products before using the general public as guinea pigs," Anundson said. "I could not agree more."

What are the dangers of BPA? According to the WashPIRG Web site, BPA is a synthetic sex hormone that research links

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## President Obama signs health care bill

Gina Owens, grandson  
Marcelas invited to  
White House for signing

BY TYLER ROUSH  
The Voice editor

History was made when President Barack Obama signed the landmark health care bill into law on March 23. Some supporters called it the Civil Rights Act for the 21st Century.

Gina Owens, a resident of Green Lake Plaza, and her grandson Marcelas Owens had a front-row seat to watch the event unfold.

"I feel like it's a huge weight off of my back," said Gina, reflecting on the passage of the health care bill. "It's really quite amazing because it's taken a long time to get this kind of health care passed."

The two have long advocated for health care reform, and like many have a personal stake in the fight — Tiffany Owens, Marcelas' mother, died of pulmonary hypertension in 2006.



PHOTO BY KRISTIN O'DONNELL

Gina Owens (left) and Marcelas Owens speak during a rally in Olympia in January.

The illness prevented Tiffany from going to work, and Gina said her daughter lost her health insurance when she lost her job. Without adequate access to health care, she later lost her life.

"Tiffany was a health-care activist, like I am. She started working with me on health care about two years before she died," said

Gina. "And that's one of the main things that she wanted from the health care bill, was to see that employers offered employees health care."

Gina and Marcelas began telling Tiffany's story at health-care reform rallies in

Please see "Health care" on Page 5

## Seattle women march for International Women's Day

BY LYNN SEREDA  
Section 8 Tenant

A broad coalition of women held a march through downtown Seattle on Saturday, March 6, as part of a week of activism culminating in a celebration of the 99th anniversary of International Women's Day (IWD) on March 8.

International Women's Day is widely celebrated around the world as a day to bring attention to the fight for not just women's rights, but also human rights and the creation of a just world free of exploitation and war.

The first IWD was conceived in Copenhagen at a Women's Conference in 1910. That year 114 immigrant women perished in a fire in a textile sweatshop in the lower east side of New York City. The fact that they died behind locked exit doors and in unjust working conditions not only motivated the labor movement, but the Women's movement.

This year, IWD organizers called for

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PHOTO BY LYNN SEREDA

Demonstrators prepare to march in Seattle in recognition of the 99th Annual International Women's Day.

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### Quotable

"It's about time that we should pay attention to government surveys. We stand to benefit from it. Our survival depends on it."  
— Getachew Admassu, on the importance of participating in the 2010 U.S. Census as a member of the East African community in Seattle. See the related story on Page 3.



## Health Notes

A column devoted to your well-being

### World TB Day is a reminder of the global epidemic and local risk

BY PUBLIC HEALTH - SEATTLE & KING COUNTY

Approximately one-third of the world's population is infected with tuberculosis (TB), and two million people die from it every year. World TB Day (March 24) is an opportunity to focus on solutions to a devastating global epidemic that continues to present local health challenges. In 2009, 130 people in King County were diagnosed with active TB, eighty percent of whom were born outside the United States.

"As an international community, King County is more vulnerable to diseases like tuberculosis," said Dr. David Fleming, Director and Health Officer for Public Health - Seattle & King County. "However, promising new medications and vaccines bring hope for prevention and treatment of TB, locally and globally."

Locally, Public Health - Seattle & King County's TB Control Program ensures that people with active TB are diagnosed and treated and their contacts at highest risk of infection are identified and screened. Every day TB program staff work tirelessly with clients to make sure they adhere to drug treatment, a daily regimen of medication for six months or longer. More than 2,800 clients make almost 12,000 visits to the TB clinic annually for treatment.

Because of Public Health and King County budget crises, the TB Control Program has continued funding challenges. The TB Program has had to reduce staff and now limits services to the highest priority cases and contacts.

In honor of World TB day, and to highlight the local impact of TB, Public Health is releasing new 2009 summary data today.

#### Highlights of 2009 TB data

- 130 people were reported with active TB, for a rate of 6.9 per 100,000 population, an increase from 121 cases in 2008. The national rate for 2008 was 4.2 per 100,000.
- 83 percent of infected individuals

were born outside of the United States, mostly from South-East Asia, East Africa and Central America.

- All non-white races continue to have disproportionately high rates of TB.
- 17 people (13 percent) treated for active TB were resistant to at least one TB medication.
- One multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) case was diagnosed in King County in 2009.

"We estimate approximately 100,000 people in King County have latent, or dormant, TB infection. While they aren't contagious now, they could potentially have active TB in the future and also infect others," said Dr. Masa Narita, TB Control Officer for Public Health - Seattle & King County. "TB is curable and preventable, but controlling TB is an ongoing challenge, especially with fewer resources to accomplish our work."

#### Background on TB

Tuberculosis is an infectious disease caused by a bacterium named *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. TB often involves the lungs (pulmonary TB) but can infect almost any organ in the body. TB is almost always curable with antibiotics that are readily available in countries such as the United States. People with active TB disease are made sick by bacteria that are active in their body. People with inactive, or latent, TB infection are not sick because the germ is inactive inside their body, and they cannot spread TB infection to others.

To view the 2009 summary data and for more information on Public Health's TB Control Program and activities, visit [www.kingcounty.gov/health/tb](http://www.kingcounty.gov/health/tb).

*Providing effective and innovative health and disease prevention services for over 1.9 million residents and visitors of King County, Public Health - Seattle & King County works for safer and healthier communities for everyone, every day. More at [www.kingcounty.gov/health](http://www.kingcounty.gov/health).*

### Resident leaders Rick Harrison and Doug Morrison take the conversation on public housing to Washington, D.C.

BY KRISTIN O'DONNELL  
SHA Resident

Seattle Housing Authority tenants Rick Harrison and Doug Morrison are representing Washington State public housing tenants in Washington D.C. as members of the Resident Engagement Initiative.

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan asked the National Housing Law Project, a nonprofit national housing and legal advocacy center that works to advance housing justice for poor people, to recruit a representative group of public housing tenants voucher participants and their partners to meet with Secretary Donovan and HUD senior staff to discuss:

- The future of the HUD rental assistance programs;
- Ways to maintain resident voices as policy proposals move forward;
- Building an engaged and informed group of residents with ongoing, meaningful participatory role in HUD policies and programs.

National Housing Law Project asked the Seattle-based Law and Justice Project to recommend local tenants. Attorney Eric Dunn, who has worked closely with Harrison and Morrison, gave their names to NHLP.

Harrison, from Cedarvale, worked on both the establishment of the homeWorks agreement with Seattle Housing and the successful lawsuit challenging the sign rule, and is a member of the governing board of the Law and Justice Project.

Morrison, from Ballard House, chairs the Resident Action Council (RAC), a city-wide

organization of Seattle Housing Authority tenants, and the Joint Policy Advisory Committee (JPAC), a group convened by the Housing Authority to comment on rules changes.

Resident Engagement Initiative has scheduled a series of meetings, web-seminars and conference phone calls to give residents training and technical assistance and to give them an opportunity to meet with HUD leadership to influence policy.

Doug Morrison attended the first session in Washington D.C. in January. Harrison will attend the DC Resident Engagement Initiative meeting in April as well as the annual conference the National Low Income Housing Coalition, which focuses on political advocacy.

"I was writing about what I'd learned there for The Voice," Morrison said. "And then I'd get a phone call, and what I was writing about had changed. Whatever I wrote would be wrong before people got to read the paper."

Both Morrison and Harrison plan to share information on what they've learned from conferences, meetings and web seminars at the monthly meetings of the Resident Action Council.

Policies and rules being discussed include funding, possible time limits for housing subsidies, and rules for what Housing Authorities can do when they sell or demolish public housing. Current information on proposed rule and policy changes is available from the Web sites of the National Low Income Housing Coalition ([www.nlihc.org/template/index.cfm](http://www.nlihc.org/template/index.cfm)) and the National Housing Law Project (<http://nhlp.org/index.php>).

### Write a letter to the editor

The Voice welcomes your feedback.

Send your letters by e-mail to [tylerr@nhwa.org](mailto:tylerr@nhwa.org), or by regular mail to: Neighborhood House

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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.

### This way to college: State program paves the way to college success for seventh and eighth graders

BY SHA STAFF

Now is the time to begin planning for your child's college education, and the State of Washington is waiting to get you started.

If you have a seventh or eighth grade

student, he or she may qualify for the College Bound Scholarship program. This state-sponsored program, administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB), makes the dream of going to college much more attainable.

The College Bound Scholarship provides

hope and incentive for students and families who otherwise might not consider college as an option because of cost. Through the College Bound Scholarship Program, thousands of students who dream of going to college will be able to attend without worrying that the price was beyond their reach.

The amount of the scholarship is based on tuition rates at Washington public colleges and universities. It will cover tuition and fees (plus \$500 for books) not covered by other state financial aid awards.

In return, students promise to graduate from high school with a minimum 2.0 grade point average, demonstrate good citizenship, and seek admission to a Washington public college or university once they graduate from high school.

In late March, Seattle Housing Authority Executive Director Tom Tierney sent out a letter to all adult heads of households living in SHA-assisted housing, with children between the ages of 12 and 15.

The letter provides information about the program and encourages families to make sure that their seventh and eight

graders enroll by the application deadline of June 30.

Students are eligible if they meet just one of the following criteria:

- Receive free or reduced-price lunch at school
- Receive TANF benefits
- Are a foster youth
- Qualify as a low-income student (see the Web site below for details about income qualifications)

Signing up is free and easy. An online application is available in several languages at the HECB Web site: [www.hecb.wa.gov/CollegeBound](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/CollegeBound).

You will also find more information about the College Bound Scholarship and useful information that will help you start planning and preparing for college.

This is a win-win situation. Students receive assistance getting to college and the State of Washington receives a new generation of college educated leaders.

The deadline to sign up is June 30. Interested students are encouraged to talk to their counselors or teachers or visit the HECB Web site today!

#### The Voice

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

# Be safe

**“Be Safe Workshop”  
for residents living in  
affordable downtown  
Seattle housing**

BY SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

If Mary had a keychain whistle to blow in a threatening situation, would she be safer on downtown Seattle streets and public areas?

“Fear for your life, blow a whistle” is one of the ideas that a working group of residents living in affordable housing in downtown Seattle have listed as a Be Safe strategy, in preparation for a summer safety workshop. Mary could be safer, the working group says, if downtown residents were provided keychain whistles and people nearby understood that the sound of a whistle blowing meant that someone is in trouble.

“Signaling trouble with a whistle” is one of the safety strategies generated by the Be Safe Working Group. The big idea is to host a half-day safety workshop in June for residents living in affordable housing in Downtown Seattle.

A map created by the Working Group shows 18 residential buildings operated by Seattle Housing Authority and non-profit housing organizations in the Belltown area between First and Fourth Avenue

and Stewart Street and Battery. The Working Group is sponsoring informal safety “Cafes” in many of these buildings in preparation for the Be Safe Workshop. Working Group members want to learn about resident safety ideas and concerns and get the word out about the summer workshop.

Are you interested in personal safety in downtown Seattle? Attend the Be Safe Workshop in June. Call (206) 323-7094 to be placed on the workshop mailing list.

Participate on the Be Safe Working Group

Help plan the Workshop and/or volunteer to assist the day of the Workshop. For more information about the event or to participate on the Be Safe Working Group, contact Allan Davis at (206) 323-7094 or e-mail [allan@sngi.org](mailto:allan@sngi.org).

*Allan Davis (206-323-7094) and Kelly McKinney (206-323-7084) are Community Educators for Seattle Neighborhood Group. Call them to schedule personal safety presentations and get crime prevention assistance.*

## 2010 Census reaches out to East African population

**Easy form, language assistance designed to boost participation**

BY U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

To meet its goal of counting every resident of the United States, the 2010 census is making a special effort to include in its tally all Somalis, Ethiopians and other African immigrants who have settled in the Seattle area.

“If they are here, they need to be counted,” said Mohamed Sheik Hassan, a Somali refugee who came to the United States in 1994 and now runs the Afrique Service Center, a non-profit organization that aids East African immigrants in Southeast Seattle.

“The people really need the services, and the more they participate, the state will get the money to do the services for them,” Hassan said.

The numbers from the census are used by government officials to figure out how much money to give each community for schools (including school breakfasts and lunches), food stamps, child care, help for mothers, public housing, teaching people to speak English and many other programs. Census information plays a role in the distribution of more than \$400 billion a year in federal aid, and on average, each completed form is worth \$1,400 annually per listed household member to a resident’s community.

“It’s about time that we should pay attention to government surveys,” said Getachew Admassu, an Ethiopian immigrant who is working with the census to connect to Amharic speakers and others. “We stand to benefit from it. Our survival depends on it.”

Census questionnaires were mailed to homes last month. The 10-question form is the shortest since the first census in 1790;

the U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years. Census officials hope that as many people as possible will mail the forms back in the prepaid envelope provided, to avoid the expense of in-person visits by census workers to homes to complete the count.

The census also is used to determine how many representatives each state sends to the U.S. Congress. Although only U.S. citizens can vote in elections for Congress, the Census includes all residents, even if they are not citizens or don’t speak English.

Non-English speakers and recently arrived immigrants and refugees present a major challenge for the census because it can be difficult to get them to respond to the questionnaires, which those residents may not understand or trust. The result may be that people in those groups are not counted — something that happened to the East African immigrant community in the last census in 2000, Hassan said.

“We are here, but the data doesn’t reflect that,” he said. “We need to participate in the system if we are here.”

All census information collected, including addresses, is confidential and protected by law. The Census Bureau can’t share respondents’ answers with any government agency such as the FBI, the IRS, welfare and immigration. No court of law or law enforcement agency can find out respondents’ answers.

All Census Bureau employees — including temporary employees — take an oath for life to keep census information confidential. Any violation of that oath is punishable by a fine of up to \$250,000 and five years in prison.

To reach hard-to-count groups, the census has forged partnerships with thousands of community organizations, churches, mosques, neighborhood businesses and other trusted representatives

**Please see “Census” on Page 3**



## One to grow on

*Garden tips for community gardeners*

### Beans, corn and squash are the three sisters of summer crops

BY ANZA MUENCHOW  
*Special to The Voice*

Though the soil is not warm enough in April to start planting warm season crop seeds outside, the ambitious gardener may be interested in starting these delicious summer veggies in pots indoors.

We often refer to some of our favorite summer crops as “the three sisters”, namely beans, corn and squash. These food items were among the first important crops domesticated by ancient Mesoamerican societies. Taken from Iroquois tales, corn, beans, and squash were three inseparable sisters who would only grow and thrive when together. Thus, interplanting them in the same mounds became a consistent agricultural practice among Native American farming societies. It was a sustainable system that maintained a rich diet for the Iroquois people for generations.

For our cool Northwest summers, we can start these seeds indoors in April and plant them out carefully in mid-May to assure a full and bounteous harvest.

Beans and squash do not like transplanting, so extra care is needed not to damage the roots. Use a well drained seed starting mix in a four-inch pot for starting your seeds, sowing two to a pot. Cucumbers (also in the squash family) have smaller seeds and are easier to handle.

Be sure to label the pots because the seedlings of summer and winter squashes may look very similar. The soil temperature should be at least 60 degrees for good germination.

When two true leaves have developed on your seedlings (about five to six weeks old) you can begin to harden them off by setting them outside in partial sun during the day and bringing them in at night.

This will slow their growth and prepare them for moving into your garden beds. When ready to transplant, water the pots and then tap the seedlings carefully out of their pot holding the soil in place as much as possible. Then plant them deeply covering the stem up to the cotyledons and water well. Straw mulch can be tucked around the seedlings, too. At this point I often use floating row cover over them for extra protection for a week or two depending on the weather.

As for sowing corn indoors, I use four-cell trays in my flats and sow numerous

trays planting one seed to a cell. They also want at least 60 degrees to germinate. These seedlings are much tougher and can handle being squeezed into a small cell.

Remember that corn must be planted outdoors in a large group because the ears won’t form unless they have lots of windblown pollen falling from the tassels onto the silks. Plant about eight rows at a minimum; a whole field is preferred. Yes, you can start 100-200 plants in the trays and set them out in late May.

In a rich soil with plenty of water, they will reach knee high by the Fourth of July. Choose a variety that will grow in cool summers, like Seneca Horizon, Bantam or Bodacious. These will be short stalks and only produce one or two ears per plant. But there is nothing like fresh picked corn on a summer day. We’ll eat it raw right in the garden.

Tomatoes, tomatillos, eggplant and peppers are all in the solanacea family and they need an especially long growing season in a Northwest garden to produce the delicious fruits we desire. Typically they are started in greenhouses in March and transplanted outside after Mother’s Day in May.

Buy your transplants at local plant sales or neighborhood nurseries that carry the varieties that do well in our climate. Most heirloom varieties are meant for growing in the midwest or southern states, so choose short-season varieties and hope we have another warm, dry autumn to get them all to ripen.

Eggplant is especially difficult to set fruit and ripen, but the long and thin Asian types can produce eight to 10 small fruits per plant. That is certainly enough for a good meal. Last summer I had good luck with a small round variety called Opus from the New Dimensions Seed Co.

But really, the tomatillos were the best. They can last into the fall and grew into very large bushes. I had them on the top of a terraced bed so they hung down to and kept well off the ground. Keep an eye on them and pick before they crack. We made the best enchilada sauce from these.

Good luck with the 2010 growing season and happy eating.

*Anza Muenchow is a farmer and a volunteer with P-Patch. You can reach her by e-mail at [anzam@whidbey.net](mailto:anzam@whidbey.net), or online at [www.mahafarm.com](http://www.mahafarm.com).*

## BPA

**Continued from front page**

to cancer, heart disease, diabetes, miscarriage, obesity, reproductive problems and hyperactivity. It is a hormone-disrupting chemical.

Recent scientific studies show infants are more susceptible to BPA because it stays longer in their bodies than it does in adults. Research also indicates that exposure to BPA puts girls at an increased risk for breast cancer.

It doesn’t take a lot of exposure to BPA to significantly increase its levels in your body—a 2009 study conducted by Harvard University found that drinking from polycarbonate bottles for one week raised BPA levels by an average of 69 percent.

The federal Food and Drug Administration has also registered concerns about BPA, citing evidence that it can adversely affect development and behavior in fetuses,

infants and young children.

As part of its effort to keep BPA out of reach of children, WashPIRG teamed with Neighborhood House and the Washington Toxics Coalition in February to distribute BPA-free baby bottles to low-income Seattle residents. The event took place at the Neighborhood House High Point Center, a social services and environmental learning center in West Seattle.

A little more than a month later, Governor Gregoire signed the BPA ban into law. State representative Mary Lou Dickerson, a Democrat in the 36th Legislative District, was the primary sponsor of the legislation. Her e-mail address is [dickerson.marylou@leg.wa.gov](mailto:dickerson.marylou@leg.wa.gov). She may also be reached at 206-545-6513 or 360-786-7860.

*For more information about WashPIRG, contact Blair Anundson at [blair@washpirg.org](mailto:blair@washpirg.org), call 206-568-2854, or visit [www.washpirg.org](http://www.washpirg.org).*



PHOTO BY LYNN SEREDA

NaaSira Adeeba (left) of Bell Tower plays drums prior to the march.

## March

Continued from front page

a global World March of Women to bring attention to how militarism, poverty and violence are affecting women globally. An international committee of the Red Cross is also calling for this year's IWD activities to shine the spotlight on war and the displacement of women and children.

Seattle's march started in the Central District with a rousing speech from Asha Mohamed, who works at The Job Connections office in Yesler Terrace. She was chosen to give the first speech, because several women were very moved by Mohamed's

speech at this year's Martin Luther King Day rally.

For the IWD march, she noted that women all over the world are not just suffering from violence and war, but also suffering internally through shame, in some instances.

The forces that oppress women are very strong and unified, so the response must also be unified.

"We must agree to agree on what we agree on," said Mohamed, and she implored the energized crowd of women to be proud of being women.

The march went down Jackson Street, with representatives from about two dozen



PHOTO BY LYNN SEREDA

Asha Mohamed, of Seattle Housing's The Job Connection, spoke prior to the beginning of the march.

social justice groups participating. Besides more speeches at several stops, there were drummers from Korean and African American traditions.

NaaSira Adeeba, a Bell Tower resident who drums in a group called Sistah Drum, said "the drum is a wonderful tool. ... The drum, like the heart, is an instrument, that creates joyfully when it is welcomed."

The march finished with a rally at Occidental Park, with more speakers and songs from the Seattle Labor Chorus, Raging Grannies, as well as spoken word poetry, including local Filipina activist Rogue Pinay.

Tina Gianoulis, one of the organizers

said that "the most exciting thing is the idea of transcending borders — women all over joining together to celebrate women's contributions and demand women's rights ... seeing this incredible work women are doing all over is most inspiring."

Lika Smith, co-President of the Seattle chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) said the march was "energizing" for the local women's movement and that it was wonderful to see so many women take leadership roles in organizing the march and other IWD activities.

The march was only one part of the week's activities. There was also a candlelight vigil for victims of domestic violence, which the Asian Pacific Islander Safety Center organizes each year.

The evening of the march CARA (Communities Against Rape and Abuse) held a Ladies First night at Hidmo, featuring nationally known rapper Desdemona and media activist Malkia Cyril.

Finally, on March 8 there was a celebration event where several local women were honored for their grassroots leadership on a wide range of issues, including poverty, child trafficking and global peace.

NOW's Smith said that seeing these women honored by their peers was deeply touching. Among the women honored was Adeeba, who has spent many years doing activism around homelessness and the women's community, particularly with African-American women. Her traditional African drumming is yet another way that she shares her activism.

For more information on what the Seattle International Women's Day group is planning for the future, to coincide with a global march in the Congo this October, e-mail [inter.womensday2010@gmail.com](mailto:inter.womensday2010@gmail.com).

# It's not too late to get free tax help from the United Way

By VOICE STAFF

Your 2009 income tax return is due April 15. But if you've put off filing your return, there's still time to receive tax assistance through the United Way of King County's Free Tax Prep Campaign.

Households earning less than \$50,000 last year are eligible to receive free assistance through April 15 at several sites throughout Seattle and King County.

No appointment is necessary, 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](http://unitedwayofkingcounty.org/taxhelp).

See the March 2010 issue of The Voice for a list of free tax preparation sites, or visit the Web site above for more information.

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

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.

For more information about the EITC, go to [www.irs.gov/eitc](http://www.irs.gov/eitc).

## Census

Continued from Page 3

across the nation.

The census also offers instructional guides in Amharic, Arabic, Dinka, Somali, Swahili, Tigrigna and other languages about how to fill out the form, which can be found at [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov). Telephone Questionnaire Assistance is also available for those who speak English, at 1-866-872-6868.

Help also will be provided in-person by African-language speakers in neighborhoods throughout the area, including:

**Amharic and Oromo**  
Yesler Community Center

917 E. Yesler Way, Seattle  
Tuesdays, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Thursdays, 4 – 8 p.m.  
Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### Somali

Afrique Service Center  
5706 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle  
Tuesdays, 5 – 9 p.m.

Bilingual Family Center of Seattle Public Schools  
3928 S. Graham St. (Room 105), Seattle  
Mondays through Fridays, 1 – 4 p.m.

Lake Washington Apartments  
9061 Seward Park Ave. S., Seattle  
Mondays, 1 – 5 p.m.

Fridays, 2 – 7 p.m.  
Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Neighborhood House Rainier Vista Center  
4410 29th Ave. S., Seattle  
Mondays through Fridays, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Rainier Vista Boys and Girls Club  
4520 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S., Seattle  
Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Seattle Housing Authority: New Holly

Neighborhood Campus - Learners Building  
7058 32nd Ave S., Seattle  
Mondays and Fridays, 3 – 7 p.m.

Seattle Vocational Institute  
2120 South Jackson St, Seattle  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Somali Community Services of Seattle  
3320 Rainier Ave. S., Seattle  
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



**Neighborhood House**  
Strong Families. Strong Communities. Since 1906.

**Health care**

Continued from front page

Olympia and around the state of Washington. Eventually, her story reached the other Washington, and the Owens were invited to speak at a health-care press conference in D.C. in early March.

After the health care bill passed the House of Representatives by a razor-thin 219-212 margin on March 21, the White House invited Gina and Marcelas to return to Washington, D.C. to witness the signing.

In photos that appeared in dozens of major newspapers, one can see Marcelas, dressed sharply in a tie and vest, standing at Obama's side as the president signs the bill into law.

The bill makes sweeping changes to the health care industry that will affect millions of Americans, but most important to Gina is also its most basic — that everyone in America will have access to coverage.

“One of the big reasons that we fought so hard for health care was because we wanted everyone to be covered, and a lot of the people in SHA housing are either uninsured, or they are underinsured,” Gina said. “I’m really happy that this type of bill is going to give everybody the type of coverage they need.”

**Partisan rancor underscores health care debate**

While many Democrats hailed the passage of the health care bill, Republicans cried foul, arguing that the bill amounted to a trillion-dollar boondoggle that will unfairly burden taxpayers.

President Obama had pledged a post-partisan future in Washington when he took office in 2008, but the health care debate split Congress largely along party lines. Thirty-four Democrats joined House Republicans to oppose the bill, while all 219 voting in favor were Democrats.

Among Washington Representatives, Democrats Brian Baird, Norm Dicks, Jay Inslee, Rick Larsen, Jim McDermott and

Adam Smith voted in favor of the bill; Republicans Doc Hastings, Cathy McMorris Rogers and Dave Reichert opposed it.

Shortly after the president signed the bill, the attorneys general of 13 states — including Washington attorney general Rob McKenna — filed a lawsuit alleging that parts of the bill are unconstitutional.

They’ve argued that the federal government does not have the authority to require individuals to purchase health insurance. Starting in 2014, the new law would require individuals to have health insurance, either through their job or by purchasing a plan. Anyone who doesn’t comply would face tax penalties.

Washington governor Christine Gregoire, a Democrat, expressed outrage that McKenna, a Republican, elected to join the lawsuit without consulting the state’s Democratic leaders. The attorney general is entitled under state law to bring lawsuits on behalf of the citizens of Washington, and does not necessarily need to consult state officials.

**What will it do?**

Much attention has been paid to the debate over health care, but what will the bill actually accomplish?

For one, the bill will make it easier for people to get health insurance — a major benefit for the estimated 32 million Americans who do not have it. By the time the law takes full effect in 2014:

- Insurance providers will no longer be able to deny people coverage due to a pre-existing condition — an underlying health condition such as diabetes, heart disease or cancer that was diagnosed before an individual applied for coverage.
- Employers with 50 or more workers will be required to provide health insurance, or face federal fines.
- Children will be allowed to remain on their parents’ insurance plan until age 26.
- Insurance providers will no longer be able to place lifetime limits on coverage, and will not be able to cancel an individual’s plan

**“Stronger families, stronger communities”**

**Neighborhood House Ninth Annual Breakfast Celebration set for April 29**

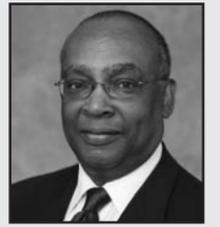
The Neighborhood House Ninth Annual Breakfast Celebration on Thursday, April 29, brings together thought-provoking civic leaders, community advocates and other Neighborhood House supporters to share perspectives on what it takes to build stronger families and stronger communities.

Two of our nation’s most respected leaders in philanthropy – William Gates Sr. of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Norman B. Rice of the Seattle Foundation – will be guided in an on-stage dialogue by John Sharify, managing director for Seattle Community Colleges TV. Their conversation will challenge Breakfast Celebration guests to consider the role that each of us plays in ensuring that our children and our communities grow strong and healthy.

The event takes place at 7:30 a.m. at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in downtown Seattle. Guests will be asked to make a suggested minimum



William Gates Sr.



Norman B. Rice

donation of \$125 to support Neighborhood House’s mission of helping diverse communities of people with limited resources attain their goals for self-sufficiency, financial independence, health and community building.

Don’t miss our most exciting event of the year! Register online by following the link at [www.nhwa.org](http://www.nhwa.org) or, to learn more, contact Development Manager Liz-Beth Levy at 206-461-8430, ext. 230, or [lizbethl@nhwa.org](mailto:lizbethl@nhwa.org).

The event is sponsored by Well Fargo and Regence BlueShield.

if he or she becomes sick.

- Medicaid coverage will be expanded to include individuals and families with incomes up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level.

By 2014, the bill will also create an insurance marketplace where consumers can shop for health insurance. Competition in the marketplace will in theory yield lower insurance rates.

And the new health care overhaul will require most people to have health insurance beginning in 2014. Uninsured individuals and families above 133 percent of the pover-

ty level but below 400 percent would receive subsidies to offset the cost of coverage.

Overseeing the implementation of the new legislation is where activists like Gina and Marcelas Owens come in.

As the calendar slowly ticks toward 2014, Gina said that accountability could become the new watchword for health care reform.

“We’ve come along way with this bill, but we still have a lot to accomplish,” Gina said. “Because they signed the bill doesn’t mean that it’s going to actually take effect. That’s the type of accountability I’m looking for.”

Neighborhood House is enrolling pregnant women and children 0-5 years, particularly those in garden communities and including children with significant disability/special needs, in its Head Start and Early Head Start. Program is free. Call 206-461-8430, Ext. 248 or 206-760-9330, Ext. 10.

**Neighborhood House**  
Strong Families. Strong Communities. Since 1906.

Kaalmo loo talagaley haweenka uurka leh & dadka income-koodu yar yahay oo degan guryaha SHA-da. Barnaamijku wuxuu gargaarayaa caruurta 3-5 sano jir ah,iyo kuwa itaal la'aani laxaadleh kudhashey, siiba curyaanka iyo kuwo ubaahan adeegyo gaar ahaaneed

**Aan Isunimaano Si aan Waxbarano oona Sidaas Kubarbaarn!!!**

**Waxaanu bixinaa lacag la'aan:**

- Boogasho guri ( Home visits) oo haweenka uurka leh & kuwo Caruutoodu 0-3 sano jir ah oo guri loogu waxbaro.
- Iskool lootalagaley caruurta 3-5 sano jir ah.
- Barbaarin caafimaadeed oo caruurta, waxbarasho & adeegyo bulshadeed.
- Faafaahin kusaabsan caafimaadka ilmaha & Baaritaanka
- Waxbarashada waalidiinta & wax wadaqabasho
- Adeegyado & talo jeedin kusabsan baahida mujtamaca
- dhiirrigelin & Taakuleeyn.
- Waxaa intaasi dheer, adeegyo kahortag ah oo loo fidinayo caruurta waxbarashadu dhibeyso iyo kuwo tayala'aan kudhashey siiba curyaanka iyo kuwo baahi gaarahaaneed ah leh. Waxaanu lashaqeynaa Boyer Children's Clinic & Seattle Public School.

**Neighborhood House Early Head Start & Head Start**  
**Weey kucaawin karaan!!!**

<p><b>Early Head Start</b> 7054 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave S., Suite 107 Seattle, WA 98118 (206) 760-9330 ext. 10</p>	<p><b>Head Start</b> 905 Spruce St., Suite 200 Seattle, WA 98104 (206) 461-8430 ext. 247</p>
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**Neighborhood House**  
Strong Families. Strong Communities. Since 1906.

Chương trình phục vụ các người mẹ mang thai, các gia đình có lợi tức thấp, hoặc đang có con mới sinh cho tới đúng 5 tuổi, bao gồm cả những gia đình có con em cần những nhu cầu đặc biệt và bị khuyết tật/hiện đang sống trong những khu gia cbr : High Point, New Holly, Rainier Vista và Yesler

Quý vị có muốn biết thêm về những gì cần để giúp cho con em khỏe mạnh và vui học không !!!!

**Chương trình phục vụ miễn phí:**

- Mỗi tuần, có nhân viên thăm viếng đến tận nhà những người mẹ mang thai và những gia đình có con từ lúc mới sinh cho tới đúng 3 tuổi.
- Ghi tên cho trẻ em từ 3 đến 5 tuổi để đi học lớp vỡ lòng.
- Giám định khả năng và khám nghiệm sức khỏe.
- Tạo cơ hội giúp quý vị học hỏi thêm.
- Sinh hoạt theo nhóm tuổi của các em.
- Giúp trẻ em tăng trưởng khỏe mạnh, biết đọc, biết viết và những việc giao tế trong lãnh vực xã hội.
- Hướng dẫn và giới thiệu đến những cơ quan cần thiết để giúp giải quyết những vấn đề khó khăn.

Cơ quan chúng tôi có làm việc chung với chương trình của trạm y tế trẻ em Boyers và trường học Seattle.

Chương trình thăm viếng trẻ em và lớp vỡ lòng của cơ quan Neighborhood House có thể trợ giúp quý vị.

<p><b>Early Head Start</b> 7054 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave S., Suite 107 Seattle, WA 98118 (206) 760-9330 ext. 10</p>	<p><b>Head Start</b> 905 Spruce St., Suite 200 Seattle, WA 98104 (206) 461-8430 ext. 247</p>
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# CLASSIFIEDS

THE MARKETPLACE OF THE VOICE

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that believes  
in me.**



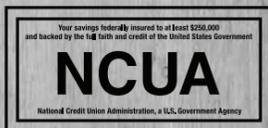
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...in West Seattle

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# CLASSIFIEDS

THE MARKETPLACE OF THE VOICE



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- Mental Health Care & Counseling
- Specialty Care Referrals
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- Assistance Getting Health Insurance

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 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](http://www.ichs.com)

## Market place coupon

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Write your ad here (one word per line)

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

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

Mail to: PPC, PO Box 80156, Seattle, WA 98108 Fax: 206-461-1285  
 E-mail: [classmgr@nwlink.com](mailto: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.

**A pillar of the community**  
**ROBINSON BIDS FAREWELL TO YESLER**  
**See Page 7**



# SHA NEWS

**April  
2010**

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

## Mayor McGinn announces resident opening on SHA Board

**Commissioner Sibyl Bailey's term ended in March**

Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn has announced that the city is accepting applications from residents interested in serving on the Seattle Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Sibyl Bailey's term ended in March, and she has decided not to seek re-appointment.

Residents interested in applying for the position should fill out a Prospective Resident Commissioner Profile and send it by May 1 to: Mark Matassa, Communications Director, Mayor's Office, City of Seattle, P.O. Box 94749, Seattle, WA 98124-4749.

The profile is available on the News section of the Seattle Housing Authority Web site ([www.seattlehousing.org](http://www.seattlehousing.org)); see news releases at bottom of home page) and on the City of Seattle's Web site.

After May 1, applications will be reviewed by a group including a member of the Mayor's office, the chair of the Seattle Housing Authority Board, a representative of the resident community, a member of the City of Seattle's Office of Housing and a member of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods. This group will select and interview candidates, recommending three finalists for the mayor to consider.

Once Mayor McGinn has made his selection, the person will be nominated for appointment and will go before the City Council's Housing, Human Services, Health and Culture Committee, chaired by Councilmember Nick Licata. If this committee approves the appointment, the nomination will be forwarded to the full City Council for confirmation. Once confirmed by City Council, the appointee will begin his or her term of service on the Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

Questions about the process may be directed to Mark Matassa at 206-233-2655 or [mark.matassa@seattle.gov](mailto:mark.matassa@seattle.gov).

## Denny Terrace computer lab opens with fanfare

*Project funded through City of Seattle grant*

BY CINDA LIUM  
 SHA Resident

The much-anticipated opening of the Denny Terrace Computer Lab took place on Feb. 26.

At the opening David Keyes, manager of the Community Technology Program, pointed out the difficulties involved in planning the opening, then the subsequent use of the lab, by juggling bowling pins to show how often you have more than one thing going at same time.

Denny Terrace has had 25 residents use the lab so far, spending anywhere from 15 minutes to two or three hours. Resident Judy Frank says the lab has provided wonderful back-up since her own computer died, and that the volunteers are working very hard to make it a success.

The Denny Terrace Lab Committee includes Larry Wisdom, Zeituni Abhur, Cinda Lium, Joseph Clausell, David Norris, Janet Romano, and Rahima Dougherty. These volunteers, who were awarded the Bill Wright Technology Matching Fund grant in 2009, worked hard to get the lab open.



PHOTO COURTESY DENNY TERRACE COMPUTER LAB

At the Denny Terrace Computer Lab grand opening (from left) Delia Burke of the City of Seattle, SHA Community Builder Marcia Johnson, STAR Center Director Oscar Escalante, and Denny Terrace computer lab volunteers Rahima Dougherty, David Norris and Zeituni Abhur cut the ribbon to officially open the lab. Not pictured are lab volunteers Joseph Clausell, Cinda Lium, Janet Romano and Larry Wisdom.

Residents of Denny Terrace are encouraged to volunteer in the lab, since it can only be open if someone is there to help. Duties would include opening and closing

and answering basic questions. Classes are being planned for both the residents and the volunteers; a schedule will be announced soon.

## Bell Tower residents mark International Women's Day

*Councilmember Sally Clark speaks at event*

BY LISA WOOD  
 SHA Resident

As Seattle Councilmember Sally Clark stood in front of the Bell Tower residents on this, the 99th annual International Women's Day, she was not only encouraging them to vote, she also encouraged them to call their state senators so they do not vote to make a \$39.3 million cut to the Housing Trust Fund.

Clark was a guest at Bell Tower's celebration of International Women's Day, held March 8.

"The greatest thing I can encourage you to do is to take advantage of signing up to vote," she said. "Use your voice one more time than you thought you might this year. Write your senators, call Governor (Christine) Gregoire; they are looking at taking monies out of the Housing Trust Fund.

"Let your voice be heard."

The International Women's Day celebration dates back to the worldwide movement for women's suffrage, which helped define the early 20th century.

Back on Sept. 19, 1893 New Zealand became the first country in the world to give women the right to vote. Women in other countries did not enjoy this equality and campaigned for justice for many years.



**Councilmember Sally Clark**

In 1910 a second International Conference of Working Women was held in Copenhagen. A woman named Clara Zetkin, leader of the 'Women's Office' for the Social Democratic Party in Germany, introduced the idea of an International Women's Day. She proposed that every year in every country there should be a celebration on the same day — a Women's Day — to press for their demands.

The conference of over 100 women from 17 countries, representing unions, socialist parties, working women's clubs, and including the first three women elected to the Finnish parliament, greeted Zetkin's suggestion with unanimous approval. International Women's Day was the result — the first one was celebrated on March 8, 1911.

**To learn more**

For a story on Seattle's Women's Day March, turn to Page 1 of the front section.

The city of Seattle occupies an important place in the history of International Women's Day and in civic engagement for women in the United States.

Bertha Knight Landes is a name few people recognize these days, but one that is very important on this day: She was one of the pioneering women Seattle has known over the decades.

In 1926, she was elected mayor of Seattle, becoming the first female mayor of a major American city, and still the only female mayor in Seattle's history.

Landes and Kathryn Miracle were the first women to serve on the Seattle City Council when they were elected in 1922; the service of women such as Clark and fellow councilmembers Sally Bagshaw and Jean Godden can be traced back to that momentous election in 1922.

Ms. Landes was acting mayor in 1924, was elected in 1926, and defeated in 1928. When asked about the future of women in suffrage and in politics, Ms. Landes said, "Women now wield considerable power along political lines and I believe each succeeding year for some time to come

**Please see "Women's Day" on Page 5**

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## Bill Nishimura, former Seattle Housing executive director, dies at 86

By VOICE STAFF

William "Bill" Nishimura, a former Seattle Housing Authority executive director and later a regional administrator for HUD, died Feb. 26 of congestive heart failure. He was 86.

Bill worked for 32 years at SHA, beginning with a position as an assistant cashier in the accounting department in 1950. He climbed the ladder all the way to the top spot in the agency, and served 12 years as executive director in the late-1960s and 1970s.

He then joined HUD as regional administrator for Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska, serving one year for the Carter Administration and eight more under Reagan.

A lifelong Seattle resident, Bill graduated from Garfield High School in 1941 and later attended the University of Washington and Gonzaga University.

He enlisted in the Army during World War II and was assigned to the Military Intelligence Service and later to the 317th Troop Carrier Wing in Tachibana Air Base in Japan.

Bill is survived by his wife of 60 years, Irene, his daughter Susan and son Bruce (Shirley), all of Seattle, and his sister Mary (Ben) Seike, of Normandy Park.

A memorial service was held March 21.



Bill Nishimura, 1923 - 2010

## Seattle Housing meets key stimulus fund deadline



PHOTO BY LAURA GENTRY

Sergei Khandzhayan works as an administrative assistant on the ARRA-funded infrastructure project at Rainier Vista.

By SHA STAFF

Seattle Housing Authority recently met a key March 17 deadline set by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to obligate \$17 million of initial stimulus funding received through HUD's capital fund in 2009. Seattle subsequently competed successfully for an additional \$27.6 million in ARRA Funds.

Seattle Housing is using these funds to add new low-income housing at Rainier Vista and to make needed updates at Bell Tower. The competitive funds to be obligated by September of this year will add new low-income housing at Lake City and make needed updates at Denny Terrace, a high-rise apartment building in downtown

Seattle.

"With national partisan politics still ablaze over the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), both the Administration and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have been understandably concerned that some housing authorities may not successfully meet the Act's mandatory deadlines, first for obligating the awarded funds and then for spending them," said Tom Tierney, Seattle Housing Authority Executive Director.

"As of last week Seattle Housing was able to report we have fully obligated the first round of funding. While this sounds

Please see "Stimulus" on Page 6

## Federal rules require Seattle Housing to verify tenants' and applicants' employment, income

By SHA STAFF

Starting about two years ago, Seattle Housing has been using a system developed by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to verify income and employment information for applicants and tenants in all of the agency's rental programs.

The recent changes in HUD regulations regarding citizenship and requiring Social Security Numbers make use of this system mandatory for all public housing authorities.

The online Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system contains information about employment and income for individuals who participate in HUD rental assistance programs.

Because this system is now mandatory, Seattle Housing Authority is changing some policies to conform. (While the Housing Authority would usually have a comment period, because there are no options regarding this policy, there is no official comment period.)

Here are some common questions and answers about EIV.

### How does EIV concern me — what information is in EIV and where does it come from?

HUD obtains information about you from a number of sources, including public housing authorities, the Social Security Administration, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Information concerning Social Security wages and status and unemployment compensation is included in the database.

HUD is requiring housing authorities to compare the information provided by applicants and residents with information in the EIV database. If the information does not match, the housing authority must work with the applicant or participant to understand why.

### What is the EIV information used for?

- Primarily, the information is used to:
  - Confirm your name, date of birth, and Social Security number with the Social Security Administration.
  - Verify your reported income sources and amounts.
  - Confirm your participation in just one HUD rental assistance program.
  - Confirm whether or not you owe an outstanding debt to any public housing authority

- Confirm any negative status if, in the past, you moved out of a unit subsidized under a Public Housing or Section 8 program.

- Follow up with you, other adult household members, or your listed emergency contact regarding deceased household members.

EIV will alert Seattle Housing if you or anyone in your household has used a false Social Security number, failed to report complete and accurate income information, or receives rental assistance at another address.

EIV will also alert Seattle Housing if you owe an outstanding debt to any Public Housing authority in any state or U.S. territory and any negative status when you voluntarily or involuntarily moved out of a subsidized unit under a Public Housing or Section 8 program. (This information is used to determine your eligibility for rental assistance at the time of application.)

Overall, the purpose of EIV is to identify and prevent fraud within HUD rental assistance programs, so that limited taxpayer dollars can assist as many eligible families as possible. EIV will help to improve the integrity of HUD rental assistance programs.

### Is my consent required in order for information to be obtained about me?

Yes, your consent is required in order for HUD or Seattle Housing Authority to obtain information about you. By law, you are required to sign one or more consent forms. However, if you or any of your adult household members refuse to sign a consent form, your request for initial or continued rental assistance may be denied. You may also be terminated from the HUD rental assistance program.

### What are my responsibilities?

As a tenant (participant) of a HUD rental assistance program, you and each adult household member must disclose complete and accurate information to Seattle Housing Authority, including full name, Social Security number, date of birth and income information.

You must notify Seattle Housing Authority if a household member dies or moves out. You must also obtain Seattle Housing Authority's prior approval to allow additional family members or friends to move into your home.

Please see "EIV" on Page 5

### 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.

### Correction

An article in the March issue (SHA News, Page 2) on coming changes in how Seattle Housing Authority deals with increases or decreases in utility rates contained an error. The article stated that "if a tenant's income is so low that the utility allowance exceeds the amount of the rent due from the tenant," the housing authority pays the difference directly to the tenant. Since virtually every Seattle Housing Authority and Impact Property Management unit has a \$50 minimum rent, this is not accurate.

# POINT OF VIEW

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

## Progress in the bedbug battle

BY SVEN KOEHLER  
Seattle Housing Authority

Residents of Denny Terrace may have gotten accustomed to seeing human pest control technicians on a daily basis. A team has been on site nearly every day for several months in order to tackle a stubborn bedbug problem. In mid-March, that team included Seattle Housing Authority's only canine employee, Taylor the bedbug detection dog. And the dog brought good news from the frontline of the battle against bedbugs.

For a whole week, the dog and human staff worked to inspect every unit on every floor at the building for evidence of bedbugs. Most of the apartments — more than 95 percent — were successfully inspected. Just a few apartments will need a follow-up inspection due to unfavorable conditions or refusals to enter.

The results were encouraging. There was a drastic reduction in the number of bedbug cases since the last building-wide inspection four months ago and from Taylor's previous visit earlier in 2009.

From early 2009 to late 2009, the number of units reporting a bedbug problem at Denny Terrace had hit a high of about 50. The recent building-wide inspection found only about a dozen units with evidence of bedbugs. This includes active infestations and previously treated units where remains may be present, according to Bill Petersen, the head of the Pest Control program at the Housing Authority.

Several of the apartments where bedbugs were found are already in the middle of a treatment program. Often, serious infestations or challenging conditions in the unit require multiple visits to treat successfully. In other units, the treatment had to be suspended because of non-cooperation by the tenant. A few were newly reported cases. Overall, the active cases found during the recent inspection represent more than an 80 percent decrease in bedbug infestations since inspections in 2009.

### On the job with Taylor

How does Taylor detect bedbugs? She uses the "sniff test." While humans might never notice it, bedbugs emit a certain odor. The dog is trained to recognize this telltale sign. By sniffing around an apartment, the dog can quickly point out areas where bedbugs may be hiding.

A trained pest control technician can also identify a bedbug infestation by a thorough visual inspection, but this takes anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour or more per apartment. Taylor can often detect bedbugs within a minute or two.

This speed makes it possible to inspect an entire building the size of Denny Terrace in a relatively short time. But it is still a challenge, because inspections by a dog have limitations. Just like a human, when Taylor gets overworked and tired or distracted, she may make mistakes, explained Peterson, who handles the dog. So, additional checks by the human pest control technician may be necessary to confirm the presence of bedbugs.

Not surprisingly for a dog, Taylor finds it hard to concentrate on bedbugs in the presence of cats, other dogs, or when pet food is left out in the open. For the recent inspections, residents were requested to remove their pets and pet belongings for the few minutes while Taylor was working inside their unit.

Other factors can make it hard for Taylor's nose to detect a bedbug hiding in a unit. Cramped apartments that are exceptionally full of belongings make it hard to get Taylor's sniffer within reach of the hiding spots. Units that have strong odors or significant nicotine residue make the dog less effective. "Resident cooperation is essential to the success of bedbug detection efforts," points out Senior Property Manager Jake Leblanc.

While Taylor's nose is one of the most charismatic features of SHA's anti-bedbug efforts, her role in detecting bedbugs is just a small part of the overall effort. Taylor doesn't actually kill bedbugs. That job belongs to the pest control staff who apply the treatments.

Part of the success at Denny Terrace is a result of additional staff who were hired in 2009 to intensify SHA's response to this pest. The pest control team has nearly doubled. "This gives me a good crew that deals almost exclusively with bedbugs. Since we're making progress at Denny Terrace, they can also pitch in with the regular, ongoing treatment for other pests that my remaining staff continues to work on," Petersen said. Efforts have been concentrated at Denny with extra pest control staff on

Please see "Bedbugs" on Page 6

## Next steps in bringing respite care to Jefferson Terrace

BY SVEN KOEHLER  
Seattle Housing Authority

After nearly four months of waiting, the plan to lease one floor of Jefferson Terrace apartments to provide respite care is gaining momentum. The federal government is in the final stages of giving its approval to release funding after an Environmental Assessment process that lasted several months and included valuable resident input.

This is a big step that allows Public Health Seattle & King County (PHSKC) and Seattle Housing Authority to move forward with planning that was basically halted until the funding was released. Now,

both Seattle Housing and PHSKC can take concrete steps to move the project forward, like making security improvements to the building that planners and residents agree are key to success of the program.

Medical respite programs provide temporary housing for those who would otherwise be forced to try to recuperate on the streets. Experience has shown that trying to get well from an injury without housing is very difficult and often lands homeless people right back in the hospital.

With medical monitoring and a connection to social services that are cornerstones

Please see "Respite" on Page 4

## The time is right to take the Preparedness Challenge

### April is Disaster Preparedness Month

BY CINDA LIUM  
SHA Resident

SHARP (Seattle Housing Authority Residents Preparing) invites you, your family and friends to "Take the Preparedness Challenge" during the month of April. The Seattle Office of Emergency Management is sponsoring the challenge.

The theme is "Three to Get Ready." Here's how it works: For those who live in Seattle and King County, complete the three steps to preparedness as outlined below, then teach three others to do the same. Three friends, three steps, three to get ready! It's easy!

After that, go to [www.mynorthwest.com/getready](http://www.mynorthwest.com/getready) for a prize packet that includes a t-shirt, whistle, and flashlight. To qualify, you must complete the challenge and register between April 5 and May 2.

### "Take the Preparedness Challenge"

The three steps to take to be better prepared for disasters and to teach three others are:

1. Store emergency drinking water,

one gallon per person per day for three days is the minimum. Try to stock your home, car and work too. An easy way to store water is in an empty two-liter pop bottle. You will need six pop bottles to equal three gallons.

2. Create an out-of-area contact, someone who lives outside the Puget Sound who can be a point of contact for everyone in your household. When phones are jammed locally, you and other loved ones in your household or in the Seattle area can contact your out of area contact and ask that person to relay news to others as they make contact.

3. Learn and practice drop, cover and hold — your safest action during an earthquake. When you feel the ground shaking, get low to the ground, under a table, desk or countertop, and hold on until 30 seconds after the earthquake stops. If you are a wheelchair user, you should remain in your chair and cover your head to protect it from falling objects.

For handout material on each of the three steps, available in 14 languages, go to the Seattle OEM Web site at [www.seattle.gov/emergency/prepare/language](http://www.seattle.gov/emergency/prepare/language).

If you have any questions please contact Cinda Lium, SHARP member, at 206-322-3291 or the Seattle Office of Emergency Management at 206-233-5076.

## Keeping myself out of conflict

### A participant in the dispute resolution course shares what he learned about himself

BY MARTIN QUALTERS  
SHA Resident

The course on conflict resolution presented by the King County Dispute Resolution Center of Seattle and sponsored by the Seattle Housing Resident Leadership Council was useful. It gave me a process to use in certain situations.

One of the things it did not do (and was not designed to do) was to offer me ways to look at myself and ask questions to help me look at myself in a different way, one that would be useful in keeping me out of conflicts.

A book that was useful to me in doing this was "The Four Agreements," by Don Miguel Ruiz. Two of the agreements are "Don't make assumptions" and "Don't take anything personally."

Too often I have made an assumption about someone or a situation that was wrong and just created more trouble for myself. I was ready to think that I knew what the other person was thinking. Big mistake! Another biggie — assuming I'm right and the other is wrong.

Too often I took it personally when someone was venting about a problem they were having. I made his or her problem my problem, another big mistake.

Now I can ask myself "Is this my problem or his or her problem?"

Also, how I see myself (and believe myself) to be and how I believe others to be strongly affects any interaction I have. For example, do I see myself as strong or weak, good or bad, capable or not capable, a victim or powerful? And how do I see the other person?

It comes down to this: Who do I think I am? Where did I get the ideas about who I am? Are they my ideas or someone else's? Do I still believe they are true?

Am I living my life based on false beliefs/ideas from parents, relatives, teachers?

For example, did an authority figure tell me I was stupid and would amount to nothing?

Or, luckier, did someone say that I could do anything that I put my mind to, and I believed that? Is my idea of who I am useful in getting what I want?

What would it be like if I changed my idea of who I am?

Who is the "other" person? Do I see the other generally as neutral, positive or negative? Do I see them as threatening or helpful?

What would it be like if I changed my idea of the other?

Changing the point of view is also a useful tool. Looking at the issue from the other's point of view and then from the point of view of a neutral observer before I speak can lead to leaving some things

Please see "Conflict" on Page 6

# HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY

## West Seattle community rallies for 'Plant a Tree' day

### Volunteers plant 130 trees along Fauntleroy Way

By CRAIG GRELLA  
SHA Resident

Community groups and residents throughout the city met at Fairmount Park in West Seattle on Saturday, March 27 to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Tree City in Seattle and to plant trees along Fauntleroy Way. Councilmember Richard Conlin emceed the event, which was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Seattle, the Boy Scouts of America and the City of Seattle.

Early morning dew gave way to a beautifully sunny morning in the park, where more than 100 people showed up to plant 130 trees along a two-mile stretch of Fauntleroy Way, from Alaska St. south to Holly St. Among the volunteers were dozens of scouts and their parents, groups from Mars Hill Church, Keller Williams Real Estate, the Master Gardeners of Seattle and the Department of Corrections.

The event also coincided with the Boy Scouts of America's centennial, for which Scouts across the country have been planting trees and performing other service projects.

Brian Waid, a local attorney and Rotary member who also worked on developing Cormorant Cove and Viewpoint Park, started planning this event more than three years ago. When the city began repaving Fauntleroy Way, Waid saw an opportunity to bring everyone together for a massive tree planting.

After gathering support from various organizations in September of 2009, he had a conversation with City of Seattle arborists, which led to a more formalized plan and ideas on where to place the trees.

Conlin spoke about the importance of the community coming together with the city, working hand in hand to develop and take ownership of the green space throughout Seattle. He cited his environmental work with the YMCA and how satisfying it was to know that the kids helping to plant these trees could watch them grow, and would probably come back to see the trees with their own children someday. Representatives from the various community groups took turns speaking to the volunteers and informing



PHOTO BY AMY GRELLA

Volunteers pose for a photo during the Plant a Tree day in West Seattle. Some 100 volunteers planted 130 trees along Fauntleroy Way.

neighbors about other projects in the works.

Conlin later kicked the event into gear by introducing the state forester and city arborists, who spoke briefly about the staging and placement of the trees and then broke volunteers into smaller groups with leaders who gave more detailed instructions on planting. Seattle Wellness was on hand to provide first aid and Jeremy Jones from NY Life Insurance provided refreshments for the large crowd.

After some coffee and more than a few doughnuts, volunteers picked up shovels and rakes and followed crews of city workers, who supervised the installation of stakes which will hold the trees until they take root. Ron Harris-White with the City of Seattle echoed Conlin's sentiment about the government and community coming together on a project that will have such a positive, long-lasting impact on the community.



PHOTO BY AMY GRELLA

Rakes and shovels line a fence, to be used for tree-planting in West Seattle.

## Free exercise classes available for High Point residents

By LAURA GENTRY  
Seattle Housing Authority

A new free exercise program is now available to High Point residents looking to get more active and meet others in the community. The program, which began in March, is called Be Active Together.

The goal of the program is to promote healthy living through community building and physical activity. It is a five-year community-based research project funded by the National Institute of Health and is a joint effort between Neighborhood House, Public Health Seattle & King County, Seattle Children's Hospital Research Institute, Seattle Housing Authority, King County Housing Authority and NeighborCare Health.

Three classes are available, all held at the High Point Center, located at 6400 Sylvan Way, on the corner of Morgan and Lanham.

- Active for All with Lena: A gentle aerobics class held Tuesdays from 2-3 p.m. This class is good for someone with joint pain or looking for a more relaxing work out.

- Be Active with Willie Austin: A more rigorous workout held Wednesdays 6-7:30 p.m. and Saturdays 10:30 a.m.-noon. Willie uses weights,

talks about nutrition and guides a meditation at the end of the workout.

- Women-only class: A private class for women held Fridays 5:30-7 p.m. Cloth is put over the windows to ensure privacy.

Melisa Keskin, who oversees the program at High Point, said the classes have proven to be quite popular, especially on the weekends. Classes typically have about seven to 25 people attending depending on the day.

"People really like it. They're able to work out for free, all of our instructors are very motivating and they have good relationships with the people who are working out. Willie Austin, one of our trainers, is a UW football player, so he's a bit of a celebrity around here," Keskin said.

She also said, regardless of the intensity of the class, they are designed for all fitness levels.

"You take it at your own pace and you can make it as challenging as you want it to be," Keskin said.

To reduce your risk of injury, consult with your doctor before any exercise program. For more information or to register, call Melisa Keskin at 206-588-4900 Ext. 609. To participate in a class, you must be 13 years old. All classes offered are free.

## Respite

Continued from Page 3

of such programs, homeless people can not only heal but also start on the road to finding a permanent home after they leave the respite care facility.

A current resident of Jefferson Terrace illustrated the way a respite care program can help. At a recent event at Jefferson Terrace, he shared the story of his path into permanent housing that started when he received temporary housing and social services through a respite care program like the one currently being proposed. For nearly three hours on Friday, March 26, interested residents, Seattle Housing staff, PHSKC staff and other stakeholders heard presentations and engaged in discussions regarding the proposal.

The approval is the last hurdle that stood in the way of accessing a \$375,000 grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. No funding for the project can be expended by Seattle Housing until a lease is signed. So, this funding enables work by PHSKC and Seattle Housing to continue to plan a project that both provides valuable services, while also addressing concerns voiced by some residents about locating

the program at the building.

The program is planned to be located on the seventh floor of Jefferson Terrace, a 17-story, 299-unit building. In late March, Seattle Housing and PHSKC began negotiating the lease for the floor.

The currently empty 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 planned, including 24/7 on-site supervision.

Spring will see more opportunities for public participation in the planning. The public is invited to participate in a final 15-day comment period on the approval of the funding that lasts until April 16. Information on this process is posted at the building, and is available at [www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/personal/hchn.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/personal/hchn.aspx).

The Housing Authority has committed to including residents in the review of the lease terms before the lease is signed. It is too early to tell how long the actual negotiations will take, but further information will emerge in April.

Another resident meeting is being planned for late April or early May.

# RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

## New technology center at Rainier Vista a place for learning and fun

### Open house for center held March 23

BY TYLER ROUSH  
The Voice editor

Residents of Rainier Vista have a new resource for learning basic computer skills, checking e-mail and searching for jobs online. They can have a little fun, too.

The newly-renamed Neighborhood House Technology Center at Rainier Vista opened to the public with an open house March 23 at its location in the Neighborhood House Rainier Vista Center.

The center exists to help offer no-cost internet access to Rainier Vista residents, particularly those who might not have access to high-speed internet or a home computer.

"We offer access to the internet to help bridge the digital divide in the community," said Kat McGhee, an AmeriCorps volunteer with the computer lab. "We do that by offering open lab time and different classes for adults and youth."

McGhee, Technology Center Coordinator Arielle Rosenberg and a pool of volunteers staff the center.

Funding for the lab was made possible through a Bill Wright Technology Fund grant from the City of Seattle.

"This lab is a place that's well-connected, and trusted by the community," said David Keyes, community technology program manager for the City of Seattle.

"It's a goal of the city to ensure people have the skills necessary for survival, education and civic engagement," he added. "We're honored to have the opportunity to support the Neighborhood House Rainier Vista lab."

Technology Center volunteer Ubah Abdi commutes from her home in Auburn to lend a hand in the lab. She said the work is a good fit for her.

"My degree is in computer science. I'm a computer geek," she said with a laugh.

She encouraged residents — even those who are not computer-savvy — to "come to the computer lab and join the class to see

#### Course offered at the Tech Center

• **ESL:** Learn basic English vocabulary and conversation. Call for full schedule.

• **Job Search Skills:** Learn to navigate the Web, set up e-mail and apply for jobs. Mondays, 6-8 p.m.

• **Basic Word:** Work on your typing skills and on how to create, format and save documents in Microsoft Word. Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

• **Kid Tech Zone:** Working with tech professionals, youth of all ages will improve their computer skills through games and the Internet. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon.

• **Open Lab:** Free time to use the lab's computers. Mondays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10 a.m.-noon.

• **Youth Open Lab:** Thursdays, 6:30-7 p.m., Fridays, 4-5 p.m.

For more info, call 206-461-4568, Ext. 202.



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Technology Center Coordinator Arielle Rosenberg (right) talks to Rainier Vista youth about volunteer opportunities in the Neighborhood House Technology Center at Rainier Vista, while volunteer Ubah Abdi (left) looks on.



Staff of Neighborhood House and the City of Seattle, Technology Center volunteers and Rainier Vista community members (left) pose for a photo outside the Neighborhood House Technology Center at Rainier Vista during the March 23 open house. A Rainier Vista youth (right) watches a music video on one of the center's computers.



PHOTOS BY TYLER ROUSH

what they're missing."

Both youth and adults filled the lab during last month's open house, occupying the center's row after row of computers. Neighborhood kids watched music videos or played online games. Adults checked e-

mail and surfed the web. A few signed up for computer classes.

In addition to basic computer classes, the center offers open lab times and ESL services. For a complete listing of classes offered, see the sidebar above.

The wide array of services are meant to keep the lab useful for the entire community.

"We're here to be a community space people can utilize for whatever they need," McGhee said.

## EIV

Continued from Page 2

### What are the penalties for providing false information?

Knowingly providing false, inaccurate, or incomplete information is fraud and a crime.

If you commit fraud, you and your family may be subject to any of the following penalties:

- You may be evicted.
- Your rental assistance or subsidy may be terminated.

- You may be required to repay rent that you should have paid had you reported your income correctly.

- You may be prohibited from receiving future rental assistance for a period of up to 10 years.

- You may be prosecuted by the local, state, or federal prosecutor, which may result in your being fined up to \$10,000 or serving time in jail or both.

You can protect yourself by following

HUD reporting requirements. When completing applications and re-certifications, you must include all sources of income you or any member of your household receives.

If you have any questions on whether money you receive should be counted as income or how your rent is determined, ask Seattle Housing Authority. Every time a change occurs in your household income, contact Seattle Housing immediately to determine if this will affect your rental assistance.

### What do I do if the EIV information is incorrect?

Sometimes the person who enters EIV information may make an error when submitting or reporting information about you. If you do not agree with the EIV information, let Seattle Housing Authority know.

If necessary, Seattle Housing will contact the source of the information directly to verify disputed income information, and will help you identify and correct errors.

## Women's Day

Continued from front page

will find them wielding that power more effectively."

Little did she know then that Governor Gregoire and U.S. Senators Patty Murray and Marie Cantwell would be representing the state of Washington eight decades later.

Bonnie Beers broke all kinds of barriers herself. In 1977 she became the first female firefighter in Seattle. With a career that spans thirty years, she defines what Women's Day is all about.

The audience at Bell Tower also watched the movie "Not For Ourselves Alone," which chronicles the lives of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth C. Scranton, both instrumental to the suffrage movement in the United States. Not until Congress ratified the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920 were women in all states allowed to vote. The presidential election of November 1920 marked the first occasion on which women around

the country were allowed to exercise their right to vote.

The 19th Amendment states, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

Both women worked tirelessly in support of the suffrage movement, but did not live to see the passage of the 19th Amendment — Anthony died in 1906, Stanton in 1902.

The 99th Annual International Women's Day is celebrated both globally and locally, and reminds us of the importance of the right to vote — as Kenneth Jennings, coordinator of the event at Bell Tower, said, "We have rights, they are not handed to you on a silver platter, they've been fought for."

Though the fight for women's suffrage has long since passed into history, its legacy reminds us that the rights won are still important today. The message of the evening at Bell Tower was clear: Don't forget to register to vote. It truly does matter!

# NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

## Bedbugs

Continued from Page 3

duty every day, although treatments continue at other Seattle Housing properties where bedbugs are reported.

### Resident actions make a difference

Alongside the efforts of the pest control team, another major factor in the success in decreasing the cases of bedbugs at Denny Terrace could be heightened resident awareness of the problem. There have been several resident meetings about the subject, as well as a series of informational flyers and a bedbug bulletin board in the lobby. "At this time last year, there was still a lot of mystery surrounding bedbugs. But now, after all the inspections, treatments and a lot of education efforts, residents know a lot about them," said Anna Corbett, the property manager at Denny Terrace.

While bedbug treatments are covered by Pest Control, residents play a vital role in controlling bedbugs. Cooperating with pest control procedures is one action that helps.

But to prevent infestations in the first place, items with bedbugs should not be brought into the building. Once a unit is treated, it can be re-infested if new bedbugs are brought in.

Properly disposing of infested items is also important. They should be wrapped in plastic and marked as infested before being taken to the trash area. Property management can help with this process.

Keeping bedbugs at bay has become part of everyday life, believes resident Larry Wisdom, who had one of the first encounters with bedbugs in the building over a year ago. "Back then, people weren't really paying attention to bedbugs. They were going dumpster diving for stuff. But now, if they see their neighbors taking in used mattresses from the trash, they will tell them to avoid it."

Before starting a big offensive against bedbugs at Denny Terrace in December, this was the worst hit among Seattle Housing properties. So the building is viewed as a test case for new pest control protocols adopted by the agency in November 2009. This includes a lease amendment regarding tenant responsibilities to cooperate with pest control procedures, as well as the additional pest control staff and stepped-up public information efforts.

The 80 percent reduction in bedbug cases at Denny Terrace means there is still work to do, but also provides solid evidence that headway can be made to stop the spread of these unsavory critters. The battle against bedbugs rages on, but with great resident co-operation, a strong, diligent work crew, and a dog with a nose for the job, hope is out there!

## Stimulus

Continued from Page 2

elementary, it is significant that many recipients of stimulus money will not successfully meet this deadline," Tierney said. "We have gone beyond this initial milestone, with projects at Rainier Vista and Bell Tower well underway, and work at Lake City Village and Denny Terrace also progressing."

The meeting of the March 17 deadline is just one of the ways the agency continues to take full advantage of the \$44.6 million ARRA funds received. In addition to creating new low-income housing with the funding, the agency is preserving existing housing, attracting additional money and creating jobs.

Seattle Housing has also been able to use the funding to attract additional money and re-assign resources so that the \$44.6 million results in construction projects worth \$109.4 million. As a result, the agency is leveraging \$2.45 for every \$1 of Recovery Act funding.

So far, Recovery Act funding awarded to the agency has created or retained more than 31 jobs that would not exist without this funding. The number of jobs is expected to increase as the projects progress. Most of the jobs created are construction jobs, not jobs within the Seattle Housing Authority. Many are employing low-income residents from surrounding neighborhoods.

For example, Sergei Khandzhayan, who grew up in Seattle Housing's High Point community, was recently

## NEWHOLLY NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT & SAFETY TRAINING

Friday - April 16  
6-8 p.m.  
Campus Gathering Hall  
7054 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave South

*Seattle has had an increase in crime.  
Come learn about how to keep your community safe.*

**Personal Safety**  
The best way to call 9-1-1  
**Property Safety**  
Preparing for Emergencies

+

**Vote on how YOU want to use YOUR  
NewHolly Community Activity Fund!**  
\$5000 per year!

+

**Vote on who YOU want to represent NewHolly  
at the Southeast District Council.**

+

**Volunteer Committee Information**

**Free dinner with Halal and Kosher options.**

**Supervised childrens' activities.**

**Free emergency supplies.**

**All neighbors are encouraged to attend. Youth under 13  
years old, must be accompanied by an adult.**

**Interpreters are available for Somali, Amharic, Tigrinya,  
Vietnamese, Cambodian.**  
**Please call if you need another language.**

**Volunteers very appreciated for this event.  
Interested? Thanks! Please call Joy 723-1725**

**NewHolly  
Neighborhood  
Clubs  
invite you to  
participate in  
your community.  
Get involved!  
join a Club!**



**Multicultural  
Communication**



**Crime Prevention**



**Traffic Safety  
& Parking**



**Parks & Gardens**



**Youth Activities**



**Welcome Wagon**



**Special Events &  
Block Parties**

For more information  
please contact:  
Joy Bryngelson  
NewHolly  
Community Builder  
7054 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave S. #205  
Seattle, WA 98118  
(206) 723-1725  
jbryngelson@seattlehousing.org

hired to work at the Rainier Vista Northeast job site as an administrative assistant with the Gary Merlino Construction Company.

"It's been a blessing for me to be able to learn and grow and give back to family and friends and the people that I work with," Khandzhayan said.

Khandzhayan says the job has helped him hone project management skills that he hopes to use throughout his professional career.

"Everybody does something that contributes to the greater good, but this particular job helps me see the bigger picture of the work," Khandzhayan said.

Projects benefitting from the ARRA funding include Phase II development of Rainier Vista, construction of the Lake City Village Apartments, building system updates to Denny Terrace and rehabilitation of Bell Tower.

For more information on these projects, visit Seattle Housing Authority's Stimulus Funding at Work at [seattlehousing.org](http://seattlehousing.org).

## Conflict

Continued from Page 3

unsaid or to feeling that something important is unsaid and needs to be spoken.

Another book that has been very useful is "The Power of Now," by Eckhart Tolle. The past is gone, the future does not exist. By staying in the present, I am not judging myself or others.

The now is useful also because I am not assuming; my attention is on what really is, seeing what is in front of me now, not the past, not the future.

I also learned from books such as "The Abundance Book," by Lester Levenson, about letting go of emotions.

I found out that I do not have to let emotions run my life. I can, right when I'm feeling angry, for example, ask myself "Could I let this feeling go?" Sometimes it's not easy.

I combined what I learned from these books with what I learned in the course. By getting clearer about who I am, I react less, listen better and tend to stay out of conflicts.

# YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

## Yesler Terrace police officer leaving large shoes to fill

By SCOTT FREUTEL  
Seattle Housing Authority

For now, Seattle Police Department officer Shelton Robinson is still keeping an eye on things at Yesler Terrace, but that will soon end. The popular officer is being reassigned from one East Precinct beat to another. Residents and management staff at the community are not happy to see him go.

Robinson, 49, is leaving his position as Community Police Team officer for Yesler Terrace, a position he's held for eight years, and moving to the precinct's theft, burglary and juvenile detail.

Over eighteen years, Robinson has worked just about all the beats there are to work in the community.

His first assignment after graduating from the Seattle Police Academy was as a patrolman in the East Precinct, which includes Yesler Terrace. In that capacity Robinson got to know the community from a patrol car, a bicycle, and on foot. He worked as a school resource officer at two nearby middle schools, Washington and Meany.

His new position will let him at least occasionally interact with the staff and residents at Yesler Terrace, although in a very different capacity. And that's fine with Robinson.

"I enjoy my work at Yesler, working with both residents and staff," Robinson said last month. "The staff and I work closely as a team, and I'm going to miss them. But I'll still be around, just in a different capacity."

Robinson credits his time at Yesler Terrace with teaching him about diversity.

"You've got something like 20 different

languages here, 20 different cultures. You need to learn about those cultures, learn the differences between them and the similarities too. When I first got here I didn't know about these different communities; what I needed to know isn't taught in a one-day 'diversity' class.

"When you're charged with the safety of a community, you have to know the people who live in it. I've spent a lot of time getting to know and building rapport with people. When there's a problem, I try to make sure that I hear about it—maybe I can help solve it.

"One thing, though, is when you've built up a lot of rapport with people, sometimes when there's an incident, a serious incident, they just call you, they want you to handle it—and I have to tell them no, this is serious, you have to call 911 on something like this."

A challenge Robinson deals with now and will continue to deal with is how to interact positively with teenagers. Himself the father of a grown daughter, Robinson is understanding of the difficulties teens face.

"As an officer, in dealing with kids you have to balance the disciplinary part and with trying to be a friend."

To Judi Carter, Yesler Terrace's senior property manager, Robinson got that balance just right.

"All the kids respected him," she said recently. "Some of the kids feared him, but many of them love him—they call him 'Officer Shel.' The bad kids don't love him, because he tells them when they're messing up—no, they don't love him at all. But even those kids respect him because he's fair and he's honest."



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Officer Shelton Robinson (left) sits with Yesler Terrace Property Manager Judi Carter during a recent Yesler Terrace Community Council meeting. Robinson, the neighborhood's Community Police Team officer, will leave to accept a new position within the police department.

Carter is an unabashed fan of Robinson's.

"He's been a phenomenal officer and a really good friend to Yesler Terrace and we're going to miss him a lot. We're going to miss his great sense of humor and his generosity. He's been part of our family."

Yesler Terrace resident Audry Breaux echoes Carter in praising Robinson.

"He is very good with the community and the residents," she said last month. "If you called him he was always there. If you had questions for him, he would always answer. He was very good with the kids in the neighborhood. Very friendly."

Breaux said that Robinson's strength was

in getting to know community members by name, in being visible in the community and available to residents.

"You don't find too many of them that are doing that," she said recently. "I hate to see him go, because he was so great."

Robinson says that, of all his experiences at Yesler Terrace, he's most enjoyed the Juneteenth celebrations, which he plans to continue to attend.

"They're just great," he said. "Everybody comes together, all different nationalities and cultures, and play music and listen to music, and you get to eat great different foods from all over. It's a genuine celebration of the community."

### Parrish's art on display at area bank

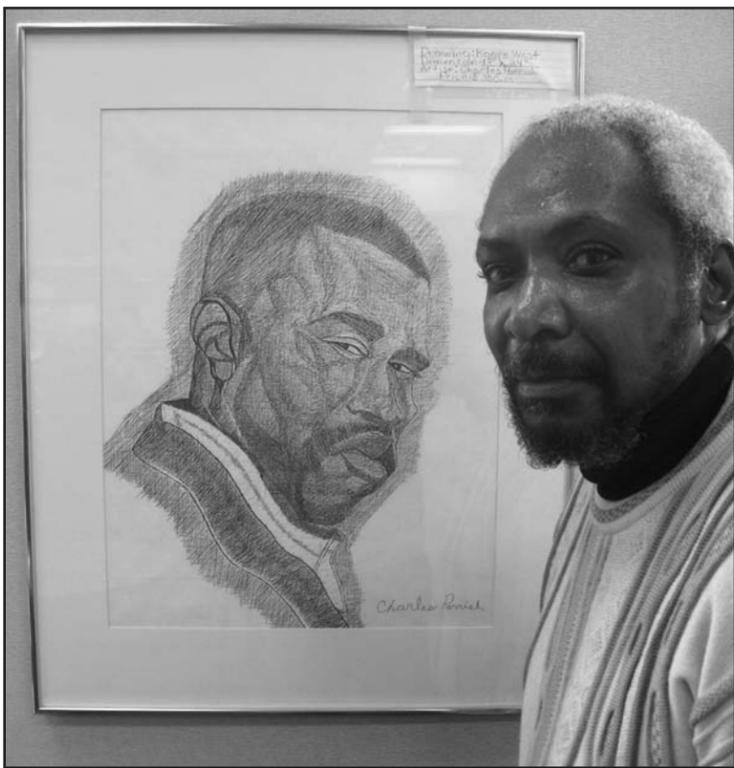


PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Artwork by Yesler Terrace resident Charles Parrish, pictured above with his sketch of hip-hop star Kanye West, will be on display at the US Bank location at 1001 Madison Street, near the intersection of Madison and Boren. The works on display include five sculptures and five drawings, including the one of Kanye West seen above.

## Notes from the Manager

By JUDI CARTER  
Senior Property Manager

Recently, a lot of work orders have been phoned in to the management office about slow drains or plugged sinks. When the maintenance mechanics go to the apartments to work on the problem, they have found that residents have been putting things down the drain that should have gone into the garbage.

Please do not put any grease, oil or pan drippings down the sink. These things may be liquid when you pour them hot, but when they get into the pipes, they become solid and plug up the drain.

Use a container that you are going to throw away, such as a can or wide mouthed bottle, to put grease from cooking into. Then put it in the outside garbage can before you go to bed at night.

That way, you will be protecting your drains from being plugged and your home from having mice.

Never put coffee grounds down the drain, because they tend to plug the drain as well. When you are rinsing off dishes to wash them, it is important that you scrape all solids into the garbage

and not allow them to go down the drain.

Having a slow-running drain or, worse, one that does not drain at all, is a real inconvenience and can be costly.

Now that spring is here and the weather is getting warm, it is time to start thinking about cutting the grass and planting your flowers. Weed eaters, rakes and bags in which to put grass clippings are available in the Management Office for your use.

As the weather gets warmer, it might be wise to phone the office before you come in, to make sure a weed eater is available to check out. We have a limited number of them. The phone number is 206-223-3758.

Seattle Housing, Yesler Community Center and the Yesler Terrace Community Council are working together to hold a Safety Saturday in the coming month. We hope to have nurses from Public Health - Seattle & King County present to test children for the presence of lead in their blood.

We also hope to have information about personal safety, both at home and in public, as well as what to do in an earthquake or fire. Watch for colorful flyers on your door with the date and time of the event.

### Special Yesler Terrace section

SHA readers will find an insert section in this issue with information about the proposed redevelopment of Yesler Terrace, including details about the scoping process for the environmental impact statement.

