



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



The Voice

September
2010

Articles translated
into six languages

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

An 'ambitious survivor' of Hurricane Katrina

Five years later, a Hurricane Katrina evacuee continues to look forward

Editor's Note: Hurricane Katrina made landfall outside New Orleans at approximately 6:10 a.m. local time August 29, 2005. The ensuing storm claimed at least 1,836 lives and displaced thousands of people. Justin Orvold was a resident of New Orleans when the hurricane hit, and in the aftermath moved to Seattle. (He was previously interviewed by The Voice for an article in the April 2006 issue.) This is his story, five years later.



PHOTO BY LISA WOOD

Justin Orvold moved to Seattle in 2005, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

after only 24 hours so he could eventually go back and shuffle through the wreckage to claim what was left of his belongings.

Justin had spent four days in Lake Charles and "just like everyone else, was watching my home float away on TV."

Even after five years that sober realization brings a hard truth to Justin's eyes as

he sits in a coffee shop in Seattle.

An artist and an educator

Justin was 16 years old when he started painting on large canvases; shortly after that he received a full scholarship to Cor-

Please see "Survivor" on Page 5

Aug. 17 primary sets the stage for general election

Murray to face Rossi for U.S. Senate seat; incumbents reign in most races

By TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

Voters made their choices in Washington's 2010 primary Aug. 17, with few surprises in most races locally and around the state.

As expected, Democratic Senator Patty Murray will face Republican challenger Dino Rossi in Washington's U.S. Senate race. Murray, the three-term incumbent, received 46.4 percent of the vote, while Rossi, a former state senator and unsuccessful candidate for governor in 2004 and 2008, received 33.3 percent. Republican Clint Didier, a former Washington Redskins football player and affiliate of the Tea Party movement, finished a distant third with 12.6 percent of the vote.

All voting statistics are current as of the morning of Aug. 23.

In the state's top-two primary, the two leading vote-getters, regardless of party af-

Please see "Primary" on Page 5

Social Security Act turns 75!

Hundreds gather to celebrate the anniversary of one of the country's most valued social programs

By LYNN SEREDA
Housing Choice Voucher Holder

One of the most important government acts to arise out of the Great Depression was the Social Security Act, which passed on Aug. 14, 1935. This act created the safety net of Social Security benefits, which today are received by 53 million people, including over 1 million in Washington State.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Social Security Act, a birthday party was held at the Greenwood Senior Center on Monday, Aug. 16. More than 350 people came to the event, which was sponsored by the Puget Sound Alliance of Retired Americans, the Economic Opportunity Institute, and several labor and human rights groups.

The program opened with a short film produced by the Older Women's League,



PHOTO BY LYNN SEREDA

Birthday cake and banners highlighted the 75-year history of the Social Security Act, which was adopted Aug. 14, 1935.

which focused on the personal stories of people who have benefited from Social Security. After the film, several speakers were introduced, including U.S. Senator Patty Murray and Congressional Representative Jim McDermott.

Senator Murray, greeted by a standing

Please see "SSA" on Page 4

Cuts being made to Disability Lifeline benefits

Participants may appeal termination of benefits by contacting DSHS

LISA WOOD
University House Resident

If you are receiving Disability Lifeline (formerly GAU) benefits, your time may be running out for receiving funds.

State budget cuts this year led to changes in the way Disability Lifeline benefits are distributed. A person on Disability Lifeline may receive the \$339/month benefits for 24 months in a 60-month period. Those in the program who have exceeded the 24-month limit are being notified that their benefits have expired. The first round of notices were sent out in August, with an effective date of Sept. 1.

"That is what is happening to an estimated 1,700 people statewide and 617 of those are estimated to be King County residents alone for the month of August," according to Rebecca Henrie, Communications Chief at the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).

The cuts could ultimately affect hundreds of Seattle Housing Authority residents and Housing Choice Voucher holders. According to statistics provided by Seattle Housing Authority, 246 households in its public housing program (excluding HOPE VI communities) and 497 households in its Housing Choice Voucher program receive 10 percent or more of their income through Disability Lifeline as of Dec. 31, 2009. Between the two programs, a total of 743 households

Please see "Benefits" on Page 5

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

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

In this issue

Health Notes	Page 2
TECHNOLOGY HELPS SENIORS	
One to grow on	Page 3
TIPS FOR COMMUNITY GARDENERS	
20-year milestone	Page 4
CELEBRATING THE ADA ANNIVERSARY	
Translations	Page 8

In the news

Feds approve \$26 billion state aid package by closing corporate tax loopholes, cutting food-stamp program; Washington to receive about \$543 million in federal aid

— See related story on Page 2



Health Notes

A column devoted to your well-being

Technology helps older adults stay in their own homes

By PAM MCGAFFIN
Special to *The Voice*

Imagine getting a medical checkup from the comfort of your own living room. No need to jump in the car and drive to the clinic.

Your nurse has received your latest vital signs through a device that records and sends data over the phone lines, and now she is on screen talking to you via interactive audio-video.

The future is here. An ever-expanding array of products — from simple blood-pressure monitors to “smart home” sensors that can remind you to turn off the tap — are making it possible for older adults to remain safely in their homes.

Home-care technology and “telehealth” are buzzwords for a growing arena that could revolutionize the way we age and access health care, according to the Healthy Aging Partnership, a coalition of 35 Puget Sound-area not-for-profit organizations dedicated to the health and well-being of older adults.

Technology, which has already changed the way we live and get information, is sure to play a growing role in health care as 77 million baby boomers hit their senior years, HAP notes.

A wide spectrum of home gizmos and gadgets are being developed to fill the gap between a shortage of caregivers and a ballooning aging population. Technology can help them put off or avoid long-term institutionalized care while giving them the comfort of knowing that help is there if they need it.

Visiting Nurse Services of the Northwest, a home health care organization serving King, Snohomish and Skagit counties, is one of a number of agencies offering a Lifeline program that connects patients to a 24-hour emergency monitoring system with the push of a button on a wristband or pendant.

VNS also manages home monitoring programs that allow patients to keep track of their own vital signs, including blood pressure and blood-glucose levels. The data is transmitted over phone lines or via satellite to a nurse on duty, who reviews the information and calls the patient if any measurements appear out of line or if the patient fails to send data according to schedule.

If you or someone you know might benefit from home care technology, check with your doctor or health care professional and shop around to compare services, HAP advises. Meanwhile, here’s some information and tips to consider:

- Many assistive devices are designed to make life easier for anyone, not just older adults and those with disabilities.

With the plethora of devices on the market, you can renovate your home into one that enables a functionally impaired person to carry out his or her daily life independently.

- Before you call the contractors, however, start with the basics. Just eliminating loose rugs and other hazards is one of the best ways to prevent falls, the leading cause of injury deaths among people 65 and older. Get non-slip mats in the bathtub and shower, secure those rugs, improve lighting and install grab bars in the bathroom and handrails next to stairways.

- If you live alone and are at risk for a fall or other health emergency, consider Lifeline or another Personal Emergency Response System (PERS), which can alert a response center in the event of an emergency. A PERS works much like a small radio transmitter and can help ensure a fast response if an accident occurs.

- Self-monitoring devices that allow patients to keep track of their blood pressure and other vital signs have several potential benefits. They can help older adults with chronic conditions take control of their own health, give health providers better data and records, ease the burden on family caregivers and prevent costly trips to the doctor.

- Devices, from the simple to the sophisticated, exist to help with a range of needs: bedside controls can help physically disabled seniors control lighting, temperature and other settings; a simple blinking light instead of a doorbell can help those with impaired hearing; while large handled combs and Velcro fasteners can help people with limited fine motor abilities.

- Technology also is being used to help older adults who might otherwise become sedentary maintain their mobility and independence. A robotic “intelligent” walker, for example, can help the user steer clear of obstacles, pass through doorways and even follow a particular route.

- Before you purchase any device, system or piece of equipment, do your homework. Many insurance companies won’t cover such expenses, and those that do require a doctor’s recommendation. PERS, for example, can be rented or leased as well as purchased, and some hospitals and social service agencies subsidize fees for low-income users.

For more information about home-care technology and assistive devices or other issues related to life as an older adult, call 1-888-4ELDERS (1-888-435-3377) or visit www.4elders.org. The free and confidential resource line offers a wealth of information and assistance to seniors and their caregivers.

Federal aid to state comes through, but at a cost

Steep cuts made to food stamp program

By SCOTT FREUTEL
Seattle Housing Authority

Early last month the House of Representatives approved, and President Barack Obama promptly signed into law, a bill providing \$26 billion to struggling states, aid that’s paid for by closing tax loopholes for multinational companies and cutting food aid to the poor.

The bill will give states \$16 billion more for Medicaid, the health insurance program for the poor, and \$10 billion for education in the hopes they can avoid making steep cuts in already-lean budgets.

Washington is to receive \$338 million in extra matching money for Medicaid and around \$205 million for education.

However, the bill cuts \$11.9 billion from the food stamp program, ending part of last year’s economic stimulus plan that temporarily increased the aid given to poor families each month to buy groceries. It also puts a stop to advance refunds of the earned income tax credit, a break given to poor families.

According to *The Seattle Times*, Gov. Chris Gregoire said the money was a big help but wasn’t enough to solve the state’s budget problems.

Without the federal aid, she said, she could be directing state agencies to prepare for cuts of 7 to 11 percent.

Even after dealing with the expected shortfalls in the current budget, the governor’s office projects the state faces at least a \$3 billion shortfall when lawmakers meet in January to start writing the next two-year budget.

“State government, out of necessity, will need to be smaller,” Gregoire said.

She said lawmakers will have to decide if the state can continue certain programs, or see if other organizations, such as churches and nonprofits, can help.

In urging the House of Representatives to pass the legislation, President Obama said, “We can’t stand by and do nothing while pink slips (termination notices) are given to the men and women who educate our children or keep our communities safe.”

Daytripper — Ride across the water to Alki Beach, West Seattle



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

The Seattle skyline, as seen from Alki Beach in West Seattle.

By KRISTIN O'DONNELL
Yesler Terrace Resident

Until the end of September, a water taxi catamaran ferry sails every 40-60 minutes during the day from Pier 50 (Yesler and Alaska Way, south of the main ferry terminal) in downtown Seattle to Seacrest Park in West Seattle.

The crossing has a wonderful any-day view of downtown Seattle, a close-up weekday view of the working waterfront with giant cranes loading and unloading box-car sized shipping containers, and a clear-day view of Mount Rainier.

Keep a look out at the mooring buoys next to big barges — harbor seals use them for resting places. It is also a terrific sunset-watching spot, and feels very adventurous on a somewhat stormy day (the boat doesn’t sail when weather gets really wild).

Seacrest Park Metro runs free shuttle buses every 30 minutes that loop around West Seattle (also until the end of September). Route #775 goes to Alki Beach.

Ask the driver to point out the Flower House. Tucked between condos, an old

beach house has thousands of flowers planted from the sidewalk to the rooftop. On sunny weekends, hundreds of people are on Alki beach, skateboarding, biking, playing volleyball — a few swim in the very cold water.

At Alki, get off the bus and check out the Log House Museum (3003 61st Ave. S.W. Thursday through Sunday noon – 4 p.m., recommended donation \$3). The museum is located in the impressive log-constructed coach house of the very impressive log mansion in the next block (2717 61st Ave. S.W.). It has fewer things displayed than most local history museums, but explains its contents well. It is clean, well-lighted, and you learn stuff — worth a stop.

So is the Alki Bakery, 2738 Alki Ave. S.W., which has great cinnamon rolls and lemon bars.

Need exercise after the bakery? Walk along the beach, checking out the small Statue of Liberty and pioneer monument, and dodging the bikes and skateboards. Or get back on the #775 free shuttle for a short

Please see “Daytripper” on Page 3

The Voice

Editor

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

Reporters

Robert Baughn
Jim Bush
Kristin O'Donnell
Lynn Sereda
Lisa Wood

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

Be safe

Survey says: Autumn is a great time to conduct a light survey in your neighborhood

BY SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

The summer is winding down and autumn is around the corner. Fall is a great time to do an outdoor light survey. What is an outdoor light survey? It is when community members get together after dusk to see how well the outdoor lights in the community work.

This is what you need to know to report burned out or malfunctioning streetlights:

The City of Seattle has a website where problem streetlights can be reported. The address is www.seattle.gov/light/street-light/form.asp. If you don't have a computer or prefer to use a phone, you can call the City Light Streetlight Repair Hotline at 206-684-7056.

Each streetlight has metal tags nailed to the pole. The tags are about six or seven feet up off of the ground. Each tag has a number. That number identifies the streetlight.

City Light needs the number from the tag on the pole, the address or intersection of the pole and the side of street the pole is located on. If the pole is on a corner, City

Light needs to know which corner it's on: north, south, east or west.

Streetlights are important. But so are the lights on buildings and in outdoor common spaces. You can report these burned out or malfunctioning lights to your management office.

It is often helpful to take a clipboard and paper to record information about problem lights. That way you have all the information you need to inform City Light or your management office of the problems. Seattle Neighborhood Group has a form that can be used for light surveys. The form helps to record and organize the information so it can be reported to the appropriate agency for repair. If you are interested in using SNG's form, you can contact Kelly McKinney or Allan Davis at Seattle Neighborhood group.

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

Safe at home presents...

A cleaner, greener home

Editor's note: The Voice is introducing a new series titled "Safe at Home." Each month this column will help inform you of safe practices in and around your home.

Part I : Vinegar

Most commercial cleaning products are safe when used as directed, and most of them do a good job of cleaning. However, many of them give off fumes that are dangerous to breathe, and almost all of them can be a hazard to young children.

One good, safe and inexpensive substitute is vinegar — distilled white vinegar. A gallon jug of distilled white vinegar usually costs less than \$3, and, diluted, makes two gallons of vinegar cleaning solution.

Vinegar naturally cleans like an all-purpose cleaner, and also disinfects and deodorizes. Mix a solution of one part water to one part distilled white vinegar in a new, store-bought spray bottle, and you'll have a solution that will clean most areas of your home.

Don't worry that your home will smell like vinegar. The smell disappears as the vinegar dries.

Use vinegar in the...

Bathroom

Clean the bathtub, toilet, sink and countertops. Use pure vinegar in the toilet bowl to get rid of rings. (Flush the toilet to allow the water level to go down, then pour undiluted vinegar around the inside of the rim and scrub the bowl.) Mop the bathroom floor with a vinegar/water solution. The solution will also eat away soap scum and hard water stains. Caution: Vinegar not diluted with enough water can eat away at tile grout.

Kitchen

Clean the stovetop, appliances, countertops and floor. Do not use vinegar on granite or marble surfaces — it can pit them.

Laundry

Use vinegar as a natural fabric softener. Add ½ cup of undiluted vinegar to the rinse cycle in place of store-bought fabric softener. When the clothes are dry, the vinegar smell will be gone.

2749 California Ave. Both have tables.

Check out the fine 1930s-era Admiral Theater — \$5.50 movies daily!

The #773 shuttle goes to The Junction, at Alaska and California S.W., with thrift and consignment shops, an excellent used bookstore, lots of restaurants, bakeries and delis and a transit mall where buses link to downtown, White Center and the airport.

With an Orca card, water taxi fares are \$3 adult/\$1.50 seniors and people with disabilities/\$2.25 youth ages 6-18. You will be credited for the value of a current bus transfer.

Access: Minus tides limit water taxi access — call 206-684-1551 to be sure boarding is possible on the day you plan to travel. West Seattle neighborhoods are accessible, as is the path above Alki Beach. The beach itself is difficult, as are most Schmitz Park trails.



One to grow on

Garden tips for community gardeners

Weeds and seeds: Preparations you can make for your autumn garden

BY ANZA MUENCHOW
Special to The Voice

When food gardeners begin to clean out the last of their summer crops, they should record the location and health of each vegetable bed. You will need this record as you plan your garden map for next spring.

Take special note of what varieties were planted and where you had infestations or diseases on leaves, fruits or roots.

Write down any special soil treatments you may have used this summer. Were there sections of your garden with competing weeds that may have reduced your beautiful harvests? What were your crop successes and why were they successful? What should have been done differently?

It seems one reason I love gardening is that it gives me the opportunity to learn new lessons every year.

This season the weeds have been my biggest challenge, so I will review with you the steps I plan to take in order to make next season better. Many annual weeds are setting seeds in August and September. I vow to remove these annual weeds before the seeds spread. If I compost the weeds, I'll make sure the pile gets hot enough to kill seeds, or I will take them to a compost facility for them to manage.

As the fall rains begin, I'll watch for any newly sprouted perennial weeds, such as thistle, dock, buddleia and chickweed, and remove them before they get a chance to get established over this winter. Make time to weed your garden well before you put it to rest for the winter and you'll save time next spring.

What is the best weed control strategy during the cold winter months? The best choices include planting a cover crop (a.k.a. green manure) or covering your soil with a weed-free mulch. Cover crops are grown to protect and improve the soil, not for harvest.

Plant nitrogen fixing green manure like crimson clover, vetch, cereal rye or field peas while the weather is still warm in September. Besides reducing weeds, cover crops help build garden soil by providing organic matter to maintain bacteria, fungi, earthworms and other forms of life necessary to enrich soil and keep crops healthy.

A fertile soil is made by the critters who are eating and excreting all the carbon-based organic matter you can feed them. When you are ready to plant your crops in the spring, all you have to do is chop and turn under the cover crop, and these nutrients will be incorporated into the soil, ready

to nourish another crop of vegetables.

In addition to adding nutrients to your soil, cover crops also help soil structure and prevent erosion all winter long. Their roots penetrate and loosen heavy-textured soils, allowing air and water to penetrate which facilitates soil preparation in the spring.

Another option is to use a heavy layer of mulch which excludes light, preventing the germination of the new weed seeds.

Mulches can be made out of a weed-free compost or manure, shredded paper, or dried leaves and grasses (without seeds). I use burlap bags to cover the mulches, so the wind doesn't blow them away.

The mulch will begin to decompose over the winter months, adding organic matter to the soil. I notice so many worms under these mulches in the spring so I know the nutrients from the mulch are being transported, by the worms and other micro organisms, into the soil.

When you protect your garden during the winter, prepping for spring planting will be simple and easy. I'll add the mulch to our compost in the spring or turn it under and allow it to continue to decompose in the soil.

It seems that the look of the late summer garden changes abruptly in September. Early plantings of lettuces, broccoli, chard, bok choy, spinach and arugula have either been harvested or are now shooting up their seed stalks, also known as "bolting."

I will keep a few bolting plants so I can collect their seeds for next season. I want the future seeds to be from plants that were robust and well established before they bolted.

Tie the plant stalks to stakes to mark them by variety and prevent them from being blown over in the wind. You may need to protect from birds by covering them. It would be best to keep them dry as much as possible.

Once the seeds have matured you can snip the plant stock and, if they are not completely dry, lay them out somewhere dark with good air circulation. The seeds will be ready to harvest when they are dry and hard. Once you've removed most of the moisture, you can keep your seeds in a paper bag or envelope in a cool, dry place labeled with the plant variety and the date you collected the seeds. It feels so good to be more self-reliant with seeds I grow.

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

Write a letter to the editor

The Voice welcomes your feedback.

Send your letters by e-mail to tylerr@nhwa.org, or by regular mail to:

Neighborhood House
The Voice
905 Spruce St., Suite 200
Seattle, WA 98104

Letters may be edited for length.

For more information, contact Tyler Roush, Voice editor, at 206-461-8430, ext. 227.



Neighborhood House

Strong Families. Strong Communities. Since 1906.

A milestone remembered

20th anniversary of ADA celebrated at the Woodland Park Zoo

By JIM BUSH
Center Park resident

For those of you who may not have known it, July 26 is a date that will be remembered by many people throughout this country for a signing ceremony that took place in the White House Rose Garden 20 years ago.

That's right ... on July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush (the first President Bush) ended a long struggle for equality for millions of people throughout this country when he signed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law.

Since that date, the Act, more commonly referred to as ADA, has been regarded as one of the most important pieces of civil-rights legislation to have been enacted in the past 50 years, because it gave people with disabilities the same rights that other people in this country have enjoyed for years, including the right to employment, to live and travel where they choose, to shop and conduct business in an environment that is accessible to them, and communicate with other people in a way that accommodates their needs.

The celebration of the 20th anniversary of the passage of this law took place here in Seattle at the Woodland Park Zoo (a very accessible location, I might add). It was attended by more than 100 individuals with varying "differing abilities." During

the celebration, a number of people spoke about what ADA means to them, and why it is so important to make sure the law is as strong as it was when first enacted, if not stronger.

A number of community-based organizations attended the celebration to promote services they provide, and to distribute information on a wide range of topics of interest to people with disabilities, including voter registration, civil rights, health care, housing, and transportation. (METRO didn't have any people at the celebration, but did help get many people to it, including this reporter.)

Food, in the form of an "ADA birthday cake," was also provided.

ADA's passage has spurred many governments and commercial entities to think about how to best accommodate people with disabilities by designing programs and buildings better. But the act is much more than just sticking a lift or boarding ramp on a bus, widening a doorway, adding a ramp or two in some places, or adding grab bars in public restrooms.

It is a law that stands for freedom, life, hope, equality, liberty and self-respect to a lot of people with disabilities, including Roxanne Vierra, a disability specialist with the King County Office for Civil Rights. (As a disability specialist with that office, Vierra is the county's ADA coordinator.)

It also means "integration" into the community at large to many of them. That integration was either very difficult to attain or simply not available until ADA was adopted, although people living in this state already had a strong anti-discrimination law requiring "reasonable accommoda-

beneficiaries are disabled, and there are also 3.2 million children who collect benefits due to the death of a parent who provided the family income.

Marilyn Watson, a Harvard-educated woman who is the Policy Director of the Economic Opportunity Institute, told her own personal story of the sudden death of her father when she was a child.

Because her family was able to access Social Security benefits, they were able to escape slipping into homelessness and poverty. The Social Security checks provided stability as her mother re-entered the workforce.

Watkins attributed her own path to college and a productive adulthood as one that might not have been possible without the safety net Social Security provides.

All of the speakers noted that there must be a large effort to keep Social Security as the successful program it is. Will Parry, editor of The Senior Advocate noted that former President Bush tried to initiate the privatization of Social Security, which means the money would be invested in the stock market instead of in secure U.S. Treasury bonds.

While this effort was blocked, Senator Murray said we just can't take things for granted, because there are still special interest groups who want to change the program or even make cuts to benefits.

With an annual administrative cost of only 1 percent, Social Security is the most cost-efficient government program to run, according to Parry.

Following the speeches, everyone was poured a sparkling apple cider toast. The crowd then sang Happy Birthday to Social Security as a chocolate birthday cake was presented.

To get involved or learn more

Social Security Works/Washington has



PHOTO BY JIM BUSH

People gathered July 26 at Woodland Park Zoo to mark the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

tions" for disabilities (RCW 49.60) and a very aggressive barrier-free law.

As one person put it, ADA has brought "integration through the efforts of many governments and institutions.

"We have gone a long way, but we still have a long way to go," he added.

Robert Canamar, a former SHA resident, put it succinctly when he said ADA enabled him to live. We think this is true for a lot of people with disabilities — in these tough economic times, the ability to live is becoming much more difficult. The current housing market is not really helping matters any.

During the celebration, proclamations read by staff members from the offices of Gov. Chris Gregoire and Seattle Mayor

Mike McGinn (designating July 26 as Washington State and City of Seattle ADA Day, respectively) echoed that same sentiment.

During one of the presentations, the newly-formed Seattle Disability Commission was recognized for the work they have been doing since being formed. We should also recognize the group of people who spearheaded the creation of that Commission for several years and pushed the City of Seattle to create it.

Reader feedback: If you or someone you know has a disability, you're welcome to share your thoughts with us. Send them via e-mail to jbwa2@yahoo.com.

SSA

Continued from front page

ovation, proclaimed, "The stories told today illustrate the critical need to protect our seniors. The Social Security Act gave our seniors dignity.

"When I look at Social Security, I don't see just a program — I see a promise from one generation to the next."

Rep. McDermott noted that Social Security isn't just about seniors. One third of

been formed to provide a unified voice to let Congress know that the public supports the rights of Americans to Social Security. Dozens of organizations are in this coalition and have drafted a letter which can be signed and sent to our representatives in Washington D.C.

To get a copy of this letter, contact PSARA at 206-448-9646 or e-mail info@psara.org. You can also find out more information about why Social Security is so important to preserve as a government entitlement by visiting the website www.socialsecuritymatters.org.

Social Security: Facts and figures

In June 2010, 53.4 million people, or about one in every six U.S. residents, collected Social Security benefits:

- Retirees comprised more than three-quarters (77 percent) of Social Security recipients.
- 10 million people, or 19 percent, received Social Security disability insurance.
- 4 percent of Social Security recipients were young survivors of deceased workers.

Statistics bear out that Social Security benefits lift elderly Americans out of poverty:

- 45 percent of Americans aged 65 and older receiving Social Security benefits would be below the poverty line without their benefits.
- Social Security benefits provide the majority of cash income for 55 percent of elderly beneficiaries.
- Almost 90 percent of people aged 65 and older receive some of their income from Social Security.

— Compiled by Voice editor Tyler Roush from Center on Budget and Policy Priorities information.

Community notes

Take an SAT practice test

Kaplan and The Seattle Public Library are offering a two-session practice SAT exam for high-school students at two locations in Seattle. Scores are confidential. Receive your results at the follow-up session and learn how to improve your scores through smarter test-taking. Get tips on how to use free online resources to prepare for the test. Bring a pencil, eraser, calculator and a snack. Preference is given to high school students. Registration required. Limited to students who can attend both sessions:

Practice test — 10:30 a.m. — 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25

Test results and study tips — 10:30 a.m. — noon Saturday, Oct. 2

Rainier Community Center
4600 38th Ave. S.

Call the Columbia Branch at 206-386-1908 to register.

Lake City Community Center
12531 28th Ave. N. E.

Call the Lake City Branch at 206-684-7518 to register.

Story time programs with Dora and Kai-lan

Story Time is extra special with Dora the Explorer reading from one of her Spanish/English bi-lingual books, and Kai-lan reading from one of her Mandarin Chinese/English bi-lingual books. Bring your young children (recom-

mended ages 2-8) to meet Dora and Kai-lan, and experience fun giveaways and photo opportunities!

Story Times with Dora Central Library

Microsoft Auditorium, Central Library
1000 Fourth Ave.

10:30 and 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 25

South Park Community Center

8319 Eighth Ave. S.

3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25

Story Times with Kai-lan Northgate Community Center

10510 Fifth Ave. N.E.

10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 2

Beacon Hill Branch

2821 Beacon Ave. S.

3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2

Both visits promote the brand-new stage shows "Storytime Live!" with Dora and with Kai-lan, coming to The Paramount Theatre on Oct. 23-24, co-presented by Seattle Theatre Group.

Reminder: Seattle Public Libraries closed Aug. 30 – Sept. 6

All Seattle Public Libraries will be closed Aug. 30 – Sept. 5 due to city budget cuts. They will also be closed Sept. 6 for Labor Day.

Libraries will resume regular hours Sept. 7.

Survivor

Continued from front page

nish College of the Arts in Seattle.

“When I was 16, it’s like I had to paint on large canvas, I knew it. Nothing could stop me. I had to paint,” he said.

He had no idea then that he would end up in New Orleans, as an art teacher for children with special needs. He grew up in a two-parent family with no issues, which helped him maintain his focus.

“We were just an average middle-class family without the middle-class attitude,” he said.

In 2005, Justin went to the Ninth Ward in New Orleans to teach special education, and it was there that “all that looking through a glass window went away.”

As a teacher of students in extreme poverty, Justin got experience being a voice for those children. Speaking up on their behalf to help them get their basic needs met was a new skill Justin had never needed before, but one that in the very near future he would have to utilize for himself as well.

In August 2005, with Hurricane Katrina bearing down on New Orleans and the Ninth Ward, Justin’s entire world was turned on its side. Thank goodness for good friends and the ability to move to higher ground.

On Sept. 2, 2005 Justin chose to come back home to Portland because he had family there.

“New Orleans was closed for a month and I went back after it opened up. I drove through the city to evaluate the damage for two or three days, and I shipped what was left of my belongings home. I came home because I had no job, no way to pay the rent in New Orleans,” he said.

Torn from the life he knew in New Orleans, Justin spent three months sleeping on couches, his home and nearly all his possessions lost.

Between August and October 2005, Justin was spending his own money try-

ing to maintain. He stayed in Centralia with a friend working for his construction company; he also stayed with a friend in Tacoma for a month.

After that three-month period and having made many phone calls, Justin was told he could pick any Housing Authority in Washington to receive his Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) benefits.

Justin chose Seattle Housing Authority. Around Halloween of that year, the Housing Authority connected Justin with a private landlord. Largely in part to all the advocacy skills he learned while working with his students in New Orleans, Justin now resides in a safe, affordable Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-leased apartment in the Beacon Hill area of Seattle. After being an “evacuee,” Justin calls Seattle home.

“My FEMA experience was awesome. My experience wasn’t traumatic like people want to hear,” Justin said. “Washington really advocated for people. Linda Taylor at The Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle really took me under her wing. They are the biggest help by far.”

The Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle’s mission is to help people become self-sufficient.

“In Justin’s case the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle afforded him the opportunity for a new career that he had a talent and a passion for (woodworking), reliable transportation, hugs and meals. We were a liaison between all the other social services in Justin’s immediate area,” said Linda Taylor, Director of The Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle. “In 2005, we must have helped 5,000 people. 2,500 of those were FEMA numbers, the others were family members.”

Justin’s desire to reconnect with his old friends is still evident by the distance in his eyes. He shares that when he left New Orleans in 2005, “it ended prematurely. My whole life was there. I am missing everything, all my friends, everything. I have one

Local efforts to aid Gulf Coast evacuees

Needless to say, when Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in August 2005, the disaster had a profound impact on the area’s population. The numbers of families that had to uproot themselves and move to parts unknown was staggering.

Many of them ultimately relocated to Washington state.

“Thousands of households moved their way here to Washington from the Gulf Coast,” said Richard Krikava, External Affairs Specialist for the Local Region 10 FEMA Office.

Once the evacuees started to trickle into Seattle, one of the numerous organizations that reached out to them was the King and Kitsap County Local Chapter of the Red Cross. More than 200 local Red Cross employees and volunteers provided 1,300 people with their basic needs. “Basic needs are basic needs, regardless of

the location or the disaster,” said Katherine Boury, communications director for the local Red Cross chapter.

At the same time, people were also introduced to Linda Taylor, director of the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle. The group’s main focus “is to help people become self-sufficient.”

During that time, local agencies pulled together to help reduce the trauma of each individual who arrived from the Gulf Coast.

Seattle Housing Authority also contributed to that effort.

“From the Gulf Coast area, 160 people were helped,” said Virginia Felton, Seattle Housing Authority’s communications director.

Evacuees came to Seattle in different stages — some wounded physically or emotionally, and many found refuge here. In considering their stories, it’s easy to see the national scope of a regional disaster.

friend who stayed there, all the rest were scattered all across the United States.

“I have been back three times to visit and reabsorb my old city. I have had a relationship with the city of New Orleans since the first time I went when I was 19. I do plan on living there again.”

He goes on to share how the cool historical parts of the city are still the same, unspoiled by the destruction that the hurricane had wrought.

“I do plan on retiring there” he says with a vibrant glimmer in his eyes.

Even after all this time he still has a yearning about him — a feeling of something gone unfinished. Of something cut short by a disaster he had absolutely no control over.

Justin has accomplished a lot since being

a full-time Washingtonian. He has picked up two Associates of Science degrees in woodworking, while trying to make a living selling his artwork.

His large canvas paintings have been on display at Harborview Medical Center, and have been picked up by a gallery in Portland. He also had a showing in Seattle in July.

And, just like the city of New Orleans, Justin has “just moved on.”

“I am being productive. I have had a career change, and a lifestyle change,” he said. “I am glad I am here and I’m proud of my progress. I’ll always have a connection with NOLA.”

“I am a young, ambitious survivor, and I look forward.”

Benefits

Continued from front page

altogether are receiving Disability Lifeline assistance.

Of those, 562 households derive all of their income from Disability Lifeline payments, and would potentially be without any income upon expiration of their benefits.

The housing authority advises affected residents to contact their property manager or community builder for a referral to service providers who may offer emergency assistance.

“If a person receiving housing assistance loses their assistance and this causes their income to go down, they can have their rent adjusted,” notes Seattle Housing Authority Communications Director Virginia Felton. “To get this process started, they can ask their property manager or Section 8 case manager for a special review.”

The appeals process

Disability Lifeline recipients may appeal the termination with DSHS. In order for an appeal to succeed, Washington Law Help recommends that the appellant be able to provide proof that he or she qualifies as disabled under SSI disability standards.

There are a number of steps you should take to prepare your appeal.

If you receive a termination letter from DSHS, you have 90 days to file an appeal. However, to continue receiving benefits without interruption, you must file your appeal by the end of the last weekday of the month in which you received your letter.

To receive the appeal form go online to www.washingtonlawhelp.org and click the link “GA-U being replaced by Disability Lifeline” in the column on the right. Read

the instructions included on the link.

You can pick up the form at your local DSHS office. When you file your appeal (or as soon as you can), request a copy of your records from DSHS to present at your appeal hearing.

It is recommended that you start the appeal process first and then seek legal help. After you start the process, call 877-211-9274 or dial 2-1-1 to be connected with legal assistance.

“The best way to file an appeal is to go to your local DSHS office,” said Mike Buchman of Solid Ground. “Turn in a written hearing request. Keep a copy! Have DSHS stamp your copy with the date received. Keep this as your proof of submitting your appeal.”

Buchman also suggests that if you can’t go down to the office, call and speak to a person directly — not a voicemail. Take notes of your conversation and keep those notes as proof for your appeal.

When you go to your appeal hearing, bring a copy of your DSHS records, as well as medical records and other evidence that proves you qualify as disabled under SSI disability standards. To read about the process in detail, visit the web address listed above.

Those who appeal the termination of benefits will assume some risk if their appeal is unsuccessful. “No matter how long the termination hearing lasts, if you lose the appeal, you will be expected to pay back up to two months worth of benefits,” Buchman said.

For more information, contact Solid Ground’s Family Assistance Attorney’s at 206-694-6742 or email at evonnez@solid-ground.org.

Primary

Continued from front page

filiation, advance to the general election. The 2010 general election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Washington’s senate race has drawn national interest, with the outcome one of a few nationally that could tip the balance of power in the senate. The significance was not lost on President Obama, who made a primary-day visit to Seattle in support of Murray.

Incumbents rule the primary

Voters more or less stuck to the script around the state, with incumbents topping the ballot in seven of the state’s nine congressional districts. One exception was Congressional District 3 in Southwest Washington, where incumbent Democrat Brian Baird chose not to seek reelection. Democrat Denny Heck and Republican Jaime Herrera will advance to the general election, with 31.5 percent and 27.7 percent of the vote, respectively.

And in District 2, incumbent Democrat Rick Larsen (42.06 percent) was virtually even with Republican challenger John Koster (41.98).

In the state’s battleground Congressional District 8, incumbent Republican Dave Reichert will face Democrat challenger Suzan DelBene, a former Microsoft executive. Reichert, vying for his fourth term in the Eastside district, received 47.3 percent of the vote. DelBene received 27.0 percent.

In Congressional District 7, longtime Representative Jim McDermott, a Democrat, coasted into the general election with

79.9 percent of the vote. His nearest challenger, independent Bob Jeffers-Schroder, received 6.4 percent.

In Congressional District 9, incumbent Democrat Adam Smith (51.4) will face Republican challenger Richard Muri (25.7).

In other districts:

- Incumbent Democrat Jay Inslee (56.0) will face Republican challenger James Watkins (27.3) in District 1

- Incumbent Republican Doc Hastings (58.8) will face Democratic challenger Jay Clough (22.5) in District 4

- Incumbent Republican Cathy McMorris Rodgers (62.7) will face Democratic challenger Daryl Romeyn (12.4) in District 5

- Incumbent Democrat Norm Dicks (56.7) will face Republican challenger Doug Cloud (28.7) in District 6

In the race to fill King County Executive Dow Constantine’s vacated seat on the King County Council, State Senator Joe McDermott received a strong majority with 60.5 percent of the vote; Diana Toledo finished second with 19.1 percent.

Justice Jim Johnson (61.9) won re-election to the State Supreme Court Position 1 against challenger Stan Rumbaugh. According to state election guidelines, a candidate who wins more than 50 percent of the vote in a Supreme Court race will advance unopposed to the general election.

Incumbent Justice Richard B. Sanders (47.1) led challenger Charlie Wiggins (40.4) in the race for Position 6. Justice Barbara Madsen ran unopposed in Position 5.

For complete state-wide results, including district-by-district results for state legislative races, go to <http://vote.wa.gov/Elections/WEI/?ElectionID=36>.

CLASSIFIEDS

THE MARKETPLACE OF THE VOICE



South Seattle Community College

...in West Seattle

WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU!

...start here, go anywhere!

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



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

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



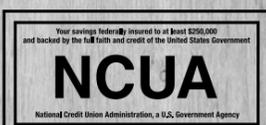
We're Express Credit Union – providing fair and affordable financial services to everyone! Become a member and we'll deposit \$5 to start your account.* So come in or call to join today.

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

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

express
credit union

Affordable financial services for everyone.



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

CLASSIFIEDS

THE MARKETPLACE OF THE VOICE



WorkSource Provides

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

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

Visit our website:
www.worksourceskc.org



We understand you.



And, we care.

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

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

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

www.ichs.com

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

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

Write your ad here (one word per line)

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

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

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

Welcomed with open arms
COMMUNITY EVENTS AT HIGH POINT
See Page 4



SHA NEWS

September
2010

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

Doug Morrison named to Seattle Housing Authority board

By TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

The Seattle City Council unanimously confirmed Doug Morrison's appointment to the Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners on Aug. 2, finalizing the longtime resident leader's move to the housing authority's board. His four-year term began last month.

At the time of his appointment, Morrison was president of the Resident Action Council (RAC) and chair of the Joint Policy Advisory Committee (JPAC).

"I have really enjoyed working with my

fellow residents over the past few years, and I think this appointment will give me an opportunity to take that a step further," he said.

Seattle Housing Authority Executive Director Tom Tierney highlighted Morrison's commitment to resident leadership in embracing Morrison's appointment to the board.

"Doug Morrison has been a leader in resident advocacy efforts for many years," Tierney said. "That experience, combined with his work experience, will make him a knowledgeable and emphatic member of the Board of Commissioners."

Morrison said his primary goal with the board is to "make sure there are enough units available for the very lowest-income people."

"We're responsible for that," Morrison said. "To figure out a way to make more housing."

Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn had nominated Morrison for the position in July. In light of his new position, Morrison chose to resign from his position as RAC president at the council's meeting Aug. 11. He cited a desire to focus on his role as commissioner and to avoid any possibility for a conflict of interest.

"With the Board of Commissioners position, I want to wear the one hat and give it my all," Morrison said.

He added that he intended to resign from his position as chair of JPAC at the committee's next meeting.

In reflecting on his new role with the Seattle Housing Authority, Morrison said he felt indebted to serve the agency that, in his words, "saved my life."

"I'm giving something back that was given to me," Morrison said.

A 10-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force

Please see "Morrison" on Page 7

2011 budget, "Moving To new Ways" plan to be presented Sept. 20

The Seattle Housing Authority will present its 2011 Budget and "Moving To new Ways" Annual Plan at a public hearing at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 20 at Center Park, 2121 26th Ave. S. The meeting is being held at this alternate location because the elevator at the Central Office will be undergoing repairs at this time.

The comment period for the 2011 budget summary and plan is open during the month of September. Around Sept. 1, these documents will be posted to the agency website at www.seattlehousing.org. Printed copies may be obtained by calling 206-615-3546.

The public hearing on Sept. 20 is one of several opportunities to provide comments about the plan and budget. Comments will also be accepted by phone, e-mail or U.S. mail through Sept. 30.

You may submit comments to:

- 206-615-3546
- alazaga@seattlehousing.org
- P.O. Box 19028, Seattle, WA 98109

In October, staff will inform the Board of Commissioners of the comments received and will take those comments into consideration. This may result in modifications to the plan or budget. At the Board of Commissioners meeting at 5 p.m. on Oct. 11, staff will ask the Board to adopt the budget and plan for 2011. This meeting is open to all.



PHOTO COURTESY ROSS MANOR RESIDENT COUNCIL
Ross Manor resident and resident councilmember Debbie Haverty poses with the donation basket of food collected during the building's tag sale in August.

Activities abound at Ross Manor

By TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

The residents of Ross Manor have kept an active social calendar, particularly in the past few months.

With regular coffee hours, a tag sale and even a ping-pong tournament, residents of the downtown building near Pike Place Market have had plenty of options for fun and entertainment.

"We're just so happy we're bringing more people together and having fun, being a community — it's just really exciting," said Pam Marbett, secretary for the Ross Manor Resident Council.

In Marbett, Resident Council President Gail Ketterer and Member At-Large Debby Haverty, the building has a trio of resident leaders who have helped organize the activities for residents.

It started with a Fourth of July ping-pong tournament in the Ross Manor community room.

John and Debby Haverty proposed purchasing the ping-pong table with the building's homeWorks funds.

"We wanted to buy something that would last, and the ping-pong table has worked out remarkably well," Debby Haverty said.

That idea grew into the July tournament, won by Steve Acrey. Another tournament is planned for this month.

"After the first tournament, people have been playing and practicing," Marbett said.

She noted that ping-pong is a rising table game in the United States, heralded in magazine feature-stories. Actress Susan Saran-

Please see "Ross Manor" on Page 7

Comment period open for Seattle Housing Authority strategic plan

Public meeting set for Sept. 7

By VOICE STAFF

The public comment period for Seattle Housing Authority's draft 2011 – 2015 strategic plan will remain open for several more days.

A public meeting on the plan will be held on Tuesday evening, Sept. 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Center Park Community Room. At that time, members of the public may offer comments and suggestions on the draft. The comment period will close at the end of the business day on September 9, and the Seattle Housing Authority Board of

Commissioners plans to consider the plan at its regular meeting on Sept. 20.

The strategic plan reasserts the housing authority's core commitments, addresses foreseen challenges and opportunities, and lays out the guiding principles that will help set the agency's course for the next five years.

A copy of the draft strategic plan is available for review at www.seattlehousing.org. Click the link on the home page.

As part of its extensive revision and review period, the latest version of the plan (Draft 3.1) was presented to the Resident Action Council at its meeting Aug. 11.

Strategic plan comment meeting

6 – 8 p.m. Sept. 7
Center Park Community Room
2121 26th Ave. S.

Highlights of the strategic plan

The strategic plan begins with a review of Seattle Housing Authority's mission and value statements and its strategic focus, a listing of its Board of Commissioners and senior staff, a letter from Executive Director Tom Tierney and a list of its guiding principles.

Please see "Plan" on Page 5

In this section

SHA News	Page 2
RAC UPDATE	
Point of View	Page 3
WALKING GROUP FORMS AT HARVARD CT.	
High Point Herald	Page 4
REGENGE SPONSORS HEALTH SUMMIT	
Rainier Vista News	Page 5
RV GETS NEW KABOOM PLAYGROUND	
NewHolly Notes	Page 6
NEWHOLLY TESTS OUT CRICKET	
Yesler Happenings	Page 7
YESLER TAKES A NIGHT OUT	
Translations	Page 8

Seattle Housing Authority receives grant to explore making low-income housing non-smoking

BY LAURA GENTRY
Seattle Housing Authority

The Seattle Housing Authority was recently awarded a \$150,000, two-year grant from Public Health – Seattle & King County to explore non-smoking policies for up to 6,500 units of affordable housing.

In spring of 2010, Public Health – Seattle & King County was awarded two highly-competitive federal stimulus grants to address the leading causes of death in our region, as part of a program called Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW). The program is sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. In July, Public Health distributed \$8.9 million from those stimulus grants to approximately 50 different community organizations in King County.

CPPW supports policy, systems and environmental changes that reduce obesity and tobacco use. These are the main contributors to premature death, illness and health-care costs locally and nationally. The program's overall goals are to help community organizations find ways of increasing physical activity, improving nutrition, decreasing smoking rates and reducing health inequities.

Seattle Housing Authority will use the grant to investigate what it would take to implement a 100 percent non-smoking policy in its buildings. The funding will be available through March 20, 2012.

The agency will explore developing an appropriate non-smoking policy using residents and stakeholder involvement. Meetings throughout Seattle Housing Authority developments will provide an opportunity for management and residents to discuss the issue. The steps involved in implementing

such a policy, how best to educate residents about the dangers of smoking and provide smoking cessation options, and what alternative outdoor smoking areas might be appropriate for residents who continue to smoke will be topics of discussion in the meetings.

Seattle Housing Authority is planning to hire a part-time project coordinator to be responsible for conducting outreach to residents and stakeholders, coordinating interpretation and translation, managing funds and developing potential policies. The agency will also work closely with Neighborhood House to provide education and outreach for residents, staff and agency partners.

More than 4,300 people die from heart disease, lung cancer, stroke, and diabetes every year in King County. Poor nutrition, lack of physical activity, tobacco use, and exposure to tobacco smoke are critical risk factors for these chronic diseases. People who most experience these risk factors tend to be low-income residents and people of color.

Research has also shown that those living in south King County or south Seattle are more likely to experience these risk factors.

"Our goal is for all residents, regardless of where they live in the county, to have access to healthy choices and opportunities for healthy living," said King County Executive Dow Constantine in a recent press release. "We have put in place smoke-free environments and are working to improve regional air quality, travel options and open space through more integrated planning, zoning and transportation decisions. All of these efforts are aimed at making King County a healthier place for all residents."

Central Office gets new sign



PHOTO BY SCOTT FREUTEL

On a sunny day last month, Scott Robertson, of Acclaim Sign & Display, installed this new sign at Seattle Housing's main office at Sixth and John. The sign bears the agency's colorful new logo. Similar signs are soon to be installed at PorchLight and at the housing operations facility on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

Seattle Housing Authority continues to pursue the goal of creating a healthier environment for all residents, especially children and those with long-term conditions that make them particularly vulnerable to poor air quality.

On Aug. 1, all buildings within the

Seattle Senior Housing Program became smoke-free. The action was prompted by the results of a survey of Senior Housing residents conducted in July 2009. More than 71 percent of residents who responded to the survey were in favor of making the program's buildings smoke-free.

Resident Action Council announces leadership transition, considers jurisdiction-wide DERC status

BY TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

Big changes are afoot in the Resident Action Council (RAC), as the group undergoes a period of transition in its leadership and explores becoming a jurisdiction-wide council.

At the RAC meeting Aug. 11, then-president Doug Morrison announced his resignation from the position he'd held since January 2005.

The announcement came as no surprise — Morrison, newly appointed to Seattle Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners, had expressed his intention to resign prior to the meeting to avoid a conflict of interest between his work for the RAC and on the board. (See related story on Page 1 of this section.)

RAC Vice President Robert Jones will serve as interim president in Morrison's absence. Morrison said the RAC will hold a special election in the future to fill the vacancy.

The group that assembled at Center Park for the meeting then gave Morrison a round of applause for his service to RAC.

In the coming months, the RAC will also take a closer look at its by-laws and consider some revisions that will make it eligible for status as a jurisdiction-wide duly-elected resident council. Such status would allow RAC to better represent Seattle Housing

Next RAC meeting

The Resident Action Council meets at 1:30 p.m. Sept. 8 at Center Park, 2121 26th Ave. S.

Authority residents, and to give a voice to those who live in buildings that do not have resident councils.

"Many communities who don't have DERCs, don't have much of a voice," said RAC Secretary Jim Bush. "By becoming a jurisdictional-wide organization, we would be extending that voice to those residents."

Jurisdiction-wide status also creates a stronger voice for the RAC to advocate on behalf of Seattle Housing Authority residents, according to Bush.

"We would be able to tell (Seattle Housing Authority), with a more unified voice, exactly what our needs and wants are," he said.

The RAC meets next at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8 at Center Park, 2121 26th Ave. S. During the meeting, RAC will consider a request from CityClub to host another "Community Matters Dialogue," similar to the one that RAC hosted last year. Also on the agenda will be an update on a lawsuit pending before King County Superior Court regarding a public-records request and an update on Seattle Housing Authority's 2011 – 2015 Strategic Plan.

A memorial for Paula Ann Bonjorni-Williams

March 17, 1968 – July 20, 2010

Paula Williams, a resident of Center Park, passed away July 20. She was 42. Her husband Dean Williams will miss her after 11 years of marriage.

Paula was born in Goldendale and later moved to Ellensburg. Paula started out in life as a healthy and energetic tomboy, for she believed what a boy could do she could do.

She was of Italian descent, and this influenced her personality.

Her contributions at Center Park were numerous. She was secretary/receptionist at the "STAR of Seattle" computer center. She also joined the community council board of directors for years, and served as treasurer some of the time. However, her

health was always an issue.

She spearheaded the "Can tabs for Kidneys" campaign that helps people needing dialysis. She also was responsible for getting our "holiday tree" set up in the lobby and decorated each December.

Paula faced a lot of health issues throughout her life. She was diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver, which was not caused by alcohol, for she never let alcohol touch her lips.

Paula will be missed. May you rest in peace. God took her from us, and even in death will impact the lives she left behind, because she lives through all of us.

Written by Robert W. Baughn, Center Park resident

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



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Gayle Hutchins and Robert Davis walk through a park near Harvard Court.

On foot at Harvard Court

Residents form walking group to promote exercise, social activity

By TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

A few residents at Harvard Court have found an extra spring in their step.

A walking group has formed at the building, and while interest has been light so far, it's made a profound difference in the lives of the participants.

For Harvard Court residents and walking group organizers Gayle Hutchins and Robert Davis, the group has led to no less than a lifestyle change for both of them.

According to Hutchins, participating in the group has increased her energy level and improved her outlook.

"I used to mope around all the time and say, 'I wish I had a car. I can't go,'" Hutchins said. "Now I just go."

Davis finds he's more motivated to walk to the grocery store or other destinations in

his neighborhood, where before he would ride the bus.

"There are times when I'll walk to Safeway, when otherwise I wouldn't have," Davis said. "The benefits are more freedom of movement."

Seattle University nursing students provided the catalyst for the idea when they organized exercise programming at Harvard Court earlier this year.

"They were gung ho on exercising and walking," Hutchins said. "They convinced us walking would be very good for our health."

The group meets Thursdays at 2 p.m. and Saturdays at noon in the lobby of Harvard Court, an LIPH high-rise in the Capitol Hill neighborhood, and is open to all levels of walkers. Both Hutchins and Davis encouraged people to turn out regardless of skill level, and that walkers are welcome to do their own thing. The most important point, they said, was to just be active.

"This is for everyone, and it's open for

Please see "Walking" on Page 4

Help is here in fight against bedbugs



PHOTO BY SVEN KOEHLER

For residents of Seattle Housing Authority high rises who need assistance during bedbug treatments, the masked man wearing the white suit could be a superhero. This is Josh Goldy, the new Bedbug Case Manager who is shown here assisting in the fight against bedbugs.

By SVEN KOEHLER
Seattle Housing Authority

There are two kinds of people when it comes to bedbugs: You should either be keeping an eye out for them for prevention, or you have actually dealt with an infestation of bedbugs in your home already. Regardless, dealing with bedbugs has become a fact of life for all apartment dwellers in Seattle.

A successful treatment of bedbugs involves a lot of work, so no one in the second category would consider themselves lucky. But Seattle Housing Authority high-rise residents are fortunate that more help in dealing with bedbugs has arrived. A new bedbug case management program began this summer.

Meet Josh Goldy of Elderhealth Northwest. He is in the newly-created position

of Bedbug Case Manager, which assists residents who are struggling with the considerable work that needs to be done to treat a home for bedbugs.

Bedbugs are tiny insects about the size of an apple seed, and they are hard to find and treat because they can squeeze into very small spaces. They like to hide in the seams of mattresses or in screw holes of wood furniture. Getting ready for treatment often means a lot of cleaning, packing and organizing before pest control technicians can go about finding bedbugs in their hiding places and exterminating them.

Bedbugs feed on blood, and frequently leave behind an itchy bite mark like mosquitoes. After feeding, they retreat to hide, and lay lots of eggs, which can lead to a big infestation. They can go months without a meal, so even if just a few get missed during a treatment, the problem can persist.

Any critter that bites humans is a pest, but bedbugs are especially annoying even if they are not poisonous and don't spread disease. They strike most often at night when people should be able to feel safe while asleep in their beds.

Dealing with a bug that is so hard to see and is capable of hiding so well is frustrating because you have to have access to every nook and cranny of an apartment to find them. If a small apartment is crowded with personal possessions, or the place is not clean, treatment is really difficult, reports Bill Petersen, who is in charge of the housing authority's pest control services.

While bedbugs themselves are not a life-threatening health problem, Goldy has no doubt that the mental anguish that people often go through when faced with bedbugs could qualify as a crisis.

"After seeing what it is like living with bedbugs, I wouldn't ever want them in my home," he said.

The work dealing with bedbugs would be an ordeal for anyone, but especially

Please see "Bedbugs" on Page 4

Two more senior-housing buildings renovated

By SVEN KOEHLER
Seattle Housing Authority

Forgetting what your own home looks like might seem like a regrettable side-effect of aging, but for residents of Willis House and Reunion House, it is actually a reason for celebration.

After scaffolding was removed in August to reveal the results of complete exterior renovations, the buildings look entirely different.

Both buildings are part of the Seattle Senior Housing Program. They were wrapped in mesh early this spring, so many residents were delighted to be able to enjoy the sunshine again before summer ends.

"During the construction time, we have been happy to meet the nice workers and see the new way they are making our building look," said Ben and Jennifer Xu of Willis House.

The construction projects, which also included new windows, are both nearly complete.

The drab stucco exterior of Willis House near Green Lake was transformed into an eye-popping façade of crisp cream panels offset by vibrant orange accents around the newly installed windows. Now, an entirely new entry canopy, set against an emerald background, highlights the building's entrance. The building's street address is integrated into the canopy's brushed steel framework as another new architectural element.

These kinds of improvements to the "street appeal" are often seen in private apartments or condominiums in order to boost their value in the marketplace. Often, this would mean a rise in rents or fees. In contrast, the Seattle Housing Authority remains committed to preserving the buildings as affordable housing for the elderly. This commitment allows the buildings to qualify

for construction funding from the Washington State Housing Trust Fund and the City of Seattle's Office of Housing.

The beauty of the exterior is more than skin deep, of course. The new windows and façades and roof repairs were done mainly to prevent the buildings from leaking as they age. Water intrusion had made some units in the Senior Housing Program unfit to be rented. If left unchecked, it could have led to decay in the structural elements that keep the buildings upright.

Other upgrades were made during the renovations as well. Some of the funding for the renovations came from the City of Seattle Office of Housing in order to promote energy efficiency. The new windows provide more insulation than the old ones, and new ventilation fans in the bathroom provide more fresh air while using less energy.

A program called HomeWise, also from the City of Seattle Office of Housing, provided funds to install new exterior security lighting fixtures using high-powered Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). Fixtures using this new technology are currently quite expensive to purchase, but draw a fraction of the electricity required for the sodium lights that were used previously. Even though both types provide the same amount of illumination, a handful of the LED lights uses less electricity than a single one of the old lights, which in turn helps lower the ongoing cost for the buildings.

This is very important in the Seattle Senior Housing Program. Rents in this program must cover all the operating costs because it receives no operating subsidy from the federal government.

"We hope to continue implementation of energy conservation measures, such as LED lights, in concert with the Office of Housing, at all of our Senior Housing buildings," ex-

Please see "Construction" on Page 4

HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY

Backpacks a hot item at High Point Health Summit



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

High Point youth flocked to the Neighborhood House booth (above) at the High Point Health Summit Aug. 20. Neighborhood House distributed free backpacks, donated by Office Depot as part of a Coalition of Anti-Drug Communities of America program. The backpacks were also distributed free of charge during a school resource fair at High Point last month, and within several other Neighborhood House programs.

Regence BlueShield sponsored the High Point Health Summit. Said Moises Saul, Neighborhood House board member and manager of underwriting for Regence BlueShield, "Our mission is in line with Neighborhood House. ... Regence will be here to support Neighborhood House for many years to come."

High Point comes together for Neighborhood Night



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

High Point resident Mamata Das performs a traditional Indian dance during the neighborhood's Aug. 6 Neighborhood Night.

A letter to the High Point community from Senior Property Manager Terry Hirata

Editor's Note: Seattle Housing Authority recently announced staffing changes within its Housing Operations department, with three senior property managers shifting to different properties. With the changes, Bill Drummond, High Point Senior Property Manager since 2006, moves to Scattered Sites; Lisa Dressler, Scattered Sites Senior Property Manager since 2005, moves to NewHolly; and Terry Hirata, NewHolly Senior Property Manager since 2000, moves to High Point. In this letter, Terry Hirata introduces himself to the High Point community.

Dear High Point Residents and Partners,

The opportunity to introduce myself to you, the High Point Community, is a pleasure. My name is Terence Hirata, better known as "Terry", and I will be the Senior Property Manager for the High Point Community. Most recently, I was the Senior Property Manager for the NewHolly community, serving more than 620 households. While there, I also managed the Campus of Learners, consisting

of three buildings that provided space for 10 partner agencies.

The excitement of meeting and developing strong relationships with you at High Point, this innovative, green and richly diverse community, is something that I am looking forward to. I enjoy working closely with families, connecting with the community, learning, and ultimately making a positive difference.

I intend to build strong relationships based on trust and to be a resource to all, as I am welcomed into this vibrant community. I believe that by working respectfully and collaboratively we can build community and relationships that enrich our lives and enhance our living and working environments.

I am eager to get started. Please feel welcome to drop by the office and introduce yourself. You will see me in the office, in the community and in some meetings over the next several weeks.

Terence J. Hirata, Senior Property Manager — High Point

Bedbugs

Continued from Page 3

for folks whose physical or emotional condition presents a challenge. Added to the urgency of the issue is the fact that compliance with bedbug treatments is a lease requirement for living in the Seattle Housing Authority's subsidized housing.

This is where Goldy's services can be a great help. His prior experience includes working with the King County Crisis Clinic's hotline, providing 24/7 counseling for people who are experiencing extreme emotional or mental situations.

Goldy gets in touch with residents af-

ter a referral from another social service case manager or a housing authority staff person. As the Bedbug Case Manager, he might find out from a resident if there has been a specific problem preventing a successful pest control treatment in the past.

"On my first visit I might assess the needs and time involved in helping preparing a person for treatment, and if necessary, I could come back with help the next time," he said.

Through the resources of Elderhealth, an independent service agency that works closely with Seattle Housing Authority residents, Goldy can arrange for trained home care workers to do the physical labor

of cleaning or packing before a treatment.

This assistance may be available even if someone doesn't qualify for this kind of service through Aging and Disability Services, Medicaid or Department of Social and Health Services.

Beyond immediate assistance, Goldy can offer long-term help to residents in keeping their living conditions in good shape to prevent bedbugs from coming again.

"I have a lot of resources backing me up. It is really about finding out where people are in the often confusing process of treating for bedbugs, and what support they need to make it a success," he said.

Construction

Continued from Page 3

plained Roxanne Navrides, the Construction Project Manager.

In fact, it is already time to look ahead to the next buildings in line for renovations. The Seattle Housing Authority asset management team has been prioritizing the needs of each building in the Senior Housing Program to address those which are most urgent as soon as possible.

Work is underway to apply for funding for similar updates for Bitter Lake Manor, Blakeley Manor, Nelson Manor and Olmsted Manor. The hope is to be able to renovate these buildings in 2011 and 2012.

Already, RDH Building Sciences, Inc. is working on the next set of construction drawings. The design work is being done by GGLO, the architectural firm who conceived the exterior façade design and colors for Schwabacher House last year, and Willis House and Reunion House this year.

Walking

Continued from Page 3

all levels of walkers—fast, slow, or in-between," Hutchins said.

During the hot summer months, the group keeps an eye on the temperature. On warmer days, they take shorter walks, Davis said. And on the real scorchers, such as last month's brief heat wave, they might not go at all.

The group will sometimes choose fun destinations in their neighborhood. Possible walks to Volunteer Park and the Seattle Art Museum have been discussed. Wherever they go, the group soaks in the sights of the

neighborhood that surrounds them.

"If you're riding in a car, you never stop and look at these things," Davis said. "We live in a beautiful city."

Turnout at Harvard Court has been low, but organizers encourage their fellow residents to think outside the box and try something new.

"The walking group does not sound like a fun, romantic thing to do," Hutchins said. "But it's healthy, it's free, it's social — not to mention fun!"

For more information about the walking group, contact Hutchins at 206-340-1357, or Davis at 206-932-6654.

Attend these upcoming events at the Neighborhood House High Point Center

- Vietnamese and Cambodian Community Tea, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Sept. 17
- Registration for ESL Beginning Level 0-2, 10 a.m. – noon Sept. 24
- Women's Forum, 5 – 7 p.m. Sept. 30

Look for women's exercise and swim classes to start in October.

For more information call Neighborhood House High Point Center at 206-588-4900.

RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

Rainier Vista gets new playground in just one day



Volunteers from the Seattle Housing Authority, the Home Depot Foundation, KaBOOM! and Boys & Girls Clubs of King County got together on Thursday, Aug. 12 to build a new playground at Rainier Vista. The playground, which was built in one day's time, will provide more than 1,000 school-aged children who live in the Rainier Vista community with a creative and attractive place near the large playfield adjacent to the Boys & Girls Club. The build is funded through a \$65,000 grant from The Home Depot Foundation along with a \$7,500 contribution from Boys & Girls Clubs of King County.

PHOTO BY LAURA GENTRY

Tamarack Place nears completion, Phase III infrastructure construction at RV begins

BY LAURA GENTRY
Seattle Housing Authority

Construction at Tamarack Place, an 86-unit low-income apartment building located in Rainier Vista, is nearing its estimated completion date of October 2010.

Walsh Construction Company has completed the foundation, wood framing and window installation for the structure. Installation of plumbing, electrical, siding and drywall are in progress.

Gary Merlino Construction Company has made significant progress with Phase III of infrastructure construction at Rainier Vista, which will make way for 118 new, energy-

efficient, low-income rental housing units. Construction of curbs, gutters, sidewalks and roads as well as site grading are occurring on-site and on-schedule.

Absher Construction was awarded the contract for construction of the housing units. Crews from Absher will start begin foundation work on several blocks this summer.

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.



PHOTO BY LAURA GENTRY

The under-construction Tamarack Place will provide 86 low-income housing units.

Plan

Continued from front page

The plan then describes a few of the challenges the housing authority expects to face in the next five years, most notably the ongoing "Great Recession." It acknowledges that the credit slump and debt incurred because of redevelopments present obstacles to creating new low-income housing. At the same time, the rising U.S. deficit means that federal resources for economic stimulus are likely to tighten or close off entirely.

Other challenges include the completion of the redevelopment of the NewHolly, Rainier Vista and High Point family communities, and the creation of additional housing for a rising population of low-income seniors.

The housing authority also describes some of the opportunities it foresees in the next five years, among them:

- **Redevelopment opportunities created by federal stimulus funds** — Seattle

Housing Authority has received more than \$45 million in funds for new public housing at Rainier Vista and Lake City Village, as well as other projects.

- **Moving forward with the Yesler Terrace redevelopment** — The housing authority is in the process of redeveloping the aging public-housing community — the oldest in the housing authority's portfolio — into a mixed-income, mixed-use urban community. The effort is described as one of the housing authority's "greatest opportunities and one of (its) most daunting challenges."

- **Making use of "Moving to Work" status** — As one of HUD's "Moving to Work" agencies, the housing authority has some flexibility to work within federal guidelines to meet local housing goals. This might include the creation of programs to serve area-specific populations not typically served by existing federal programs, as well as the pursuit of partnerships with City and local agencies and nonprofits.

- **Advancing education, economic op-**

portunity — To foster economic growth for its residents who are able to work, the housing authority plans to explore partnerships with organizations that can provide education and employment opportunities to low-income individuals. The housing authority sees education and employment as the surest ways to break the cycle of generational poverty and help its residents attain financial stability and self-sufficiency.

Finally, the strategic plan outlines five strategic directions that are expected to be the focal points of Seattle Housing Authority's work. They are:

- Expand housing opportunities for low-income residents across Seattle by maintaining and expanding the supply of low-income housing.

- Expand housing access and choice for low-income residents across Seattle.

- Assist housing participants in gaining access to education and employment opportunities so they can improve their lives.

- Provide additional services and increase the stock of housing for low-income

seniors.

- Partner with others to create healthy, welcoming and supportive living environments in Seattle Housing Authority communities.

It also outlines three management strategies necessary for the housing authority to succeed in following the strategic directions mentioned above. They are:

- Manage the Seattle Housing Authority as effectively as possible to meet the agency's mission.

- Identify and implement sustainable practices throughout the agency to minimize impact on the environment.

- Promote a healthy, engaged and productive workforce.

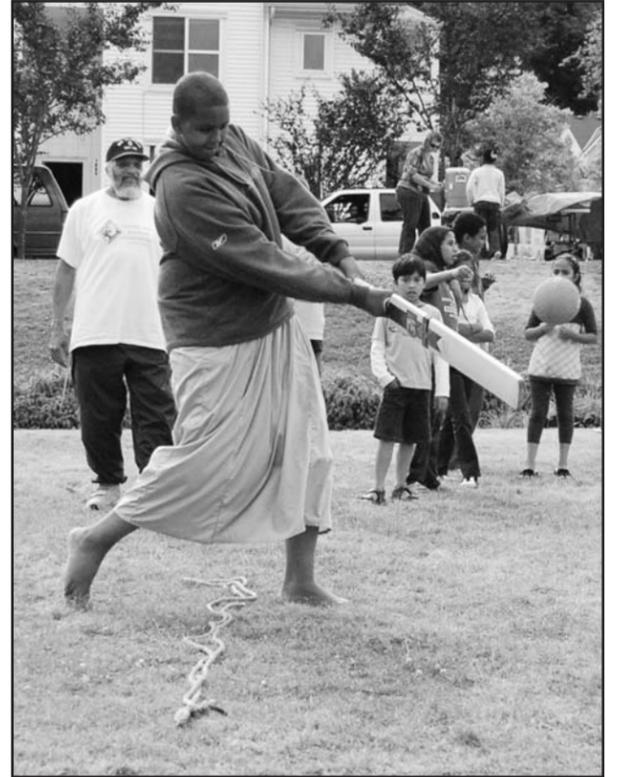
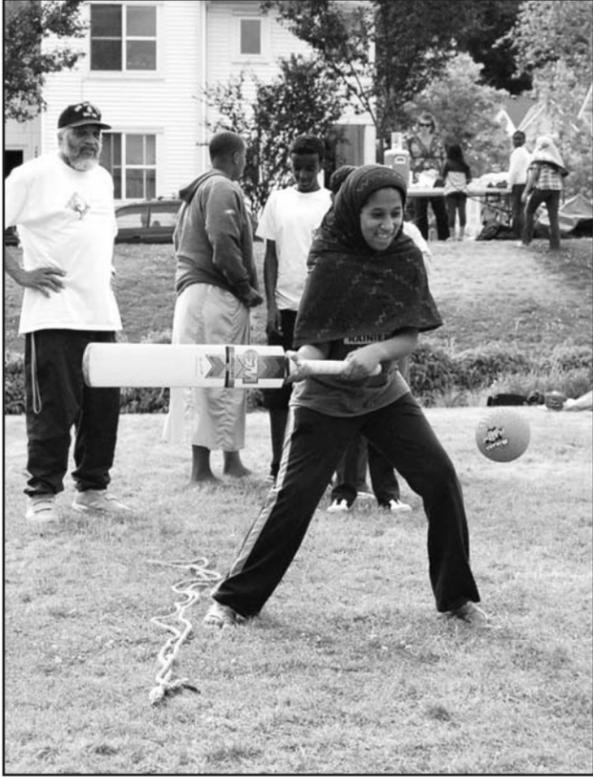
Each of the above entries is explored in much greater detail in the copy of the strategic plan available online. The plan is available in PDF form by following the link at www.seattlehousing.org.

To request a printed copy, contact Michele Mosher at 206-615-3522.

NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

NewHolly community takes a stroke at cricket



PHOTOS BY TYLER ROUSH

NewHolly youth (from left) Fatma, Fame and Abdi each take a stroke (the proper term in cricket for a "swing") at the ball during the community's annual cricket match Aug. 8.

BY TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

It is a game of wicked googlies, daisy cutters and sticky wickets.

But for all its arcane terminology, cricket is a hit at NewHolly.

Last month, members of the NewHolly community got together at the Central Park in Phase III for the second annual NewHolly cricket game.

"We wanted something different, something fun and interactive," said Emily Inkpen of the Multicultural Communications Committee, which organized the event. "Lima suggested cricket."

"We all said 'What a great idea, how do you do that?'" said Daphne Schneider, also a committee member.

Lima is a NewHolly resident who grew up in India, where children play games of cricket in the way that American youth come together for games of basketball or football.

"It's our gully cricket," said Lima. She paused for a moment to come up with an American equivalent: "It's like pick-up basketball."

"Gully" cricket refers to an impromptu game of cricket, where much of the equipment is improvised. Lima said that

she and her friends would stack stones to create the wickets, or draw them in chalk on a wall.

The formal game of cricket is played on an oval-shaped field, with a rectangular area at the center known as the pitch. A wicket, consisting of three posts arranged close together in a line, is placed on either end of this area. Two small wooden bails are placed on top of the wicket, each spanning one of the gaps between the three posts.

The "bowler" (more or less equivalent to a pitcher, to borrow from baseball) throws a hard, leather-seamed ball to the "batsman," who is standing in front of one of the wickets. If the bowler's throw knocks the bails off the wicket, the batsman is "dismissed," what a baseball fan might refer to as "out."

The batsman's job is to protect the wicket by hitting the ball. After hitting the ball, he may choose to run to the wicket on the opposite end of the pitch. If he does choose to run, a team member at the opposite wicket must run across to the other wicket. If a fielder retrieves the ball and manages to knock the bails off the wicket before the batsman reaches it, the batsman is dismissed. A run is scored each time both batsmen reach the wicket safely.

Play continues until all the batsmen on one side are dismissed, at which point the fielding team takes its turn

at bat.

A difficult game to explain in writing, it is marvelously simple in action.

There are enough similarities to baseball that participants at NewHolly — even first-timers — took to the game almost immediately. Perhaps the most difficult adjustment was for the batsmen to remember to carry the bat when running from wicket to wicket (baseball hitters, of course, drop the bat before running to first base).

"It was a fun game," said 16-year-old Abdi Moalim, who also played in last year's game at NewHolly. "I kind of like it more than baseball."

"It's easy — (it was) the first time I played, and you get used to it," he added.

Fame, a young NewHolly resident, said he likes "how the bat is different, and you can run from base to base differently."

Diana said she "likes to run." Cricket is a new sport for her; she said she "only knew the name."

With adults organizing teams and helping to keep score, a group of NewHolly youth played a game of cricket, converting the open space in the Central Park in Phase III into their own pitch. Sidney Carter handled duties as bowler.

The game wasn't for everyone, though.

"I avoid sports whenever possible," Schneider said, with a laugh. "I provide moral support, and I serve food very well."

During last year's game, Community Builder Joy Bryngelson said a large group of local Samoan cricket players joined their game.

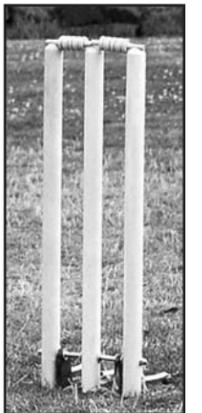
They were surprised to learn that cricket is wildly popular in Samoa, as well as traditional hotbeds such as India, Pakistan, Australia and England.

"Everywhere the British went, cricket went," Bryngelson said.

There are cricket leagues and clubs locally, among them the Seattle Cricket Club (www.seattlecricket.com), which plays in the Northwest Cricket League (www.nwcl.org).

NewHolly might not take the game as seriously as some of those competitive leagues. But when they're out on the pitch, they're having fun—learning a new game, being active and building community all at once.

"It's nice to have a recreational way for people to get to know each other," Bryngelson said.



A cricket wicket

A letter to the NewHolly community from Senior Property Manager Lisa Dressler

Editor's Note: Seattle Housing Authority recently announced staffing changes within its Housing Operations department, with three senior property managers shifting to different properties. With the changes, Terry Hirata, NewHolly Senior Property Manager since 2000, moves to High Point; Bill Drummond, High Point Senior Property Manager since 2006, moves to Scattered Sites; and Lisa Dressler, Scattered Sites Senior Property Manager since 2005, moves to NewHolly. In this letter, Lisa Dressler introduces herself to the NewHolly community.

Dear NewHolly residents and partners,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself to the NewHolly community. I am Lisa Dressler, the new Senior Property Manager. In fact, I began my career at old Holly Park more than 20 years ago, working as an Administrative Assistant in the maintenance department. Most recently, I was the Senior Property Manager for the Scattered Sites Low-income Housing Program, serving more than 700 families across the City of Seattle.

I look forward to meeting many of you in this richly diverse community. I enjoy working closely with fami-

lies on housing issues, connecting them to community resources, and ultimately doing those things necessary to build community. I have experience in the upkeep of housing stock, managing capital projects and maintaining positive relations with surrounding neighbors and homeowners alike. I look forward to joining the great team at NewHolly.

I am excited to work with everyone living in NewHolly. My goal is to provide safe, secure housing by working closely with residents and the community at large. I hope to build on the strengths of this great community by working collaboratively with the agencies that operate at the NewHolly Campus, the city of Seattle, home owners and others throughout the community.

I look forward to getting started. Please drop by the office and introduce yourself. You will see me in the office, on the campus and in the community over the next several weeks.

Lisa Dressler, Senior Property Manager — NewHolly

YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

‘Pizza-Time’ site at 12th and Yesler to be demolished

Derelict building a hazard

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

In late September, work will begin to demolish the vacant building at 12th and Yesler. Formerly home to Pizza Time, the building has been unoccupied for several years.

It was originally purchased by the Seattle Housing Authority in May 2003. Prior to that, the building was occupied by Deeno’s Grocery, a convenience store. When the building was put up for sale, the housing authority purchased it to preserve the site for future redevelopment. There were several people living in single rooms on the upper floor. They were relocated after the sale because the housing was sub-standard. The building was then occupied for several years by the Pizza Time shop.

Several other parcels along 12th Avenue were also purchased in this time frame. Buildings on these sites were demolished and Seattle Housing Authority received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to clean up the toxins that had leached into the ground from a dry cleaners further north on the same block.

The Pizza Time building is now being demolished by the housing authority because it presents a safety hazard and is a blight to the neighborhood. Intruders have regularly set up housekeeping on the upper floor, which are both unsafe and unsanitary. The building has also become a target for graffiti.

In the short term, the empty lot will be fenced and maintained — similar to the adjacent 12th Avenue properties. It is likely to remain vacant for a year or longer. The demolition of the site is not anticipated to affect the operation of the YWCA housing in that same block.

The Seattle Housing Authority does not have plans for short-term use of the site.

According to Development Director Stephanie Van Dyke, “In the long term we plan to incorporate this site into whatever redevelopment plans take shape in this neighborhood. It has been our intention all along to demolish the building and build a larger, mixed-use building on the site. Ideally, the site will be developed as part of a larger block of housing, with some retail on 12th.”

The City of Seattle is considering this block along 12th Avenue as a possible site for a streetcar facility to service the cars on the new streetcar line that will travel through the Yesler Terrace neighborhood on its way between Pioneer Square and Capitol Hill. If the streetcar maintenance facility were located on this block, housing would be built above and around it.

“While we are working with the city on the possible use of this entire block, the demolition of the Pizza Time building is not happening as a result of that,” noted Van Dyke. “It has been our intention to demolish this dysfunctional building for several years now.”

Ross Manor

Continued from front page

don recently opened a ping-pong club in California, according to Marbett.

“We’re on the cutting edge,” she said.

For the less sports-inclined, the building’s tag sale on Aug. 14 provided an opportunity for shoppers to rummage for lightly-used sale items. The resident council also incorporated a food drive into the tag sale, calling for nonperishable items to be donated to the Downtown Food Bank.

A third activity is the regular Ross Manor coffee hour, which meets the last Friday of each month. Residents bring sweets, treats and other decadent goodies to share over coffee. Community Psychiatric Clinic’s Roger Eddy, the building’s mental health case manager, is a regular attendee, as is Seattle Housing Authority Community Builder Ellen Ziontz.

Organizers have recently integrated a raffle into the coffee hour, to boost involvement even more.

“We’re hoping that it gets bigger, we want to have all the residents involved,” Marbett said.

The resident council’s work isn’t focused just on social activities, though — safety is also on their agenda, and the group had a recent breakthrough when a new crosswalk on Western Avenue was installed outside of the building.

Resident leaders lobbied for a crosswalk to be built on the busy thoroughfare for some time.

The new walkway means a safer passage across the street, particularly for elderly or disabled residents of Ross Manor.

“When everyone said it couldn’t be done, we did it,” Haverty said. “We’re real proud we were able to do this, and it’s really paid off.”

Morrison

Continued from front page

and a former nurse and substance abuse counselor, Morrison moved to Ross Manor 24 years ago. He said that the move into public housing saved him from being homeless.

After spending 22 years in Ross Manor, Morrison moved to Ballard House in 2008. A master gardener and volunteer docent at the Seattle Aquarium and Seattle Symphony, his work as a resident leader dates to 1999, when he worked as ombudsperson for RAC. He was later elected RAC president in 2005. In addition to his work with RAC and JPAC,

he’s a member of the Resident Participation Funding committee and a participant in the Resident Engagement Initiative.

Going back to his work with RAC communication has been a key word for Morrison. He has repeatedly emphasized the need for clear lines of communications between Seattle Housing Authority, residents and the board. And he said the housing authority does a good job of keeping those lines open.

“People aren’t afraid to ask questions,” Morrison said. “They’re here to help.”

He also cited a recent resident satisfaction survey, which showed that 94 percent of residents are satisfied with the housing

Yesler celebrates National Night Out



PHOTO BY JUDI CARTER

Yesler Terrace residents gather outside the Yesler Community Center for the community’s National Night Out block party Aug. 3. An estimated 350 community members turned out for the festivities.

Notes from the manager

By JUDI CARTER
Seattle Housing Authority

Here it is, September! The children are going back to school. Sometimes, as they run for school busses or scurry to class, they are not as cautious as they need to be when crossing the street.

It would be great if a few parents organized to take turns walking the children who live in their area to the bus stop or to school. For those of us who drive in the morning and afternoon when the children are on their way to and from school, extra caution this time of year is important.

The leaves are turning yellow and brown and falling. Soon the grass will not need to be mowed as often, but the leaves will need to be raked!

Free “clean green” bags are available in the management office to collect your raked leaves. It is important to remember that only leaves, grass clippings and organic materials like plants can be put

into these bags.

The “clean green” bags need to be put on the curb on Mondays, at the same time you put out your regular garbage cans.

I often hear from residents who have been having a hard time balancing their budget, that they pay other bills before they pay the Seattle Housing Authority. There are very good reasons to rethink that plan. If you pay the rent so late that you receive an eviction notice four or more times in less than 12 months, you could be evicted.

It is important to keep up with other bills, but if you have no place to live, the other bills may not seem as critical as they once did.

This summer, the management office had a young woman named Tuyen Truong working, answering phones, inputting work orders, making signs, selling tokens and assisting residents. Her last day was Aug. 25. She did a spectacular job and we wish her well in the future!

authority.

That said, he wants to know when things are going wrong, as well as when they go right.

“I’m open to listen to what people have to say, and if there are bad issues, I want to hear about it,” he said. “You can’t fix something if you don’t know it’s broken.

“I’d much rather work toward alleviating a problem, than make it worse.”

He cited the work the RAC has done, much of it during his tenure, on such issues as the sign-rule and vending-machine revenue.

“The Resident Action Council is a good

whistle-blower, in that if there is a problem, they’re one of the first resident groups to become aware,” he said.

He said he hopes to continue to attend RAC meetings. But where in the past he often served the council as an officer, he wants to attend the meetings as a housing authority resident.

And though he is moving into a new position on the board, he said he doesn’t want people to think of him differently. He’s staying true to his roots.

“Know me as a resident, and as a friend and advocate,” Morrison said.

