



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



# The Voice

May  
2010  
Articles translated  
into six languages

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

## Daytripper — “Subdued excitement” in northern Washington locale

By KRISTIN O'DONNELL  
SHA Resident

Bellingham: City of subdued excitement — That's what one of the many murals that are on the walls of the city's downtown says. It fits, too. I took this trip on a Friday, forgetting my own advice to the bus tourist: Travel midweek if possible.

Fridays are less bothersome than Mondays for travel (a fair number of shops/museums are closed Mondays) but just as bad on the bus. You are competing for seat space with dozens of students and workers who are traveling to and from home or school on the weekend — it is also a good idea to avoid morning and afternoon commute times if you can — not always possible if you are going far. Plan to get on the bus at the nearest convenient stop to where the bus run begins. Standing up for 30-plus miles is not fun.

The buses: 510 to Everett (\$3/\$2.50/\$1.50, accepts ORCA, honors Metro transfers) from Fourth and Washington at 6:45 a.m. The 510 also picks up passengers at 45th Northeast and 145th Northeast at the stops by I-5. There's enough time at the Everett

Please see “Daytripper” on Page 4

## Neighborhood House honors AmeriCorps members working in its many programs

By TYLER ROUSH  
The Voice editor

Matthew had never earned above a C in any of his classes. The eighth-grader was especially struggling in his math class.

Enter Rachel Smith, an AmeriCorps member working in Neighborhood House's CASASTART program. Smith began mentoring Matthew in his math class. She said she tried to instill in him the idea that hard work is rewarded with better results. His work began to improve, and when this past semester concluded, his grade came in: He'd earned his first A.

“His drive, his determination was half the battle,” she said. “I was just support — he was the one that earned that grade. So this could be the first of many A's to come.”

As an AmeriCorps member, Smith said that it's making that difference that gives her the most satisfaction.

“I like having an impact on the kids, and thinking about their lives changing for the better, I feel like I'm having an impact,” Smith said.

Neighborhood House honored the individuals working in its AmeriCorps posi-



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

AmeriCorps members (from left) Sara Veth, Michelle Harn, Kat McGhee, Rachel Smith and Chris Andree have worked for Neighborhood House in 2009-2010.

tions with a luncheon at the Rainier Vista Center last month.

“The connections you have in the community are really phenomenal,” said Cath-

erine Verrenti, Neighborhood House's Director of Education and Community

Please see “AmeriCorps” on Page 3

## City's transportation system undergoing transformation

LAURA GENTRY  
Seattle Housing Authority

Seattle's transportation system is currently undergoing a significant transformation as several new projects are under consideration or already in progress.

### First Hill Streetcar

The First Hill streetcar takes the place of an originally proposed deep-bore tunnel light rail station for First Hill. The streetcar will include light rail connections in the Capitol Hill and International District neighborhoods. The mayor's recommended path for the new streetcar includes much of Broadway and ends

Please see “Transit” on Page 5



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

A Link light rail train, bound for the airport, arrives at the International District station in Seattle. Light rail expansions are one piece of the region's transportation puzzle.

## How is LINK light rail for people with disabilities?

By JIM BUSH  
SHA Resident

As many people know, Sound Transit's LINK light rail service started in July 2009, serving Downtown Seattle, the SODO business district, Beacon Hill, Rainier Valley and the Tukwilla/SeaTac area, with the route being extended to the airport in December of that same year.

Since that time, I have ridden the trains numerous times, using both a powered and manual wheelchair; in fact, it's my preferred method of getting home from downtown, because I am currently using a manual chair and not easily able to negotiate some of the routes out of the transit tunnel, which is usually how I arrive downtown via bus from Northgate, the U-District and South King

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### Quotable

“I am very happy that something was done because we asked for it. I couldn't believe it.”  
— Greenbridge resident Spomenka Novakovic, on efforts to make safety improvements at the high-traffic intersection at Eighth Avenue Southwest and Roxbury. See the related story on Page 4.



## Health Notes

*A column devoted to your well-being*

### King County receives federal grants to fight obesity, tobacco

#### *One-time federal stimulus grants will invest in community action*

BY PUBLIC HEALTH - SEATTLE & KING COUNTY

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced today that Public Health - Seattle & King County has been awarded two highly-competitive federal stimulus grants totaling \$25.5 million dollars over two years to address obesity and tobacco use, two of the leading contributors to premature illness, death and health care costs in the United States and locally.

"It's a huge credit to our Public Health staff and partners that we were able to get such a competitive grant to improve our community's health," said King County Executive Dow Constantine. Over 250 communities applied for approximately 40 grant awards through the federal stimulus initiative.

"This funding will support our community partners in accelerating changes that will reduce the human and economic costs of obesity and tobacco use," said Dr. David Fleming, Director and Health Officer for Public Health - Seattle & King County.

"Fighting obesity and tobacco use is a big part of improving Washington's health," Governor Chris Gregoire said. "These funds will go into communities where they're greatly needed and can make a real difference. This is a wise and welcome investment in our state."

The grants will primarily fund community agencies, schools, businesses and local governments in working to change policies, systems and environments to make healthier choices easier and more accessible for everyone. The majority of the funding will be targeted to those communities in King County most affected by obesity and tobacco.

Examples of activities include supporting corner stores in offering more healthy options, providing healthier foods in schools and childcare settings, restricting tobacco marketing and providing smoke-free environments, and promoting city planning, zoning and transportation that is pedestrian and bike friendly.

Goals of the grant include:

- Increase levels of physical activity and healthy nutrition
- Decrease rates of overweight and obesity
- Decrease smoking rates, smoking initiation by teens and exposure to secondhand smoke
- Reduce health inequities by focusing on communities with the greatest disadvantage

In upcoming weeks, Public Health will issue request for proposals (RFP) for community agencies, schools and local governments to apply for grant fund projects for policy, system and environmental change.

More information about the grants, the community information meeting and the RFP process will be available at [www.kingcounty.gov/health/cppw](http://www.kingcounty.gov/health/cppw). To learn more about national Communities Putting Prevention to Work, visit [www.hhs.gov/recovery](http://www.hhs.gov/recovery) and [www.cdc.gov/chronic-disease/recovery](http://www.cdc.gov/chronic-disease/recovery).

### Get started on your indoor organic container garden

BY PAMELA WILCOX  
SHA Resident

Greetings apartment and condo residents! Simply because you don't have a yard to put a garden in, doesn't mean you can't grow fresh, organic herbs and vegetables.

Whether you use your window sill, shelves by the window, your balcony or porch, with the right tools and knowledge you can grow fresh, healthy food and flowers.

In March, Madison Market at 1600 E. Madison offered to its members a free class about container gardening, taught by Carey Thornton of Seattle Tilth.

Carey said that a south or west window, with four to six hours of sunlight a day, works best for container gardening. But any window that gets some sunlight during the day is worth a try. Consider the conditions you have to work with, then check with your local garden nursery to see what would work best for your circumstances.

It's important to have drainage holes in the bottom of your container. If you use plastic or metal pots, make sure they are safe to grow food in, and won't leach any chemicals or toxins into your food.

It is also a good idea to ask the sales clerk where you buy your pots if they are safe for growing food in.

The size of the pot must be adequate to house the fully grown plant. Terracotta pots need to be watered more often, unless they are glazed inside.

It is important to keep the soil moist, without waterlogging the plant. It is not necessary to put rocks in the bottom of the pot — they just take up valuable space.

Organic soil is recommended for gardening. Cedar Grove is a local brand that uses the area's municipal waste.

Dirt from your yard is not a good substitute. It is not as nutritious as potting soil, which is perfect for growing fruits and vegetables.

When filling the pot with soil, leave a couple of inches at the top. This allows the water the space and time to soak in, without running over the sides of the pot.

It is best to water in the morning, so the plant has time to warm back up during the day. Take care to keep moisture off the leaves, to prevent fungus and mold spores from forming.

Seeds are cheaper than starter plants. Plus you can rotate the harvest by planting more of something every couple weeks or so, to assure you have the crop throughout the season. Seeds also give you more choices and varieties.

Don't plant seeds too deep — they should be two to three times as deep as the seed is

wide. That's not very deep!

Seed packets will include information on how long it takes the seed to germinate and mature. For indoor gardening, shorter maturation periods work best.

Smaller fruits with the shortest growing period are best. For example, cherry tomatoes are a better option than beef steak tomatoes. You would need more room than you likely have to grow the larger beef steak variety. Smaller is better in this case!

If you do buy starter plants, make sure they are not root-bound. Root-bound plants are not as healthy, because they are stressed.

You can also grow faster growing plants along with slower growing ones. Annuals are plants that only live one year, while perennials live many years. Some plants that can grow in partial shade include parsley, chives, and wheat berries. When sprouted, wheat berries are very healthy for both pets and people.

Believe it or not, healthy plants are more susceptible to pests — especially when they are young, tasty and easy to chew.

There is an organic solution to this problem, too. It's called row covering. It's a white cloth that the plant can breathe through. Sunlight gets in, too.

Row covering keeps the plant warm and holds in moisture. You can cut this cloth to the length you need, then use a rubber band around the pot to secure it.

As for fertilizing, you want to read the instruction on the potting soil bag. Most potting soils come with fertilizer in them. If you add more fertilizer right after planting, you can kill your plant.

Anywhere from two to 12 weeks wait time will be needed before you fertilize, depending on what potting soil you use. Make sure your potting soil is for growing fruits and plants in, and preferably organic.

Seattle Tilth has been teaching organic gardening and composting for 32 years. This year, the City Council and Mayor Mike McGinn have proclaimed "The Year of Urban Agriculture."

For resident councils and community leaders, Seattle Tilth would be a good option to teach a class to your community. They offer classes for adults, as well as for children as young as one year old.

They have many locations throughout the Seattle area. They can even teach you how to raise chickens and goats in the city — which might not be the best idea for an apartment dweller!

To contact Seattle Tilth, write to Good Shepherd Center, 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98103 or call 206-633-0451. You can visit its Web site at [www.seattletilth.org](http://www.seattletilth.org).

### Northwest Kidney Centers

#### *Kidney Health Fest for African American families*

Northwest Kidney Centers will hold its Eighth annual Kidney Health Fest for African American Families on Saturday, June 5. The free event runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Van Asselt Elementary (formerly the African American Academy), 8311 Beacon Ave. S., in Seattle. Co-hosts are Mount Zion Baptist Church and First AME Church.

With the theme of "From Surviving to Thriving: Healthy People, Healthy

Communities," this event features free health screenings and private consultations with a doctor, healthy food made by local celebrity chefs, and a discussion about healthy living with Angela Russell, KIRO 7 Eyewitness News anchor, as the emcee.

The day also includes entertainment, music, exhibits, a Kids' Korner and a chance to win prizes. For more information about the event and Northwest Kidney Centers — a nonprofit provider of dialysis therapy, health education and kidney research — go to [www.nwkidney.org/nkc/aboutUs/news/KidneyHealthFest.html](http://www.nwkidney.org/nkc/aboutUs/news/KidneyHealthFest.html).

#### 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).

### Don't forget to fill out the 2010 Census

To meet its goal of counting every resident of the United States, the 2010 census is making a special effort to count all immigrant, refugee, and non-English-speaking residents of Seattle and King County.

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.

In short, filling out your Census form helps your community.

Census questionnaires were mailed to homes in March. The 10-question form is the shortest since the first census in 1790; the U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years.

If you already filled out the form with the requested information about you and each of your household members and mailed it back, you've already been counted.

If you haven't mailed in your form, please do so right away.

All census information collected, including addresses, is confidential and protected by law. All Census employees — including temporary employees — take an oath for life to keep census information confidential.

For more information, visit [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov).

# Be safe

BY SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

Seattle Neighborhood Group envisions crime-free communities where people work together to solve problems, children play without fear and businesses thrive. Here are two examples of neighborhoods working together for safety and developing strategies for strong and healthy communities.

## 20th Avenue (Pratt Park) Traffic Calming Project

Living next to Pratt Park is like having a huge backyard. But not too far from kids having fun in Pratt's play area is 20th Avenue S. On 20th many car drivers appear to be in a hurry and in January, 2010, there was an injury accident at an intersection.

A resident near Pratt Park checked with the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to see what could be done to slow traffic down. The resident learned SDOT has a traffic calming program that requires neighborhood involvement and approvals. The process encouraged Pratt Park neighbors to work together for a solution.

Traffic calming devices are used in Seattle Housing Authority's new mixed-income communities (High Point, NewHolly and Rainier Vista) to create safer streets for pedestrians. Narrow residential streets are typical in these communities and are designed to slow traffic.

## Community gardens

Gardening may not seem like a crime prevention activity, but in many ways it is. P-Patches in SHA communities, such as Yesler Terrace and High Point, and around the city of Seattle provide people with an opportunity to work together in beautifying their neighborhoods. Community members working in the garden together get to know

## Work together for safe and strong communities

one another; they discuss many of the issues in the community that are bothering them, including crime issues.

It doesn't end there; when the fruit of their labors (pun intended) are ready for harvesting, gardeners can share their bounty with their non-gardening friends and neighbors. It's another chance to bond, learn to trust and exchange information, as well as tomatoes, zucchinis and jalapeños.

One neighbor can grow zucchinis; another neighbor can bake it into bread, and then give it to a third neighbor. Every time something from a garden is shared, words are exchanged and the bonds of community strengthened. Gardens sow the seeds of community and the community reaps the bounty of friendship and trust.

Building community is not the only way gardens make neighborhoods safer. A well-tended garden and yard sends a message to everyone that people are paying attention and caring for that space. Most criminals would prefer to be some place where people are not paying attention and don't care.

Keeping open outdoor spaces cleaned and well maintained encourages families to bring their children to play and learn. Would you rather play a game of catch in an open space close to flowers and vegetables or in a field with broken beer bottles and graffiti on the play structures?

The more people use a space for positive purposes, the less likely that space is going to be used for less desirable purposes.

*Allan Davis (206-323-7094) and Kelly McKinney (206-323-7084) are Community Education Coordinators for Seattle Neighborhood Group. Call Allan or Kelly for crime prevention information or help with your safety and security concerns.*

## AmeriCorps

Continued from front page

Services. "We could not do what we do without your work."

Including Smith, Neighborhood House has utilized five AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA positions to serve its clients in an array of programs.

Kat McGhee has helped get the Neighborhood House Technology Center at Rainier Vista up and running. The center's grand opening was in March.

"Kat has left her mark on the Technology Center and we've been fortunate to have her valuable input and efforts on this project," said Kate Farmer, the Rainier Vista site manager.

McGhee's hard work has brought many new visitors to the Technology Center, thus allowing low-income residents, at-risk youth, immigrant and refugees unlimited access to computers while offering them an opportunity to gain valuable technology skills.

"Having recently moved to Seattle, it's given me a better understanding of the community," said McGhee of her AmeriCorps work. She added that she wants to become involved in community activism, and that the work has taught her "how to listen to the community and then learn how to get them what they want."

Michelle Harn has been working with Neighborhood House's White Center tutoring program since September 2009. She grew up in Seattle and is a recent graduate of Washington State University.

Harn's primary role is to support the tutoring program, working individually and

with small groups to help children succeed in school.

In addition to working with after-school programs, Harn serves as a classroom assistant and Lunch Buddy mentor with one of our neighborhood elementary schools.

Of her AmeriCorps work, Harn said, "It has been a challenging year, but I think when you're challenged you learn a lot more."

Also on the tutoring side, Sara Veth has been working with Neighborhood House's Auburn tutoring program since February. She is a recent college graduate from California and spent part of childhood in Alaska.

"Sara has made immediate connections with the youth in Auburn and has helped move our groups and projects forward in amazing ways," said Neighborhood House Community Learning Manager Colin Sexton.

"This is an opportunity to learn but also show an employer I have the skills necessary to succeed," said Veth, who intends to pursue a career in education.

In the High Point neighborhood in West Seattle, Chris Andree, AmeriCorps VISTA, helped set up the docent training program at the High Point Center, which so far has trained almost a dozen volunteers to act as tour guides of the High Point Center. Hundreds of community members and Neighborhood House clients, staff and volunteers have taken the tours, which last about 45 minutes and detail the many social services and environmental features of the center. The tours are also offered in a variety of languages — including German, Vietnamese, Somali, Spanish, among others



# One to grow on

Garden tips for community gardeners

## Planting culinary herbs will add flavor to your cuisine and some health benefits to your garden

BY ANZA MUENCHOW  
Special to *The Voice*

This month, the perennial garden is producing abundant herbs for our favorite recipes. In our region we have a wide variety of culinary herbs that are simple to grow. Many of these herbs are beneficial in a garden, because they attract the beneficial insects that fight the region's garden pests.

Sage, rosemary and thyme are the best perennial herbs for our maritime gardens. If you start them from seeds, they take a long time to germinate, so now would be a good time to plant. Give them well drained soil in the sunniest spot.

Once established, they take little to no care and will be productive for years to come. Starting now in late spring, they have a growth spurt. The blooms attract early beneficial insects, especially bees.

I begin picking and drying the leaves in June to fill my spice cabinet for winter months. We choose the taller cultivars with larger leaves for our culinary uses, but low to the ground cultivars make great ground covers and can still be used for seasoning. And they make an excellent addition to your drought-tolerant garden.

Marjoram is practically a perennial in our climate, but usually referred to as a tender perennial. Start from seed in late spring in the same sunny location. It dies back in the winter though. And, in very cold winters, like we have had the past two years, it will completely die off. But with little effort you can grow a lovely border of marjoram in a sunny garden, providing ample flavoring for your Thanksgiving dinner.

One of my family's favorite herbs is parsley, which we often cook with as a vegetable, adding a cup of chopped parsley to our favorite recipes for soups, salads and casseroles.

If you missed planting it in February, there is still time to get parsley seed in the ground. First place the seeds in an air tight container in the fridge for three weeks. Then plant in a rich, deeply prepared bed, and keep it watered for a couple weeks as it takes a while to germinate.

You will enjoy lots of parsley throughout the summer, fall and winter. It tolerates crowding as long as it gets all the

water it needs and is in full sun.

Last year's parsley plants should now be sending up its flower stalks and will form seed heads in early summer. Tie these stalks to a stake and let them fully mature. Later in the summer when the seeds are dry, they can be harvested in a paper envelope, kept in a cool dry location and plant next January or February.

Parsley's cousin, cilantro, also known as Chinese parsley, is an annual, unlike the biennial parsley. Cilantro is a challenge to plant in June and July as it prefers cool weather. Cilantro seeds, also known as coriander, have a round form that actually contains a couple of seeds. Cracking the outer shell of the round form accelerates germination.

After planting, keep cilantro cool and moist and protect from slugs. Slugs will travel great distances to munch on cilantro seedlings and are often the culprit when people say their cilantro seeds didn't grow. Some people hate cilantro, but I love it to garnish many of my summer dishes. And, I need it when I start making fresh salsa in August.

I will sometimes chop and freeze cilantro leaves to have it in the winter, though it loses some flavor. Allow some of the plants to bolt in the summer and save seed like you would parsley. The coriander seeds are delicious and unique, and can be ground or used whole, like in Indian cuisine.

Both parsley and cilantro are in the Umbelliferae family, meaning the flowers are umbrella shaped. The large, flat cluster of small blossoms particularly attract the beneficial Syrphid fly. Also know as a hover fly, this insect eats many aphids during the summer, especially in its larval form.

Though the larva looks like a mini green caterpillar, it doesn't eat plants, just aphids and mites and other harmful critters. Keep a healthy population of these beneficial insects in your garden by planting umbelliferae plants and you will enjoy a healthy and abundant bounty from your garden this summer.

*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).*

## 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:

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Letters may be edited for length.  
For more information, contact Tyler Roush, Voice editor, at 206-461-8430, ext. 227.

— to meet the needs of the diverse High Point community.

"AmeriCorps has provided me with the opportunity to work with a wide variety of amazing colleagues and clients," Andree said. "Finding that type of opportunity

would have been much more difficult without AmeriCorps."

*Neighborhood House staff members Kate Farmer, Colin Sexton and Alex Wang contributed to this story.*

# Residents at Greenbridge take charge in getting intersection fixed



PHOTO COURTESY NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

A community effort led to some needed safety improvements at the intersection of Eighth Avenue and Roxbury.

By JEN CALLEJA  
Neighborhood House

For a couple of years, King County Metro bus number 128 to Southcenter has had trouble making a turn at the narrow intersection of Eighth Avenue Southwest and Southwest Roxbury without entering the lane of oncoming traffic.

This spot is the main access point to the Greenbridge community coming from West Seattle. Often, the bus driver had to drive over the sidewalk to avoid upcoming traffic. This was an unsafe situation for pedestrians, bus riders and other vehicles.

Thanks to a joint and determined effort of Greenbridge residents and their supporters, this past March the King County Department of Transportation made road modifications to fix this problem.

This didn't happen overnight. In the fall of 2009, the Eighth and Roxbury intersection problem was identified by a group of Greenbridge residents as part of a walking survey organized by Neighborhood House's Be Active Together (BAT). Walking surveys are ways for community members to identify needed neighborhood

improvements. With guidance from the BAT program, a group of Greenbridge and Park Lake neighbors came together to address the traffic safety issue.

After community members voted the issue as a priority, BAT staff member Bao Nguyen contacted the various entities in charge of this intersection. Meanwhile, residents sought support from the King County Housing Authority via the BAT project.

KCHA Community Builder Tracie Friedman diligently brought the issue to the appropriate parties on the construction side. It was not a smooth process, but with persistence and good communication between residents, BAT staff and the housing authority, the King County Department of Transportation resolved the issue by moving the stop line back to allow turning room for the buses.

This intersection is safer now thanks to the Greenbridge residents who stood up and voiced their concerns.

"I am very happy that something was done because we asked for it. I couldn't believe it," said Spomenka Novakovic, a member of the Greenbridge Community Action Team.

# Daytripper

Continued from front page

station for a coffee/restroom stop.

Skagit Transit Bus 90X (\$2/\$1/\$1 — no transfers) leaves Everett Station at 7:50 a.m.

At Mount Vernon, the connection to the northbound 80X (\$2/\$1/\$1) is direct at 8:45 a.m. and arrives in Bellingham at 9:30 a.m.

It is possible to leave 30 minutes later from Seattle — but you will be spending 90 minutes in Mount Vernon waiting for the next bus, which gets into Bellingham at 11:30 a.m. Afternoon travel is also possible if you want to stay overnight.

The bus travels on the freeway, and the last part of the trip has pretty farm, woods and mountain scenery.

Around town: First, stop in Downtown Bellingham, the office at Bellingham Station, for a bus schedule brochure and a most excellent map, which shows not only the bus routes, but street maps and walking trails throughout the city.

Wander around downtown. There are two bakeries across the street from Bellingham Station — it's hard to pick one! Avellino had a lovely hazelnut cinnamon bun — but Bread & Café's offerings looked and smelled just as delicious!

Look at the public art downtown, including many murals, some of which are strangely realistic — and some of which are really strange.

Check out Maritime Heritage Park, 500 W. Holly Street. There's a fish hatchery, and it is the downstream end of the Whatcom Creek trail. Old Whatcom Museum, in an ornate 1890s building that was once the Bellingham City Hall, had — and probably still has — a good set of historical exhibits, but it is open Thursday afternoon only, thanks to city budget cuts.

The recently opened Lightcatcher Museum is a beautiful, and yes, light-filled building, showing contemporary art and photography. The reflections on the glass of framed art are distracting however, and \$10/\$8.50 admission is pricey for a small museum.

And oh, yes — thrift stores downtown are excellent! They include Assistance League

of Bellingham Thrift & Gift, 1415 Cornwall Ave.; Pace's New & Used, 413 W. Holly St.; Wise Buys Shop, 401 Holly St. (The haul: A blue-and white dessert plate, an almost-new white eyelet shirt, a big beautiful [and very heavy!] gardening book, and an Eddie Bauer bag to carry it all in, for a little under \$10.)

Whatcom Transit (\$1/\$.50) has some good sightseeing routes — a transfer will allow for an hour off the bus and continuing in the same direction: If it is a clear day, Mount Baker will be out. #3 or #4 Cordata route goes north along the bay through the Eldridge Historic District, a neighborhood with no hills, century-old homes and churches and fine gardens.

Another nice old-house-and-garden neighborhood — with steep hills — is the Garden Street area between downtown and Fairhaven, on bus route 401. This bus also goes through the Western Washington University Campus, which has an outdoor sculpture garden and arboretum. Fairhaven, at the end of the 401 line, is a shopping district in pioneer-era buildings with fun but pricey gift stores and a good bookstore, the Colophon, with a soup-and sandwich café.

On a good picnic day, pick up a box lunch from one of the bakeries or from the big and bountiful delis at one of the Community Food Co-ops (1220 N. Forest St. downtown, or across the street from the Cordata bus mall north of town), and catch the 525 Barkley bus (hourly service, ten past the hour) to Whatcom Falls Park (in the woods — picnic tables, restrooms, playground, big waterfall and hiking trails, including a three-mile trail downstream to the downtown Maritime Heritage Park). Or try Bloedel Donovan Park (lake-side, sunny beach, crowds in the summer, playgrounds, picnic tables, restrooms — and a locomotive). Do not miss the 4:45 p.m. bus back into town, unless you plan to stay in Bellingham.

Heading home: Take the same buses in reverse order. The buses leaving Bellingham Station at 3:15 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. make good connections at Mount Vernon and Everett, getting you home in about three hours. Do not miss the 5:15 bus — it is the last chance to connect with the Mount Vernon to Everett service.





**Trabajamos con mujeres embarazadas y con familias de bajos ingresos con niños recién nacidos hasta cinco años, incluyendo a niños con necesidades especiales severas que viven en las comunidades de vivienda de Seattle (SHA)**

**Juntos aprenderemos y creceremos!!!**

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- Evaluaciones y pruebas de desarrollo
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**Maatii Galiin Isaanii diqqaa ka Maneen Mootummaa Seattle (SHA) keessa jiraattan , nadheen garaachaatiif(ulfa) fii ijoolee wagga haga shanii ni garggaarra. Ijoolee gargaarssa adda barbbadaniif naafumma saammuutiif qaamaa Cima qaban nii tajajilla.**

**Walit dhufne Haa Barannu, Haa Guddannu !!!**

**Tajajila Buuree(kafalti alaa) kennina:**

- Torbbaaniti nadheen garaachatiif ijoolee wagga 0-3 manat dhufne toohanna
- Ijoolee wagga 3-5 mana baruumsat ni barsiifnna
- Guddinna ijoolee, wa'ee fayya, Barumssaa fii gargaarssa hawaasaa adda adda ni qabna
- Horddoffiif Toohanna ni goona
- Maatii ijooleetiif carra barumssatiif leenjii ni qabna. Walgahii adda adda ni qabna.
- Maatii dhaba gargaarssaa adda adda wajjiin ni walqunnamsiifnna ni aajeelchina
- Ijooleef maatii ni jajjabeessina, ni cimssina
- Dhaabootaa wa'ee ijoolee ilalan ka akka Mana Yaalaa Boyeriif Mannen Barumssa Magaalaa Seattle(SPS) wajjiin walaqqunnamtii ni qabna

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# Transit

Continued from front page

in Pioneer Square and is routed through Yesler Terrace.

Construction is scheduled to start in 2011, with the line opening late in 2013. The Seattle City Council's final decision on the route of the streetcar is expected some time in April or May and the Environmental Review process will follow.

For more information, visit <http://seattlestreetcar.com/firsthill.asp>.

## Link Light Rail

Several Link light rail-related decisions are currently underway as city, county and state lawmakers decide how to integrate it with other existing and planned transportation projects.

"Light rail is a huge step toward our ultimate goal of connecting our region's most important economic centers with fast, reliable service," said King County Executive Dow Constantine in a recent news release.

## State Route 520 Bridge

Due to safety issues, the Washington State Department of Transportation currently has plans to replace the existing 520 Bridge with a six-lane bridge, which would include two lanes reserved for high-occupancy vehicles.

Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn recently proposed a change to the state's plan that

encourages the WSDOT to include Link light rail as part of the bridge replacement. McGinn included findings from a report he commissioned to determine if the bridge replacement could support light rail tracks.

"We only have one chance to get this right," said McGinn. "If we continue on with the state's current plan, then we will miss that chance. And that would be too bad because this report shows that it is possible. We can design 520 from the outset to include light rail. The question is whether or not the leadership exists to make that vision a reality."

The city had until April 15 to submit comments and recommendations to the WSDOT and they are expected to make a final decision in late April.

## Interstate 90 Bridge

Meanwhile, Link light rail support is already planned and underway for the I-90 Bridge. Sound Transit and WSDOT have started the second phase of adding high occupancy vehicle lanes to both directions of the I-90 Bridge. Eventually, the HOV additions to the bridge will allow for the center lanes to support light rail tracks.

The East Link light rail line is scheduled to begin construction in late 2013 or early 2014 and is expected to serve Mercer Island and Bellevue by 2020 and Overlake by 2021.

## University of Washington Station

Scheduled to open in 2016, the next



The map shows a proposed streetcar route through First Hill.

MAP COURTESY CITY OF SEATTLE

stretch of Link light rail is currently under construction and will extend from Westlake to the University of Washington, with a stop on Capitol Hill. The UW station is being built next to Husky Stadium.

## North and South Link extensions

The Link light rail will eventually extend North beyond the University District into the Roosevelt and Northgate neighborhoods by 2020. By 2023, it is expected to have reached Shoreline, Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood. A South Link extension is also planned for 2023 that will reach Federal Way.

## Alaska Way Viaduct

Construction is also about to begin on the State Route 99 viaduct, which cur-

rently poses a safety risk in the event of an earthquake.

The southern portion of the viaduct between Holgate and King Streets will be replaced with a side-by-side roadway. Work on this portion of the viaduct is expected to be complete by 2013 according to the WSDOT project schedule.

The viaduct's central waterfront section, between King and Battery Streets, will also be replaced, but the decision of what to replace them with is currently on hold while an environmental review is underway. Construction is expected to begin on this section of the viaduct by 2011.

More information on this project can be found at: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Viaduct](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Viaduct).

# Link

Continued from front page

County (if I'm coming from South King County, I make the connection between bus and train at the SODO station, located south of downtown).

How are the trains for accessibility? To me, they are very good, even though I was initially concerned about the horizontal gap between the platform edge and the interior of the trains (I am still concerned about that, because that gap can be just enough to "trap" the casters found on many manual chairs, along with walkers, strollers and

canes or crutches).

Inside each two-car train there are four spaces for wheelchair users (two per car) that can accommodate any sized mobility device (they don't have tie-downs, so you'll need to be aware that unless you lock your brakes or turn the power for your mobility device off, you'll move when the train does). It should be noted that, while the spaces are identified as "priority spaces" for wheelchair users, many passengers have started to use them as "storage" for their baggage while riding (because LINK is now the only public-transit service directly serving Downtown Seattle and the airport,

this could become a problem). The trains also have electronic reader boards and automatic voice announcements, identifying the next station on the route and when the train arrives at one.

As for where to get on LINK, all stations are wheelchair accessible, with elevator access to all boarding platforms downtown (the trains use the 20-year old transit tunnel, but do not serve Convention Place Station), along with the Beacon Hill, Mount Baker, SeaTac/International Boulevard, and SeaTac Airport stations (access to street-level transit service going northbound is via skybridge and elevator at the north end

of the Airport station; if you want to take a bus southbound on International Boulevard to Federal Way or anywhere south of the Airport, use the Tukwila/International Boulevard station).

All stations in the SODO busway and along MLK Way (in the Rainier Valley) have ramped access and audible pedestrian signals and warning bells (with flashing signs) at all train crossings. There are also reader boards and automatic voice announcements of when a train is due to arrive, which direction it is travelling, and when it arrives at the station.

## Neighborhood House

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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 Kubarbaarno!!!**

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- Booqasho guri ( Home visits) oo haweenka uurka leh & kuwo Caruutoodu 0-3 sano jir ah oo guri loogu waxbaro.
- Iskool lootalagaley carurta 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.

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## Neighborhood House

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

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- 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.

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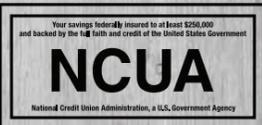
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Write your ad here (one word per line)

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

**Celebrating community**  
NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT AT NEWHOLLY  
See Page 6



# SHA NEWS

May  
2010

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

## Rod Brandon joins SHA as Director of Housing Ops

By TYLER ROUSH  
*The Voice editor*

Seattle Housing Authority has hired Rod Brandon to the role of Director of Housing Operations, replacing outgoing director Don Ashlock, who retired earlier this year. Brandon joined Seattle Housing in January.

The new director of the Housing Authority's largest department brings 25 years of work experience in the public sector to his new role. He worked for eight years under Ron Sims, serving as liaison between Sims and other department heads and assisting in day-to-day operations. In addition to being the assistant county executive, Rod also served as the Director of Environmental Sustainability for the executive office. Before that, he served as Director of Contracting and Deputy Chief of Staff to former Seattle Mayor Norm Rice.

"I am humbled to continue to work in the public sector," Brandon said.

Hailing from Southern California originally, where he lived in public housing during his youth, Brandon went to college at the University of Montana, which is where he said he fell in love with the Northwest.

"It was quite a change from Los Angeles," he said with a laugh. "But it was a great



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Rod Brandon is Seattle Housing's new Director of Housing Operations.

opportunity and I'm glad I did it."

Brandon said he would work to continue to improve Seattle Housing's array of diverse and quality housing options.

"Everyone should have quality housing," Brandon said. "Seattle Housing Authority does a great job of working to

accomplish that goal. Having a safe place to live, access to education, and a strong, supportive community around it, are key ingredients to a quality life."

Housing is just one important element

Please see "Director" on Page 7

## New apprenticeship training begins in mid-June

*Residents invited to apply*

By SHA STAFF

Starting in mid-June, pre-apprenticeship training will be offered in the evenings and on weekends as the result of a new partnership between the Seattle Housing Authority and the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County.

The new program is the result of a Department of Labor Greenlight Grant. Under the leadership of Section 3 Coordinator Sam Pierce, the Housing Authority will work with the Seattle Vocational Institute and its partners to recruit and place eligible low-income residents in construction jobs on the Housing Authority's capital projects.

Seattle Housing and Seattle Vocational Institute are working now to recruit adult students for the new series of pre-apprenticeship training classes that will begin in mid-June and last for approximately 10 weeks.

Please see "Greenlight" on Page 5

## Are you interested in learning more about leadership? Leadership team seeks applicants for CSTI conference

LISA WOOD  
*SHA Resident*

Enhancing skills of current leaders or developing new leaders was the very goal in 2006 when leaders developed a team called the Resident Leadership Development Team, or RLDT, and it remains the same goal today.

The RLDT is currently comprised of

resident leaders from several different SHA buildings and who serve different aspects of the community, both in SHA dwellings and beyond.

We have an open meeting if you feel like you want to find out more about ways to use your leadership skills or just want to find out what the RLDT meetings are about.

The RLDT meets on the third Wednesday of every month from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Building, which is located at 160 Roy Street. You can access Metro Bus Service to find available bus routes to get you to the meeting place.

The major activity of the RLDT is to facilitate residents to participate in trainings that can enhance or foster skills one never knew they had.

One of the trainings RLDT supports for residents is the Community Strategic Training Initiative or (CSTI). CSTI is a phenomenal three-day social justice conference that RLDT has been sending residents to since its inception.

This year six SHA residents will be chosen to participate! The conference is scheduled to be the weekend of July 30 thru Aug. 1 at Reed College in Portland. Attendees selected by RLDT will return to Seattle via



PHOTO BY LISA WOOD

Hundreds gathered at Reed College in Oregon for last year's CSTI conference.

train Aug. 2.

Western State Center is organizing the event; you can access more information about them at [www.westernstatescenter.org](http://www.westernstatescenter.org). There you will find all sorts of helpful information. When the time comes, should you be selected, there is the place you will go to fill out the application to participate in the event.

A sampling of the workshops being offered at the conference include "Introduction to Fundraising/Grant Writing," "Leadership Development — Practice What You Preach," and "Dismantling Racism," along

with several other wonderful choices you will be able to access on the Web site closer to the end of May and beginning of June.

Marcia Johnson and Ellen Ziontz will be posting and/or handing out applications for resident leaders of all diversities; non-English speaking and limited English speaking proficiency residents are strongly encouraged to apply.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact RLDT/CSTI Working Group Member Robert Jones at 206-462-0374. The last day for RLDT to receive applications is June 11.

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## SHA, Seattle Goodwill partnership establishes Career Pathways

BY SEATTLE GOODWILL CAREER PATHWAYS

Christopher Wolf had been working temporary jobs for the last 17 years until his case manager at Seattle Housing's The Job Connection told him about Seattle Goodwill's Career Pathways program. Seattle Housing recently established a partnership with Seattle Goodwill to offer Career Pathways — a program that helps individuals get training for better jobs — to SHA residents.

Residents in the program take Community College 101, a class that prepares them to enter job training programs at community colleges. Christopher learned that he could take this class for free and that he could be eligible for special funding to pay for school-related costs. He also heard that he could get help deciding what kind of training to pursue.

Recently unemployed, Christopher jumped at the opportunity to take Community College 101. He realized the importance of pursuing a training program that would help him keep a stable job.

However, because he had not been in college for 14 years, he was not sure how to approach college after his initial failed attempt. Now, with the guidance of Goodwill staff and funding for tuition and books, Christopher is taking Computer Programming classes at Seattle Central Community College.

"It (Seattle Central) is a completely different experience than what I experienced at my first college. There are classmates that I am able to get along with," he said. "The College 101 class helped me get back to college and prepare for what to expect."

You are eligible for the class if you:

- Are interested in a job training program at a local community college
- Do not have a college degree from the United States
- Have good English speaking and reading skills
- Have basic computer skills (or are willing to take a computer class)

The Community College 101 class will be offered again, free of charge, beginning June 7. Information about



PHOTO COURTESY SEATTLE GOODWILL CAREER PATHWAYS

With help from the Career Pathways program, Christopher Wolf is now taking computer programming classes at Seattle Central Community College.

the class is as follows:

- When: Mondays through Wednesdays, June 7 – July 13 from 2:30 – 4 p.m.
- Where: Seattle Goodwill's Job Training and Education Center at 1400 S. Lane St. (entrance on Dearborn Street, near Rainier, the International District and downtown).
- Benefits: Those who complete the class are eligible for scholarships to pay for tuition, fees, books, transportation and other college-related costs.

For more information, or to sign up for the class, please contact Monica Cheng at 206-860-5783 or Monica.Cheng@seattlegoodwill.org by May 27. Class size is limited, so sign up early.

## Outgoing commissioner thanked for "diligent and valuable service"



PHOTO COURTESY SEATTLE HOUSING

Commissioner Sybil Bailey, whose four-year term has expired, will leave the Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners once a replacement has been appointed. Bailey notes that while she has enjoyed her time on the board, she is "eager to get back to serving more directly the people in my building, Denny Terrace, and the residents of other SHA communities." According to Executive Director Tom Tierney, "We are all grateful to Sybil for her diligent and valuable service over the past four years. She attended nearly every meeting and contributed thoughtfully to our work. We will miss her."

## State lawmakers pass, Governor signs supplementary budget and new tax bills

BY SHA STAFF

Just over a year ago, lawmakers in Olympia closed a \$9 billion budget shortfall with about \$3.6 billion in cuts to expenditures, federal aid, and the shifting of funds from program to program.

Last month, in special session, the legislature did much the same thing: Faced with a \$2.8 billion shortfall, it made changes to the two-year spending plan lawmakers approved in 2009. The new operating budget cuts spending by about \$755 million, adds in a hoped-for \$633 million in federal funds, and again draws down funds — some \$600 million — from reserves. And it reallocates some funds from program to program.

Spending was driven by higher costs for current programs and the addition of a few new programs such as payments to property-poor school districts and additional worker retraining at community and technical colleges.

This session, the lawmakers also passed a broad array of tax increases.

The biggest revenue increase is a temporary tax increase for service businesses — like attorneys and real estate agents — that will bring in about \$242 million. Taxes on bottled water, soda, candy and gum and on mass-produced beer will contribute nearly \$156 million. The higher service-business, pop and beer taxes are to expire in mid-2013.

The tax on soda and bottled water will

### A closer look

Although the new operating budget cuts deeply into many programs, others survive. The budget —

- Makes no cuts to basic education and preserves 54,658 teachers
- Preserves critical preschool programs for children under 3
- Protects Working Connections childcare for 37,000 families
- Fully funds all-day kindergarten
- Maintains the Apple Health for Kids program serving 486,000 children
- Preserves levy equalization funding for rural school districts
- Secures state financial aid for 57,000 young adults
- Provides retraining in high-demand fields for an additional 3,800 workers
- Provides community mental health services to an average of around 55,000 people per month
- Saves health care for 69,000 people on the Basic Health Plan

be two cents per can or bottle. The higher beer tax of 50 cents per gallon — a 28-cent-increase on a six-pack — will bring in an estimated \$59 million. (Microbrews are to be exempt.)

Taxes on cigarettes will rise \$1 per pack.

Please see "Budget" on Page 4

## RLDT offers leadership grants

### Duly-elected resident councils encouraged to apply

BY MICHAEL HEARTE  
SHA Resident

The Resident Leadership Development Team (RLDT) has \$2,000 available for individual and group training grants.

These grants are designated for local, low cost (max \$150 each) leadership opportunities for SHA residents. These Grants are an opportunity to enhance your leadership skills that may be used in your own communities in order to better provide leadership to your residents in

your Duly Elected Community Councils (DERCs).

If you are interested, you may request an application from your Community Builder. Please allow plenty of lead-time between request and training.

This application should be submitted to:

RLDT Mini-Grants  
c/o RAC Office  
2600 South Walker Ste B-1  
Seattle, WA 98144-4711

This is an opportunity for all residents to improve the Leadership of their DERCs.

### About The Voice

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

The Voice is developed and edited by Neighborhood House with help from SHA residents and staff. It strives to provide a forum for objective news and information of interest to low-income people and those living in SHA communities.

The Voice welcomes articles, letters to the editor and columns from readers. If you'd like to submit an article, or if you have a question about anything you've read in this publication, feel free to contact Editor Tyler Roush at (206) 461-8430, ext. 227 or by e-mail at tyler@nhwa.org.

If you have questions about SHA-related stories, you may also contact SHA Communications Director Virginia Felton at 206-615-3506 or by e-mail at vfelton@seattlehousing.org.

You can also mail submissions to: The Voice, Neighborhood House, 905 Spruce St. #200, Seattle, WA 98104. Please include your name and contact information on your submission.

All submissions are subject to editing for accuracy, style and length.

# POINT OF VIEW

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

## Lease negotiations underway for respite care proposal at Jefferson Terrace

By SVEN KOEHLER  
Seattle Housing Authority

Years of background discussion on locating a medical respite program at Jefferson Terrace have finally evolved into something more concrete this April.

With the last hurdles for funding from the federal government just about cleared, Seattle Housing Authority and Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC) are involved in negotiations to lease the seventh floor of the building.

The medical respite program is a way to serve homeless people who need a safe place to get well after being discharged from the hospital.

Plans are for each of the currently vacant apartments on the seventh floor to be converted to temporarily house one or two oc-

cupants for several weeks rather than force them to try and recuperate on the streets.

In the 1990's, PHSKC organized such a medical respite facility located at the William Booth Center in Seattle's International district.

The current facility is being operated by Harborview Medical Center, and provides 17 beds.

Over the years, response to the respite program has been so overwhelmingly positive that an expansion of the capacity became a perennial priority for medical and social service providers in King County.

This drive has culminated in the plans for leasing the seventh floor of Jefferson Terrace.

The apartment building seemed like a

Please see "Respite" on Page 7

## Schwabacher House celebrates as work wraps up



PHOTO BY V.J. SRIBHADH

Residents of Schwabacher House celebrate the completion of the nine-month long exterior renewal project that brought new windows and a colorful new exterior to this Senior Housing building in Ballard. They were joined by Seattle Housing Authority staff, the contractor and representatives from the architect and consultants for a party on April 16. The celebration culminated with a thank you gift from grateful residents to Aaron Besmer, the site foreman from CDK Construction who brought the project in on time and on budget.

## SHA web page dispenses bedbug info

The screenshot shows the Seattle Housing Authority website's pest management page. The page includes a navigation menu with links for Home, Housing, Residents, Landlords, Redevelopment, Jobs, Business, News & Reports, About Us, and Contact Us. A search bar is located at the top. The main content area is titled 'Pest management' and 'Controlling and preventing bedbugs'. It provides information about the impact of bedbugs and control measures. A detailed image of a bedbug is shown with a caption: 'Adult bedbugs are typically a brownish-reddish color and 3/16 inch in diameter.' The page also includes a 'Summary' section with bullet points: 'Bedbug reports are increasing at Seattle Housing Authority' and 'Adult bedbugs are typically a brownish-reddish color and 3/16 inch in diameter.'

IMAGE COURTESY SEATTLE HOUSING

A web page dedicated to information about Pest Management went live on the Seattle Housing Authority website in April, located at <http://www.seattlehousing.org/residents/pests/>. This supports a new Pest Control Lease Addendum that was rolled out in November 2009.

The web page focuses on the impact of bedbugs, an insect pest that has been reappearing across the country in recent years, and the control measures in place to combat their spread. Residents can turn to the page soon to learn about a series of information meetings about bedbugs scheduled across Seattle Housing properties this summer, starting in June.

## Fun festivities for families

MICHELE MOSHER  
Seattle Housing Authority

There are numerous events and festivals for families and friends to enjoy during the warm, summer days in Seattle. Seattle Center hosts a variety of events ranging from cultural richness and diversity festivals like Festál 2010; to folk, ethnic and traditional arts with festivals like Northwest Folklife; to an outdoor cinema under the stars and Space Needle with Movies at the Mural; to food celebration gatherings like the Bite of Seattle. And don't forget the largest urban music and arts festival in North America, Bumbershoot.

For a complete, detailed list of events, visit the Website [www.seattlecenter.com/events/festivals/](http://www.seattlecenter.com/events/festivals/).

Spirit of West Africa, May 8  
A Glimpse of China - Chinese Culture & Arts Festival, May 22  
Northwest Folklife Festival, May 28-31  
Pagdiriwang Philippine Festival, June 5-6  
Festival Sundiata: African-American Celebration, June 12-13  
Iranian Festival, June 19  
Seattle Pride Festival, June 27  
Bastille Day - A French Celebration, July 10-11  
Bite of Seattle, July 16-18  
Movies at the Mural, August 7, 21, 22

and 28 at 9 p.m.  
BrasilFest, August 15  
Tibet Fest, August 28 - 29  
Bumbershoot Music & Arts Festival, Sept. 4 - 6

Closer to home are neighborhood events including a few listed here. Check your neighborhood center for additional listings.

### High Point

Neighborhood Night, June 4, 7-9 p.m.  
End of School Bash, June 18 — tentative date, time to be confirmed  
Community Concert and Neighborhood Elections, July 8, 6-8 p.m.

### NewHolly

NewHolly Family Fun Fest, August 7, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
NewHolly Cricket Match, TBD  
NewHolly Luau, TBD

### Other opportunities

Camps, classes and summer programs are available throughout Seattle. For more information visit the following websites.  
Seattle Parks & Recreation, [www.seattle.gov/parks](http://www.seattle.gov/parks)  
Boys & Girls Clubs of King County, [www.positiveplace.org](http://www.positiveplace.org)  
YMCA of Greater Seattle Youth Programs, [www.seattlemca.org](http://www.seattlemca.org)

# HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

A youth gets information about the Bike Works organization at the High Point summer activities fair, held April 10 at the High Point Community Center.

## Summer youth activities fair a big success

BY CYNTHIA CLOUSER  
SHA Resident

Hello, neighbors. Once again, High Point enjoyed a great activities fair!

I had the privilege of being the caterer for the event, and I wanted to thank all those who enjoyed the food for the great compliments. The youth who attended were wonderful! A few won great raffle prizes (including a new bike).

Several community agencies participated, including the Highpoint and Alki Community Centers,

Cascade Bicycle Club and Bike Works, Camp Long and Longfellow Creek, the P-Patch Program (which gave the youth a pot of soil and seeds of their choice), the High Point Library (a very nice and quiet place to sit and read), DNDA (they gave out some very tasty and healthy fruit kebabs) and the very wonderful Neighborhood House! Check them out — they have great programs.

Information about most of these agencies can be found on the High Point Neighborhood Web site at [www.highpoint-neighborhood.org](http://www.highpoint-neighborhood.org).

See also: [www.seattle.gov](http://www.seattle.gov); [www.nhwa.org](http://www.nhwa.org); [www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods/ppatch](http://www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods/ppatch); [www.highpointlibrary.com](http://www.highpointlibrary.com); [www.bikeworks.org](http://www.bikeworks.org).

## Cambodian New Year



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

A young boy and his mother were among the dozens of people who turned out to celebrate the Cambodian New Year at the High Point Center last month.

### Community notes

#### High Point Neighborhood Association seeks nominations for new trustees

The High Point Neighborhood Association will be holding elections in July for five new Trustees — both homeowners and renters. Nominations will begin soon so take some time to consider if you would like to run or know someone who would like to run.

Trustees help engage residents to get involved, represent the concerns of their neighbors, and plan events to build community within High Point.

The position requires a commitment of approximately 10 hours per month attending regular Trustee meetings for

planning and budgeting, participating in events, as well as representing HPNA on various local committees and councils. Any High Point resident, either renter or homeowner, age 18 or over is eligible to run.

Being a trustee is a way to get involved in High Point to help make our community a great place to live. Current Trustees include: Jennifer Cobb, President; Andrew Mead, Vice President (term expires 2010); Miranda Taylor, Secretary; Chris Smithco, Treasurer; Ayan Jama, Mohamed Mohamed, Abdurahman Mohamed (term expires 2010) and Yon Noy (term expires 2010).

### Budget

Continued from Page 2

The tax on other tobacco products will be increased from 75 percent to 95 percent of the sale price; for large cigars the tax is capped at \$0.65 per cigar. Moist snuff will be taxed at the larger of 95 percent of the sale price or \$2.526 per 1.2 ounces.

The plan makes some revisions to the tax code, removing or modifying some tax exemptions, including reversing a court ruling that extended tax breaks to out-of-state direct sales companies, which alone will bring the state \$155 million.

#### Hardest hit: education and health programs

The spending cuts will most adversely affect public education and state universities and health programs.

The cuts translate into about 1,534 fewer jobs in general government and the college system, and another 1,517 more in public

schools. That's on top of an estimated 3,670 in state government and higher education job cuts last year. About 960 of the state job losses are in higher education.

The budget also eliminates another \$79 million in contributions to class-size reductions for K-12 schools and spends \$73 million less for colleges. It provides \$30 million less for other class-size enhancements and saves \$15 million by cutting a learning-improvement day for public school teachers. It saves \$49 million by requiring one in four state employees to take 10-day furloughs — days off without pay — over the next year.

At the same time, the budget adds \$401 million in new money into certain programs: \$65 million for health care coverage for state employees, \$30 million for levy aid to tax-poor school districts, and extra money for higher enrollments in schools and health care programs. New revenues also block numerous cuts for elder care programs that had been targeted in earlier plans.



Neighborhood House

Strong Families. Strong Communities. Since 1906.

# RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

## Construction in full swing for Phase II of Rainier Vista

**LAURA GENTRY**  
*Seattle Housing Authority*

Phase II of construction at Rainier Vista is well underway, as construction crews make progress on infrastructure for new low-income rental housing units and on the construction of Tamarack Place, an 86-unit low-income apartment building located in Rainier Vista next to the Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club.

Walsh Construction has already completed the installation of a second-floor concrete slab for Tamarack Place and has begun the wood framing of townhouse units on floors two through four. The completion date of Tamarack Place is still set for October 2010 despite a small setback when crews found a misplaced gas line on the property.

According to Rebecca Whitney, Senior Housing Developer for Seattle Housing, the time lost solving the gas line issue can likely be made up during the beginning stages of framing the first few floors of the building.

Gary Merlino Construction Company has also made significant progress on infrastructure that will make way for 118 new, energy-efficient, low-income rental housing units in the third phase of construction at

Rainier Vista.

Infrastructure construction is currently ahead of schedule and may be finished ahead of its expected completion date of November 2010. Progress is being made on underground storm and sewer systems, water line connections, road base construction and site grading.

The new rental units are expected to be completed by March 2012 and the first block will be available starting August 2011. These new units will be affordable to low-income people along a range of incomes and their construction will complete the rental housing on the 65-acre Rainier Vista site.



*Construction work continues in Phase II of the Rainier Vista development, with some new units becoming available as early as this fall.*

PHOTOS BY LAURA GENTRY

## A notice about pet waste in the Rainier Vista community

Pet waste is not just ugly.

It's a health hazard, and not cleaning up after your pet is against the law.

If you have a dog, please remember to clean up after it. If you notice someone not picking up after their dog, please remind them to clean up.

Or contact Denise Wright at the Management Office at (206) 721-2980 with a description of the dog and owner.

For the health and safety of all our children, let's keep our neighborhood clean!

Saxarada xayawaanka dadka lanool sida bisadaha iyo eyda maha oo keliya in aysan aragtificnayn.

Caafimaadka ayay uxuntahay, haddii aadan nadiifin saxarada xayawaankaaga (pet) marka ay xaaraan waxay ka soohorjeedaa sharciga

Haddii aad leedahay ey fatlan waa inaad xusuus naataa inaad nadiifisid saxaradiisa markuu xaaro. Haddii aad arragtii qof aan nadiifin saxarada ama xaarka eygiisa, fatlan waa inaad usheegtaan inay nadiifiyaan. Ama laxiriir Denise Wright xafiiska guryaha (206)721-2980 adiga oo sheegaya timaamaha ama sida uu u egyahay eyga iyo qofka wata.

Saxada, caafimaadka iyo amaan ka caruurteenna awgeed waa inaan ilaalinaa saxada deegaanka.

Phân của chó không hẳn là xấu. Mà còn nguy hại cho sức khỏe, và nếu không dọn sạch sâu khi chó của bạn đi cầu là phạm luật. Nếu bạn có chó, làm ơn nhớ dọn sâu khi nó đi cầu. Nếu bạn thấy ai không chịu dọn sâu khi chó của họ đi cầu thì xin bạn nhất nhờ họ. Hoặc gọi cô Denise Wright ở Văn Phòng Quản lý ở (206) 721-2980 diễn tả con chó và người chủ.

Ví sức khỏe và sự an toàn cho con em của chúng ta hãy dù cộng đồng sạch sẽ!

**የግንባላ አር ክፉ ብቻ አይደለም ለጤና አደገኛ ሆኖ ተከታትሎ አለማጽዳት ደግሞ ሕገ-ወጥ ነው! ውሻ ካለዎት ይባክዎን ተከታትለው ያጽዱት። ሌሎች ሰዎች የውሻቸው ቆሻሻ ሳያጸዱ ሲሄዱ ካዩ ደግሞ ይባክዎን**  
**ገንዘብ ለግንባላ ለደራሲ ራይት በሃውሲን አስተዳደር ጽ/ቤት በስልክ ቁጥር (206) 721-2980 በመደወል የውሻውና የባለቤቱ ምልክት ይግለጹልን።**  
**ስለ ሁሉም ልጆቻችን ደህንነትና ጤንነት ሰፈራችንን በጽዳት መያዝ ይገባል!**

## Senior lunch program for Eritrean and Ethiopian elders keeps dialogue open in community



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

*A group of Eritrean and Ethiopian elders meets weekly at the ReWA office near Rainier Vista as part of a senior nutrition program.*

**BY TYLER ROUSH**  
*The Voice editor*

For the past several months, elders from Seattle's Eritrean and Ethiopian communities have gathered at an office near Rainier Vista for conversation with neighbors and a hot, home-cooked meal.

It's a senior nutrition program that serves double duty as a community building event.

The group meets from noon – 2 p.m. Saturdays at the ReWA office, located at 4008 MLK Way S.

The meetings are an opportunity for seniors from Ethiopia and Eritrea to gather for social time, to converse in their native language of Amharic or Tigrigna, and to stay active.

At a recent meeting, organizer Michael Neguse answered questions about the 2010 U.S. Census.

"The idea is a good one, because elderly people sitting at home, it's very frustrating to their minds," said Kidane Hailu, a NewHolly resident.

For Hamelmal Teferi, a regular attendee at the lunches, the meeting time is a chance to keep alive some of the traditions of their birthplace in their new home.

"We are from the same place, but in a different country," she said.

A sense of community is important to the group, most of whom hail from Ethiopia and Eritrea.

"In our country, we don't do things

**Please see "Lunch" on Page 6**



# NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY JOY BRYNGELSON

Volunteers register guests for the Neighborhood Night.



PHOTO BY JOY BRYNGELSON

The Neighborhood Night included a presentation on car seat safety.

## Neighborhood Night focuses on safety and volunteerism

NewHolly's Traffic-Parks-Safety Committee leaders hosted this quarter's NewHolly Neighborhood Night. The themes of the event were safety, volunteerism, and community.

The safety information included a compelling testimonial by a mother whose children survived a serious car accident because they were sitting in properly installed car seats, followed by a car seat video by Children's Hospital and an announcement of the upcoming discounted car seat fitting and sale.

Lieutenant Koutsky from the South Precinct shared crime statistics and answered community questions. Michael Neguse and Kelly McKinney from Seattle Neigh-

borhood Group shared information about personal safety.

Each of the six volunteer committees then hosted a Passport to Participation activity for community members to come to each of their tables to collect information about current committee activities. Each committee signed up between one to five new volunteers.

NewHolly Community Builder Joy Bryngelson extended heartfelt appreciation to members of the Traffic-Parks-Safety Committee and the many other volunteers who helped make the Neighborhood Night and ongoing safety efforts such a big success.

The next Neighborhood Night will be July 30 at the NewHolly Gathering Hall.



PHOTO BY JOY BRYNGELSON

The South Precinct's Lieutenant Koutsky shares crime statistics and answers questions during the NewHolly Neighborhood Night on April 16.

## Greenlight

Continued from front page

Low-income residents who live in Seattle Housing properties and those who are renting with a Housing Choice Voucher program may qualify for the program.

Participants must be 18 or older and have an interest in the construction field and related training. Interested individuals may contact Section 3 Coordinator Sam Pierce at 206-722-4010, Ext. 3, or [spierce@seattlehousing.org](mailto:spierce@seattlehousing.org).

Because of grant funding guidelines, there may be some restrictions with respect to who will qualify for the training.

However, Pierce can advise anyone who might be interested in participating and welcomes calls from residents.

This training will provide basic skills for all who are interested in construction work as a career.

Some of the curriculum will include mathematics for the trades, flagging certification, basic construction skills, forklift certification, and safety certification.

"One of the most important roles we play is to provide opportunity for our residents to become economically successful," said Seattle Housing Executive

Director Tom Tierney. "By creating this opportunity, we are providing a genuine career path for some residents to gain a marketable skill in an industry that they will be able to work in for years."

According to SVI personnel, the new series of classes is a departure from their regular programs.

SVI sees the new program as one way to be responsive to people who may be interested in a trades apprenticeship but cannot afford to leave a current daytime job.

One of the greatest challenges for participants in pre-apprenticeship programs is securing jobs at graduation.

The advantage of this particular training is that Seattle Housing Authority will have three construction projects underway when the series of classes concludes. This will provide immediate opportunities for apprentices to begin work.

The Housing Authority is working with labor unions to insure that these graduates have the best opportunities to secure the jobs. The Section 3 program requires contractors to hire Section 3-eligible candidates for any new hires created by their projects.

Seattle Housing also requires apprenticeship hours on their projects. The new

program opens up a new way to provide opportunities for the graduates.

There is a particular interest in recruiting residents for this training opportunity, because this represents a unique opportunity to achieve multiple objectives.

Seattle Housing Authority received American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funding last year that will be used to begin construction work on three projects this summer.

These projects include the following: Lake City Village, an 86 unit low-income housing development that will add 51 public housing units, a 116 unit low-income housing project at Rainier Vista, and the renovation of infrastructure and energy efficiency improvements at Denny Terrace.

These three projects will create jobs and add low-income housing or improve existing housing.

"It is rare that you have an opportunity for separate programs to achieve common goals. Because of ARRA funding, the Housing Authority will be able to create jobs, provide opportunity for training and employment for Section 3 residents, and create new high quality housing for low-income people," Tierney said.

## Lunch

Continued from Page 5

by ourselves, (but) with family and with neighbors," Teferi said. "In this country, things are different.

"So, we want to remember what we had, and to pass to our children what we had."

As a community, it's also an opportunity to discuss some of the challenges faced by the East African immigrant and refugee populations in Seattle — a support group comprised of people who understand and can relate to the unique challenges of their circumstances.

Abraha Tesfamariam said it creates a benefit for the entire community.

"As long as we gather people of the same culture, things will facilitate not only for us, but for the country in which we're living," he said. "When we get together, we can discuss our problems."

The group is continuing outreach efforts to expand its membership among the East African senior community.

Tesfamariam used a pair of analogies to describe the group

"Birds of the same feather flock together," he noted. "We are few, but it's like the snowball effect — better to have a small one at the start."

# YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

## EIS scoping meeting held April 29

By SHA STAFF

The environmental review process is now underway to examine five alternatives for Yesler Terrace redevelopment. On April 29, the Seattle Housing Authority hosted a “scoping” meeting at the old Yesler Terrace gym.

The purpose of this meeting was to receive public comments regarding the proposed scope of what will be studied in the Environmental Impact Statement process (EIS).

Before a detailed plan is drafted for redevelopment, both Federal and State law require that a thorough and detailed study be prepared to analyze how different options for Yesler Terrace’s redevelopment might affect both people and the environment.

The EIS is a decision-making tool, providing information to help the Seattle Housing Board make the best decisions for how the new Yesler Terrace can best fulfill the community’s vision.

After the scoping period, a variety of consultants, consisting primarily of engineers and scientists, will evaluate the potential impacts that the various redevelopment alternatives could have upon the environment.

“Public participation has been a primary objective in the redevelopment effort for Yesler Terrace and we look forward to involving the community in this phase of the development,” said Ryan Moore, the housing authority’s EIS manager.

The results of the analyses will be presented in a Draft EIS that is expected to be issued in October 2010. This will provide another opportunity for public review and comment. Once the Draft EIS has been reviewed and commented on, a Final EIS will be prepared.

The Final EIS will identify what Seattle Housing Authority believes to be the best option for redevelopment at Yesler Terrace.

This option will become known as the “preferred alternative.” It will be used to guide the future development of the site over the 15-20 year time that the Housing Authority expects it will take to complete the project.

The comment period on the scoping is open until May 17. There are a number of different ways that one can provide comments:

1. Comments may be mailed to:  
SEPA Responsible Official  
Stephanie Van Dyke, Development Director  
Seattle Housing Authority  
120 Sixth Ave. N  
P. O. Box 19028  
Seattle, WA 98109-1028
2. Comments may be faxed to 206-615-3539.
3. Comments may be e-mailed to : YTEISComments@seattlehousing.org

## Director

Continued from front page

to the puzzle. Connectivity is key to the Housing Authority’s work, Brandon said.

“You want to feel included, you want to feel engaged, you want to feel supported in your community,” he said.

Brandon faces some immediate challenges as he moves into the role of Director of Housing Operations. Controlling operating cost and providing quality service to residents are at the top of his list.

“We want to make sure we do a good job in maintaining what we have as we redevelop some of our communities and provide more housing opportunities with the new and redeveloped communities coming on line including Tamarack Place, Rainier Vista Northeast, Lake City Village and Yesler Terrace,” Brandon said.

Bedbugs are another problem at the forefront. Brandon said Seattle Housing will continue to work diligently with residents and staff to find solutions. He cited recent successes at Denny Terrace, once an epicenter for bedbug infestations, as proof that headway can be made against the pests when residents and staff work together.

“It was very important to have cooperation with the residents, and our residents have been great to work with. They, too, want a successful outcome. I look forward in continuing to work with them and our great staff,” he said.

## Community center hosts safety fair



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

The Seattle Police Department distributed info cards in a variety of different languages at a safety fair held April 17 at the Yesler Community Center.

## Respite

Continued from Page 3

natural fit because it has an entry on the sixth floor that backs right up to Harborview Medical Center, where many of the respite program clients would be discharged from.

Discussions over the past two years about locating the facility at Jefferson Terrace have taken into consideration the current residents of the building.

At the most recent of ongoing community meetings about the planning process at Jefferson Terrace on March 26, Janna Wilson of PHSKC and staff from Seattle Housing offered to organize a tour of the existing Respite Care facility to help residents visualize what such a program looks like in reality.

One person who jumped at the chance was Jefferson Terrace resident Pamela Wilcox. She has been participating in the proposal’s planning forums at the building for years, and was very interested in participating in the tour of the existing facility.

“It is definitely a needed program, but I want to see it for myself so I want to know what to expect. I am concerned for my community and want to make sure it is a good fit,” she said of the tour.

The plan for Jefferson Terrace is to provide about double the capacity found at the William Booth Center. In contrast to the existing facility where there are bunk-style sleeping arrangements, the 20 apartments on the seventh floor at Jefferson Terrace would be converted to house two hospital-style beds each.

The apartment nearest the building elevator would be converted to an office and “control center” where the 24-hour/day respite care program staff can monitor the facility.

Directly opposite the office will be a newly-constructed exterior elevator that would link the ground floor with the program, ensuring that the respite facility will have an independent entry separated from the main entrance that the buildings’ permanent residents use everyday.

Beyond the difference in sleeping arrangements, resi-

dents on the tour to the William Booth Center learned about other differences between the existing facility and the proposal for Jefferson Terrace.

In a different part of the building, the William Booth Center also contains a homeless shelter, separate from the medical respite care facility and run by an entirely different group.

Unlike a homeless shelter, people who stay in a medical respite facility are referred there by doctors. No one can walk in off the street, and participants must agree to behavioral and safety policies to be allowed in.

They stay for several weeks at a time until they heal, and receive social services along with the medical care.

From comments at meetings about the proposal, the distinction between a homeless shelter and a building providing permanent housing was a critical point.

During the lease negotiations currently underway between the Housing Authority and PHSKC, the focus has been on balancing the needs of the respite facility and the continuing function of Jefferson Terrace as permanent low-income public housing.

Details from the lease on how this would be managed were shared with residents and stakeholders. A “good neighbor forum,” a concept supported by residents, Housing Authority staff and Public Health staff alike, is currently part of the draft lease which will govern the program.

“The participants in respite care are often motivated by their experience to take steps to stabilize their lives and to seek permanent housing,” explained Chris Hurley, the new program coordinator for the respite program for PHSKC.

While no direct connection to public housing or priority on the permanent housing waiting list will exist for clients of the respite facility, the goal of encouraging a stable housing environment is important.

“This makes the program a good fit for Seattle Housing Authority’s mission to support stability and self-sufficiency for people with low-incomes though safe and decent housing,” said Tom Tierney, Seattle Housing’s Executive Director.

