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The Voice

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Articles translated
into six languages

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

A proposal for “fair housing” in Seattle

Ordinance would revise city’s anti-discrimination law to include those with arrest, conviction records

BY TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

To what extent are those with criminal and arrest records entitled to equal access to housing and employment? And how much discretion should prospective landlords and employers have in making tenancy and hiring decisions?

The Seattle Office for Civil Rights (SOCR) and the Seattle Human Rights Commission (SHRC) have been exploring revisions to the city’s anti-discrimination laws that would prohibit landlords and employers from refusing housing or employment to individuals based solely on criminal and arrest records.

Last month the SOCR and SHRC joined Seattle City Councilmember Bruce Harrell in sponsoring a second community forum to address questions related to the proposal.

“We’re trying to find where we are on this issue,” said Harrell, who said the city was still in the “beginning of the discussion.”

Panelist Merf Ehman, an attorney with Columbia Legal Services, said that case workers have told her repeatedly that their clients with criminal and arrest records



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Mike Peters of the Seattle Human Rights Commission (center) speaks during the community forum to address access to housing and employment for those with arrest and conviction records. Seattle City Councilmember (left) and panelist Merf Ehman of Columbia Legal Services (right) look on.

face significant barriers to finding housing and a job.

She added that in the past two decades, the Internet has fortified those obstacles — today, landlords and employers can access a person’s arrest and criminal record almost instantaneously.

And panelist John Page of Seattle nonprofit Village of Hope noted that, “For some people, it isn’t that hard to get convicted, whether you did it or not.”

On the other hand, access to housing and a job are both significant factors in the

rates of recidivism among ex-offenders.

“When people have housing and meaningful employment, it changes things for them,” Page said.

Statistics seem to bear that out. The Office of Civil Rights cited a New York study that concluded a person released from prison without access to stable housing was seven times more likely to re-offend. And about half of offenders entering Washington’s prison system were

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Fighting stigma, finding a solution

Mental health symposium addresses obstacles faced by those with mental illness

BY BRENDA KAY NETH
University House resident

The numbers are unsettling.

In one survey, 60 percent of respondents believed the mentally ill commit violent crimes. In another, 60 percent said they did not want to work with the mentally ill. And in a third, 86 percent said they did not want someone with depression marrying into their family.

These are just three indicators of the degree of social stigma endured by those who are living with a mental illness.

On March 4 and 5, the Thomas C. Whalen Foundation Symposium on Mental Health in our Community convened at Kane Hall and Mary Gates Hall on the University of Washington campus. There, 25 mental health advocates formed four panels and two workshops to discuss the agenda of community mental health care and anti-stigma and recovery campaigns now on the forefront of mental health.

The consensus among presenters was that mental illness is stigmatized in the media, which generally portrays the mentally ill as potentially dangerous, even violent. Advocates appealed for greater effort to show that those with mental illness in their true light—as persons with a treatable and manageable health issue, and not as the “crazy ones” that are depicted on television and in sensationalized newspaper articles.

Declan Wynne, director of Sound Mental Health Recovery and Integrated Services, presented the survey information outlining the social stigma faced by those with mental illness. Wynne said the stigma creates the “you’re crazy, I am normal” phenomenon that separates the mentally ill from society.

“By removing them from society, we remove them from ourselves,” Wynne said.

He remarked that stigma is created in the same way that classism and institutionalism are created — through the silence of the majority.

Wynne mentioned the website stigma-

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School board fires superintendent in wake of finance scandal

BY REBECCA SNOW LANDA
Scattered Sites resident

“...with liberty and justice for all.”

On March 2 the Seattle School Board meeting opened as usual with the Pledge of Allegiance, made all the more poignant this time by the standing-room-only crowd of Seattleites demanding that district employees responsible for the recent fraud scandal be brought to justice.

A recent audit revealed that Silas Potter misappropriated nearly \$2 million of district money, while Superintendent Maria Goodloe-Johnson and CFO Don Kennedy looked away.

David Edelman, a Humanities teacher at Ingraham High School told the board

they had been far too willing to grant funding to poorly-managed projects during the past three years. Director Peter Maier agreed, admitting that “service contracts weren’t monitored and there were no spending limits.” Maier said that the board also hired an independent investigator, who told them Potter lied to the board and the community.

Parent Chris Stewart said the audit revealed not only fraud but a failure of management. Teacher Anastasia Samuelson and parent Dora Taylor pointed out that Goodloe-Johnson was on the board of the MAP and NWEA teacher evaluating services, while at the same time trying to sell these products to the district. This blatant conflict of interest was mirrored

by Potter’s “unfettered discretion toward personal contracts,” added Maier.

Several board members claimed they were only recently made aware of the corrupt contractors and leadership, but the crowd erupted into wild applause for both Dan Dempsey and Ricky Malone, board meeting regulars, who testified that they had heard countless examples of corruption reported to the board at meeting after meeting over the past three-and-a-half years.

Others said the cover-ups continued because the district offers no protection for whistle blowers. Taylor complained that too many staff were fired, rehired, and

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Quotable

“If you can read, you can help a child. Working with you, we will help all our children succeed.”
— Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn delivered his State of the City address in late-February, encouraging the city to “win the future.” See the related story on Page 3.



Health Notes

A column devoted to your well-being

Sharp rise in syphilis cases among gay/bi men

BY PUBLIC HEALTH - SEATTLE & KING COUNTY

Syphilis cases in King County reached a 30-year high in 2010, prompting public health officials to call for increased testing and education for high-risk populations, especially men who have sex with men. In 2010, 283 cases of syphilis were reported, an 82 percent increase from 2009. Syphilis had been virtually eliminated in King County in the early-1990s.

Public health officials do not fully understand what is causing the upswing in cases, but are actively working to investigate possible causes, increase syphilis testing, speed-up treatment, and improve partner notification. Rates of syphilis among gay and bisexual men also appear to be increasing in other areas of the U.S.

Gay and bisexual men — especially those who are HIV-positive — have the highest rates of syphilis. Ninety percent of cases diagnosed in 2010 were in men who have sex with men, with HIV-positive gay and bisexual men making up 58 percent of those cases.

Public Health urges men who have sex with men to use condoms, to test for STDs often, and to immediately seek medical attention if they develop a sore on their genitals or any kind of new rash.

Syphilis causes a broad range of symptoms that can make it hard to diagnose, particularly for providers who don't see a lot of patients with syphilis. Importantly, syphilis is caused by a bacterial infection and is curable with antibiotics.

Shortly after infection, syphilis causes

an ulcer on the genitals, anus or mouth. However, the ulcers often go unnoticed because they are painless or in areas of the body that aren't easily seen. After the sore heals, syphilis causes a body rash that can include the palms of the hands and soles of the feet. This, too, can go unnoticed by men and their medical providers.

Once the rash resolves, men have no symptoms but are still infected and are still at risk for severe medical consequences, including vision loss, loss of hearing and stroke. Among recent cases, at least six persons have suffered some loss of vision, though most affected persons' symptoms improved with treatment.

Condoms can prevent the spread of syphilis. However, many men are unaware that syphilis can be spread through oral sex. The Public Health HIV/STD Program advises that all sexually active men who have sex with men should be routinely tested for STDs, including syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia and HIV. All men who have sex with men should be tested annually, and men with higher risk should be tested once every three months. Since syphilis increases the risk of acquiring and transmitting HIV infection, anyone diagnosed with syphilis should be tested for HIV.

STD testing is available in primary care medical providers' offices, Gay City Wellness Center, the King County STD Clinic, and other public health clinics. For more information, please visit the Public Health - Seattle & King County HIV/STD Program website at www.kingcounty.gov/health/std.

Be safe

Loitering and access to the front door of your building: a Q&A

BY KELLY MCKINNEY
Seattle Neighborhood Group

In February, I presented several workshops on personal safety in Seattle Housing Authority communities. One issue that repeatedly came up during those presentations were concerns about front door access. Here is a list of questions and answers about this issue that I addressed during the personal safety workshops.

Q. Is it ok to allow someone you know into my building even if he/she isn't my personal guest?

A. No. The resident that the visitor is coming to see may not be home. The resident may not wish to see that visitor. Residents should allow their own guests in.

Q. What should a resident do if a non-resident is waiting at the front of the door to get into the building when a resident exits or enters the building?

A. If possible, do not let them in. If you feel uncomfortable about confronting someone who is loitering at the front door trying to get into the building, contact your building manager or call the police. Tell them that there are people loitering around the front that do not belong in the building. One strategy that residents use is to quickly open the door, slide into the building and close the door behind them. Do not do anything

that jeopardizes your safety. Some people are comfortable confronting loiterers and some people are not. You must determine for yourself what your own comfort level is. Some building managers have their own preferences about how this matter should be handled.

Q. Several residents expressed concerns about the automatic door opener available for people with disabilities. However, residents who are carrying many packages also use the automatic door opener. The problem is that the front door stays open for a long time. While the door is open it is very easy for someone to come into the building. What strategies can be used to reduce the chances of someone entering the building in this case?

A. Residents should only use the automatic door opener when it is necessary. If residents feel comfortable they can block the doorway while the door remains open. The automatic door stays open for a long time because people who need it do not always move quickly.

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.

Urban Nature Day at Magnuson Park

10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 9 at the Magnuson Community Center, 7110 62nd Ave. N.E.

Events include a children's concert by singer/songwriter Eric Ode; presentations by Knox Cellars Bees, Bats Northwest, Roving Reptiles; interactive booths and displays; and an exhibition of art made from recycled materials.

Safe at home: Use safe, earth-friendly products in your spring cleaning

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the March 2008 edition of The Voice.

There are several commonplace natural substances that work really well for housecleaning. As an added bonus, these materials are very inexpensive.

Baking soda and vinegar work extremely well for many household uses, are better for the environment than many commercial cleaning products, and are much less expensive than most commercial products.

Baking soda is, chemically speaking, a weak alkaline. As such, it acts to neutralize acids and break down proteins. This quality accounts for its usefulness in cutting grease and dissolving dirt and stains.

Vinegar, the other superstar of natural cleaning products, is slightly acidic. This chemical property also helps vinegar to dissolve grease and clean dirt off windows and other surfaces.

Here are some simple recipes for clean-

ing products that you can make yourself using these ingredients:

Bathroom cleanser — What you need: baking soda, soap, sponge

Use baking soda in place of scouring powder. Sprinkle it on sinks or other porcelain fixtures and rub with a wet sponge. Add a little soap to the sponge for more cleaning power. Rinse well to avoid leaving a hazy film.

Window cleaner — What you need: vinegar, liquid soap, water

Mix a half cup of vinegar with a few drops of ingredients in a spray bottle and use on glass surfaces. Rub with a lint-free cloth.

Oven Cleaner — What you need: baking soda, water, copper scouring pad

Make a thick paste of baking soda and water, apply it to oven surfaces, then let it stand a little while. Scrub with the copper scouring pad. A single-edged razor blade can be useful to get under large food deposits.

All-purpose spray cleaner — What you need: baking soda, vinegar, water, spray bottle

To a quart (four cups) of water, add four teaspoons of baking soda and a half cup of vinegar. Put this into a spray bottle and use it to clean counter tops, floors, etc. (This is also a great way to recycle spray bottles purchased originally for those more expensive cleaning products.)

Odor remover — What you need: baking soda

By itself, baking soda is a great odor remover. Sprinkle it on carpets, and rub it in with a broom, then sweep or vacuum. Sprinkle it on pet bedding. Keep an open box in your refrigerator to absorb odors there. Put it in the bottom of your dresser drawers, put a paper liner over it, and it will absorb clothing odors.

Drain cleaner — What you need: baking soda, vinegar, kettle of boiling water

This combination will free minor clogs and is a great preventative measure. Pour a half cup of baking soda into the drain first. Then add a half cup of vinegar. Let it bubble for a few minutes, then carefully pour down a kettle full of boiling water. (Be careful carrying the water!)

To learn more

Here are some websites that provide more information about inexpensive and natural cleaning products:

www.bakingsodabook.co.uk/
www.familyshoppingbag.com/natural_cleaning.htm
www.versatilevinegar.org/usesandtips.html
www.vinegartips.com/cleaning/
www.epa.gov/kidshometour/

A large box of baking soda can be purchased for less than \$2. A gallon of vinegar (simple white vinegar is best) sells for about \$3.

Another inexpensive product that is also useful is chlorine bleach (also known as Clorox). It can make a great disinfectant when mixed with water and put in a spray bottle. (About a half cup to a quart or more of water is plenty.)

Chlorine bleach is not as safe as either vinegar or baking soda, but it is a powerful germ killer and is good to use to keep away mold and mildew. Just be careful to store it away from children.

The Voice

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Write a letter to the editor

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

Mayor McGinn's State of the City Address: 'Win the Future'

By LISA WOOD
University House resident

Stressing that the city must “win the future,” Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn delivered his second State of the City Address to the City Council in late February.

McGinn's key points echoed those of President Obama's State of the Union address in January. The mayor quoted Obama as saying “America's been the story of ordinary people who dare to dream, and that's how we win the future.”



Mayor Mike McGinn

McGinn then proceeded to say “Here is what we're going to do in 2011 and beyond to win the future, prepare for the new global economy, to make sure everyone in the city is included in prosperity, and to protect and renew our quality of life.”

Those areas that President Obama said are essential to winning the future are innovation, education and infrastructure.

“We know what it is to compete for jobs and industries of our time. We need to out-innovate, out-educate and out-build the rest of the world,” McGinn said. “President Obama is right. That's what we need to do in Seattle in 2011 and beyond. We can out-innovate, educate and build!”

He highlighted the Seattle Jobs Plan as one area in which the city was making strides to promote prosperity among all its residents.

The Seattle Jobs Plan has delivered more than \$32.5 million new financing to 79 new businesses, retaining or creating 630 jobs,

McGinn said. He added that by leveraging federal grants, the city intends to deliver more than \$48 million in financing to medium-sized businesses in 2011.

McGinn also detailed the work of Got Green, a local nonprofit that provides training in green construction skills for individuals from low-income communities of color.

The second area to winning the future is to help prepare the next generation, our children and young adults to succeed, according to McGinn.

Seattle's neighborhood-based schooling system, which the School Board adopted in December of 2009 and began to phase in last fall, has reduced choices for parents, he said.

“If you live in a neighborhood with a bad school, you're out of luck. Parents don't have a choice,” McGinn said.

To improve schools throughout the district, the city has proposed doubling the Families and Education Levy, which in 2011 would be \$231 million.

McGinn also encouraged volunteerism as a means to improve the lives of young people.

“If you can read, you can help a child,” he said. “Working with you, we will help all our children succeed.”

As to the tunnel and viaduct replacement, McGinn maintained his stance that the project is “too expensive and risky.” He added that he believes the public needs to decide, and encouraged the council to do the same.

McGinn concluded his address by appealing for government to be more responsive to its constituents.

“You'll see me at Town Halls and other places. I'm gonna be out there in public,” he said. “It's really important to get this right.”

Disaster in Japan: What you can do to help

By LISA WOOD
University House Resident

On Friday, March 11 a massive 9.0 magnitude earthquake hit Japan, and following it a tsunami that slammed into the nation's East Coast, leaving widespread devastation in its wake. As of March 21, the estimated death toll approached 20,000.

According to the nonprofit World Vision, which is contributing to relief efforts, the estimated damage is likely to exceed \$180 billion.

For more information about relief efforts or to make a donation, this is a list of local agencies that are actively supporting and sending one-hundred percent of the donations collected directly to Japan.

There is an organization in Seattle called SeattleJapanRelief. They encourage the support of relief efforts and hope you will consider a donation to one of the following organizations: Peace Winds America, American Red Cross or YMCA of Greater Seattle. For more information or to donate, visit seattlejapanrelief.org.

Other organizations you can donate to include:

- The local Seattle chapter of the Red Cross
Call: 1-800 Red Cross (1-800-733-2767)
Text REDCROSS to 90999 to make a

\$10 donation (which is automatically added to your phone bill).

- International Medical Corps
Call: 1-800 481-4462
Text MED to 80888 to make a \$10 donation (which is automatically added to your phone bill).
- Salvation Army
Call: 1-800-SAL-ARMY and say you want to “Give to Japan Earthquake and/or Tsunami” (This statement is awkward, as it says to literally give to the earthquake.)
Text JAPAN or QUAKE to 80888 to make a \$10 donation.
Donate online at <https://donate.salvationarmyusa.org>
- AmeriCares: www.americares.org
- World Vision: donate.worldvision.org
- Mercy Corps: www.mercycorps.org/donate/japan

Google has set up a webpage that includes information on the ongoing crisis. While the page is primarily directed to those currently in Japan, it does include a “person finder” that may enable U.S. residents to locate friends and family who are in Japan. The page is located at www.google.com/crisisresponse/japanquake2011.html. In the meantime, rescue and relief work is continuing to be done.

Youth art takes center stage in Greenbridge



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

Neighborhood House staff and youth in the White Center Tutoring Program at Dubsea Coffee in Greenbridge.

What's it like being a kid these days — the joys, challenges, pressures and ambitions that come with being a young person?

Youth in Neighborhood House's White Center Tutoring Program gathered to tell a part of that story with a written and visual storytelling project. Students in the program recorded their stories of schools, friends and family — each one capturing an element of the youth experience.

“The collection of images and writing in this artistic installation created an amazing snapshot of the lives of our young people for others in their community to see and learn from,” said Community Learning Manager Colin Sexton.

Neighborhood House received a People

in Community Service Initiative grant from the East Shore Unitarian Church of Bellevue to help fund the project. Tutoring students collaborated in determining which photos best represented each story in the series.

The youth first presented their work at a tutoring program family night in December. Afterward, they had the opportunity to showcase their photographs and drawings at Dubsea Coffee in Greenbridge, a public-housing community where many of the students live.

“The youth and their families were excited and proud to see their work displayed,” Sexton said. “It is the kind of experience we want all of our young people to have as they picture their future.”

Want a free cell phone? You have two choices — but weigh your options carefully

By VOICE STAFF

Assurance Wireless and SafeLink Wireless both offer free prepaid cell phones to low-income individuals through the federal Lifeline program.

The free cell phone program is available to individuals and families who participate in one or more federal assistance programs, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Disability Lifeline, Refugee Assistance and the federal food stamp program (SNAP), or by meeting certain income guidelines.

One person per household may be enrolled in the program at any one time. If someone in your household already uses the Lifeline program, or if you use the Lifeline program to get free or reduced-cost phone service for your landline telephone, you will not be eligible for a free cellphone.

Assurance and SafeLink offer different plan options that may work better depending on your needs. Read on to compare your options.

Assurance Wireless

The basic plan through Assurance provides a cell phone with 250 free anytime minutes. There are no night and weekend minutes — you use minutes whenever you use your phone.

If you exceed your allotted 250 minutes, each additional minute is 10 cents. Assurance also offers two options for purchasing a block of extra minutes. An additional block of 250 minutes can be purchased for \$5, for a total of 500 monthly minutes. For \$20, you receive 750 additional minutes, for a total of 1,000 monthly minutes, and 1,000 text messages. For \$5, you can purchase 200 text messages. Otherwise, text messages cost 10 cents each.

International calls cost an additional fee. Unused minutes do not rollover.

SafeLink Wireless

SafeLink offers three options for its basic monthly plan. At no cost, SafeLink will provide a cell phone with either: 250 free anytime minutes; 125 free anytime minutes that carry over each month; or 68 free international minutes that carry over each month.

Additional minutes are provided through the purchase of TracFone Airtime cards. Those cards may be purchased through a link on the SafeLink website. A 100-minute card costs \$19.99, a 125-minute card costs \$24.99 and a 150-minute card costs \$29.99, or about 20 cents per minute.

Text messages use one minute per text (or 1/3 minute with the international plan).

It's “free,” but how much does it cost?

The following examples show what an individual would pay using the Assurance

Please see “Wireless” on Page 5



“One to grow on” will return next month.

Neighborhood House joins roundtable with national drug czar and Drug Free Communities grantees

By VOICE STAFF

Last month, Neighborhood House joined with more than a dozen agencies in the state's Drug Free Communities coalition in a roundtable with national drug czar Gil Kerlikowske, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

Speaking in the city where he served as Chief of Police for nearly eight years, Kerlikowske ruminated on the direction of national drug policy and also heard from numerous coalition members on their own methods to promote drug-free communities.

Neighborhood House, in the seventh year of the 10-year federal Drug Free Communities grant program, is participating in the Let's Draw the Line campaign to curb underage drinking. Its TADA (Teens Against Drugs and Alcohol) program empowers youth to make healthy choices.

And this month, the agency will participate in a second drug take-back day, in which community members can dispose of unused prescription drugs. Last year's effort netted some 150 pounds of unwanted meds.

Support for prevention and early intervention programs, such as those provided under the Drug Free Communities umbrella, are critical to the United States' own

anti-drug efforts, Kerlikowske said.

Enforcement is not enough.

"The answer isn't just in arresting people," Kerlikowske said. "We can't arrest our way out of the problem."

Kerlikowske was likewise unequivocal in his opposition to legalization of marijuana or other drugs. He pointed to how the deregulation of alcohol encourages the use — and abuse — of it.

He also refuted the argument that by legalizing marijuana, states will benefit from increased revenue through new taxes. He again cited alcohol and tobacco as examples.

"We don't collect near enough revenue to cover the costs of alcohol and nicotine abuse," Kerlikowske said.

Acknowledging that there is no "simple answer to a complex problem," he reinforced the ONDCP's multi-tiered approach to drug prevention in his closing remarks. The keys, Kerlikowske said, are quality prevention programs such as those created through DFC, treatment and early intervention, a focus on youth and anti-legalization.

"We don't have a great bumper sticker right now," he said.

For more information on the national Drug Free Communities program, visit www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/dfc.



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, listens as a Drug Free Communities coalition member describes measures her group is taking to curb drug use among young people.

Symposium

Continued from Page 1

buster.com as one way to find out how to take action.

Dr. Delaney Ruston, M.D. is the filmmaker behind "Unlisted, A Story of Schizophrenia," a documentary about her father's schizophrenia, and how she interacted with him.

Ruston said that in the media, 50 percent of the stories on mental illness involve violence, 25 percent legislation, and 25 percent treatment. She added that it is rare to find stories in the media that depict stories like that of her father.

She said that mental illness "is not a predicator for violence."

Jesse Close, sister of actress Glenn Close, shared her story as a person who is bipolar. Jesse, 47, said she was diagnosed at 19, but at the time she had nothing to help her, and was sent off to live with her sister.

In 2004, she went to McLean hospital where she was treated for the psychotic and mixed episodes she was having. Jesse said she had gone through "barrels of homes, husbands, and cars" and had a reputation as being "wild" prior to her proper diagnosis.

"When I told my sister (Glenn) that I

was bipolar, she said, "I just thought you were crazy!"

Jesse's son Calin was diagnosed as schizoaffective at the age of 19, and it was Jesse who asked Glenn to work with her to help fight the stigma of mental illness. Through their efforts, BringChange2mind was created.

Through this organization, the Close family created a public service announcement that was directed by Ron Howard. The public service announcement takes place in Grand Central Station and demonstrates the principle that people with mental illness need support, and that there is no certain "look" about them.

Jesse and Glenn have also done television interviews, worked with print media, won awards from the JED Foundation, Karla Smith Foundation, and McLean hospital. For more information, contact www.BringChange2Mind.com.

Randy Revelle, a former Seattle City Councilman and King County Executive, reinforced the notion that mental illness not be a source of shame.

"No one should be ashamed about having a mental illness. The best way to overcome (the shame) is to tell the truth to everyone who asks," Revelle said.

The crowd applauded when Betty Patu, the most recently elected board member, blamed the increase in youth violence on the streets of Southeast Seattle on funding inequity, and said she believes Goodloe-Johnson "didn't have any intention of equity" during her tenure. Community member James Cordell agreed: "We want quality education for all children. You have the power to do it but you can't do it with crooks and thieves."

Noam Gundel roused the audience into wild applause when he called for "greater transparency" and declared, "We cannot be content with top-down authority!" Parent Taylor urged the board, "Listen to us, not corporate or business interests." Gundel and others said the board needs more input from parents and staff, rather than highly paid outside consultants.

His honesty proved successful for him during his campaign as King County Executive, when he received 700 responses to his disclosure of his mental illness, all of which were positive. Revelle is Senior Vice President for Policy and Advocacy of the Washington State Hospital Association.

In his keynote speech on Saturday, March 5, Congressman Jim McDermott discussed how in the military, regardless of whether one is a volunteer or in the draft, that the stigma toward mental illness is very deep.

He said soldiers would rather not talk about their mental health issues because they didn't want to seek treatment while on deployment and often avoided or ignored mental health issues altogether. He also said he had felt the strain of diagnosis and stigma when, in 1968 as a military psychiatrist, he had seen an individual for about 20 visits and never officially recorded the visits because of his fear of stigma for the man.

Forty years later, the veteran contacted him because he was still having nightmares and needed verification for his own records in hopes of receiving veterans' benefits.

McDermott said it is sometimes difficult to feel responsible for others, and that one might fear getting enmeshed in another's care.

Learn more

For more information on this symposium and other available resources, read the blog at www.fightingstigma.blogspot.com.

"Sometimes we are afraid just to say 'Hello.' It's not easy being responsible," he said. McDermott helped develop the Washington Basic Health Plan, the first state program in the nation to provide low-cost insurance for the working poor and unemployed.

McDermott stressed the need to talk about mental illness in order to stop the stigma from continuing in the military, and that we needed better preventative care for our veterans. He mentioned that many end up in jail for drug abuse, but do not receive any type of treatment, and so eventually end up back in jail.

That cycle of incarceration is one of the many obstacles to treatment and recovery for the mentally ill. In an article next month, The Voice will explore how panelists at the symposium suggest better care for those with a mental illness.

School

Continued from Page 1

shuffled around without good cause under Goodloe-Johnson, and yet Potter was allowed to hire staff during a district-wide hiring freeze.

While Potter was diverting funds, real needs such as an enormous back-log of needed building repairs were going unfunded, reported maintenance employee Stanley Hoffman. Additionally, guidance counselor Jennifer Greenstein passionately complained that many counseling staff have been laid-off because the board has repeatedly claimed there is "no money."

Special Education Counselor Caroline Hewitt lamented, "If our kids are not supported emotionally, how can they be expected to learn?"

The board agreed to fire Goodloe-Johnson and CFO Kennedy, neither of whom were at the meeting, and appointed Susan Enfield, formerly the Chief Academic Officer, as Interim Superintendent. Enfield agreed that the board needs to "restore the trust of community, parents and staff." Seattle teachers recently gave the board a vote of no confidence.

Board members expressed their regret, outrage, and apologies, but meeting regular Dempsey and Director Maier suggested that the district go one step further and prosecute Potter and his associates for the class C felony of forgery. Theresa Whipple, spokesperson for Seattle Schools, told me that the district is looking into it, but has not yet pressed charges.

Many at the meeting were outraged that Goodloe-Johnson was let go "without

cause," a choice made by the board due to technicalities in her contract. The document funding the small business program was repealed at the meeting. Board members said they plan to implement new transparency, oversight, internal audits, management, structural and leadership changes — indeed to change the entire culture of how the district conducts business.

Interim Superintendent Enfield says that to restore trust the board "needs to answer questions about what went wrong in the small business contract department."

Parent Taylor suggested, "Let's make this a new day for our community of parents, educators and concerned citizens."

The next meeting of the School Board will be at 6 p.m. April 6 in the auditorium of the John Stanford Center at 2445 3rd Avenue South.

Safely dispose of unwanted and expired prescription drugs during National Drug Take-Back Day April 30

By **MIKE GRAHAM-SQUIRE**
Neighborhood House

Prescription drug abuse is fast becoming the biggest drug problem in the United States. More Americans currently abuse prescription drugs and pain pills than the number of those using cocaine, hallucinogens, and heroin combined.

To help fight the problem of prescription drug abuse, the federal government is organizing a National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. To dispose of your unwanted and expired medications, visit any Seattle police station from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 30.

The service is free and anonymous — no questions asked. To locate a collection site near you, call 1-800-882-9539 or visit www.dea.gov and click on the “Got Drugs?” icon.

This is the safest way to dispose of your unwanted medications. Don’t flush them down the toilet, which is bad for the environment and harms fish. Don’t put them in the garbage, either — drugs discarded in the trash can be found and abused by someone else and also harms the environment.

Prescription drug abuse is a problem that affects adults as well as youth. Last September, nine middle school students in Bremerton were hospitalized after overdosing on prescription pain pills they had found at home. Studies show that most abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet, so make sure you lock up your prescription drugs at home.

Prescription drugs are extremely powerful and can be deadly if mixed with alcohol, mixed with other drugs or if not taken as directed. Some pain pills are very similar to

heroin and are extremely addictive. Doctors advise that you should never share prescription drugs with others or save them to use again for a different problem.

Former Seattle Police Chief Gil Kerlikowse, who now heads the federal Office of National Drug Control Policy, encourages everyone to “take advantage of this opportunity to safely dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs. Preventing these readily available and potentially deadly drugs from being diverted and misused is something each and every one of us can do to help reduce the epidemic of prescription drug abuse that is harming so many Americans.”

Washington State legislators have proposed a new law to create a state-wide drug take back program. If you would like to have a permanent safe drug disposal program close to your home, call your elected

Drug take-back locations

Auburn Police Department, 340 E. Main St., Auburn
Seattle Police East Precinct, 1519 12th Ave., Seattle
Seattle Police Southwest Precinct, 2300 S.W. Webster St., Seattle
Seattle Police South Precinct, 3001 S. Myrtle St., Seattle
Seattle Police North Precinct, 10049 College Way N., Seattle
SeaTac City Hall, 4800 S. 188th St., SeaTac

A full list is available at www.dea.gov (click the “Got Drugs?” link) or by calling 1-800-882-9539.

officials at 1-800-562-6000 and let them know your concerns.

DSHS Community Service Offices to operate on modified hours

By **VOICE STAFF**

Citing an increase in caseloads over the past two years, the implementation of mandatory furlough days for state employees and a statewide hiring freeze, DSHS has announced that its Community Service Offices (CSO) and Customer Service Call Centers (CSC) will operate under modified service hours.

Offices will operate full-service hours from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Clients will be able to apply for cash, food, medical and child care benefits, complete interviews and appointments, obtain an EBT card, talk to call center staff, ask questions and drop off and pick up documents. Anyone checking in or calling before 2 p.m. will be served.

From 2 to 5 p.m., the CSO and CSC services will be limited to applying for services online, asking questions, dropping off and picking up documents and administrative hearing appointments. Office lobbies will remain open. Phone service will also be reduced.

There will be no change for specialized services, such as Long-Term Care and WASHCAP/WTAP.

The service reductions began March 14, and DSHS emphasized that they will be temporary.

The reductions are necessary to allow DSHS to better manage case loads, continue to provide services to its clients and prevent program degradation.

The limited service hours will give DSHS “protected” time to focus on case management and determining eligibility for its programs, according to the agency.

Northwest Kidney Centers hosting Ninth Annual Kidney Health Fest

Northwest Kidney Centers will hold its Ninth Annual Kidney Health Fest for African American Families, featuring free health screenings, entertainment and healthy food samples made by local celebrity chefs, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. May 7.

With the theme of “Back to Our Roots: Healthy Eating, Healthy Cooking,” this event features free health screenings and private consultations with a doctor, healthy food made by local celebrity chefs, and an educational program emceed by Angela Russell, KIRO 7 Eyewitness News anchor.

One in seven American adults has kidney disease. In the African American community, the number increases four-fold. Although African Americans make up 12 percent of the U.S. population, 35 percent of individuals with kidney failure are African American. In addition, African American men are 10 to 14 times more likely to develop kidney failure due to high blood pressure than Caucasian men in the same age group.

All are welcome to attend this free event, which will be held at Van Asselt Elementary (formerly the African American Academy), 8311 Beacon Ave. S., in Seattle.

For more information about the event, visit www.nwkidney.org/fest.

Wireless

Continued from Page 3

and SafeLink plans.

- Person A uses 275 minutes and no text messages in a single month.

With Assurance, she chooses not to purchase an additional block of 250 minutes, and pays \$2.50, plus tax (25 additional minutes at 10 cents per minute).

With SafeLink, she buys a 100-minute phone card for \$19.99, plus tax. The 75 minutes remaining on her phone card carry over to next month.

- Person B uses 200 minutes and 50 text messages in a single month.

With Assurance, he purchases the 200-text package, and pays \$5, plus tax. His 50 unused minutes and 150

unused text messages do not carry over.

With SafeLink, his minutes and texts are covered under the basic 250-minute plan, and he pays nothing.

- Person C uses 800 minutes and 500 texts in a single month.

With Assurance, she purchases the plan that includes 1,000 minutes and 1,000 texts for \$20, plus taxes. Her 200 unused minutes and 500 unused texts do not carry over.

With SafeLink, she purchases seven 150-minute cards for \$209.93, plus tax. The 1,050 additional minutes plus her 250 free minutes cover her usage for the month.

To learn more

For more information, visit www.assurancewireless.com and www.safelinkwireless.com.

Housing

Continued from Page 1

unemployed at the time they committed the crime.

Representing the Washington Landlord Association, panelist Tim Seth argued that the ordinance could have the adverse affect of establishing Seattle as a haven for criminals: the only place in the state where it is not necessary to pass a background check to obtain housing or a job.

“If there is to be such a law it should be statewide, not one city,” he said.

He also said that the problems of escalating crime rates and strains on law enforcement were being dumped on landlords and employers — “making social workers out of landlords and employers,” as he put it.

And panelist Bill Austin, representing EPIC Asset Management and the Washington Multi-family Housing Association, said that landlords have an obligation to provide safe housing to their tenants, Austin said.

He expressed another common concern among landlords who spoke at the meeting — that revising anti-discrimination law to include criminal and arrest records could expose landlords and employers to frivolous

lawsuits.

Whether successful or not, such lawsuits could potentially cost thousands in legal expenses, Austin said.

He also noted that anti-discrimination laws have traditionally protected innate qualities, such as race, age and gender.

“In most cases, a person cannot choose their status,” Austin said. “A person is an ex-offender because of a choice to engage in criminal activity. Bad choices have consequences.”

But Harrell clarified that the proposal would not create a protected class for offenders. Rather, it would prohibit landlords and employers from a blanket “no felons” policy — applicants would have to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The proposal would likewise not protect those who have been convicted of serious offenses, including first- and second-degree murder, assault and arson and all counts of rape.

There would be other exceptions to the ordinance, said Julie Nelson, of the Seattle Office of Civil Rights. A job applicant could be refused if there is a direct relationship between a criminal conviction and the type of employment sought. For instance,

someone with a prior conviction for embezzlement could still be refused a job in accounting. And a person with a history of DUI convictions could still be disqualified for a job as a driver.

In those cases, employers would be asked to consider a number of additional factors, including the amount of time passed since the conviction occurred, the age of the person at the time of conviction, and evidence that the person has been rehabilitated.

The forum attracted a large crowd, with few empty seats to be seen in the Bertha Knight Landes Room at Seattle City Hall.

Several ex-offenders voiced their support for the ordinance.

Peter Duncan asked for consideration for not only his own rights, but also for those of his 8-year-old, of whom he has custody.

“If I am discriminated against, he will be discriminated against,” Duncan said.

Nicole Scott, whose husband is currently incarcerated, said she fears that her family will lose its housing when her husband is released.

She also said that criminal background checks do not guarantee safety.

“No matter how many background checks you do, you’ll never ensure you

won’t be living next to someone who will harm you,” she said.

The majority of those in attendance favored the reforms in their comments and in their applause, but a vocal minority — many identifying themselves as landlords — offered comment in opposition.

Patricia Layden was one exception. She identified herself as a landlady who counts three ex-offenders among her tenants.

“I say ex-offenders because they are ex-offenders,” she said, adding that the three have all worked hard to succeed following their incarceration and have given her “no trouble.”

She also urged audience members to dispense with any “us and them” mentality.

“We are all community,” she said.

In his closing remarks, Mike Peters of the SHRC was unequivocal in his support for the proposal. Human rights laws protect the inherent dignity of the individual, he said. Furthermore, ensuring rights to housing and employment also protects one’s inherent dignity.

“It seems that exile from housing and employment is unacceptable and untenable,” he concluded.

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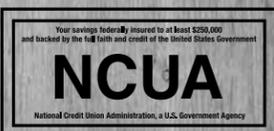


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The mission of the Seattle Housing Authority is to enhance the Seattle community by creating and sustaining decent, safe and affordable living environments that foster stability and self-sufficiency for people with low incomes.

Community entertainment

YOUTH DANCE AT HEALTH FAIR

See Page 5



SHA NEWS

April
2011

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

Seattle Housing one of six finalists for HUD's Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants

\$23.9 million grant would fund Phase I redevelopment at Yesler Terrace

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan announced on March 18 that Seattle Housing Authority is one of six finalists selected to compete for approximately \$61 million in Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grants.

Last November, the agency submitted a grant application through HUD's Choice Neighborhood Initiative requesting \$23.9 million for the first phase of redevelopment at Yesler Terrace.

Initial redevelopment would be focused on a broad area that includes Yesler Terrace and extends eastward toward 14th Avenue and southward toward Little Saigon. The grant, should it be awarded to the agency, would help transform the community through comprehensive education and employment programs, housing opportunities and support for economic development.

Specific improvements in Seattle Housing's proposal includes new housing on the 12th Avenue and Yesler Block, renovation of the Baldwin Apartments on 14th Avenue,



Smith Tower and Elliott Bay are seen from the west side of Yesler Terrace. The Seattle Housing neighborhood is in the midst of a proposed redevelopment.

PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

as well as streetscape improvements along 12th Avenue and support for small-scale local retail. The agency would also work with nonprofit Historic Seattle to direct some of the funds toward rehabilitation of the historic Washington Hall performing arts building.

Building on the successes of the HOPE VI Program, HUD's Choice Neighborhood

Initiative was established to transform distressed neighborhoods into viable and sustainable mixed-income neighborhoods by linking housing improvements with appropriate services, schools, public assets, transportation and access to jobs.

HUD expects to announce grant awards by the end of September.

New subsidy planned for Senior Housing

Low-income housing program will provide operating, capital funds

BY VIRGINIA FELTON

Seattle Housing Authority

The Seattle Housing Authority is working with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to bring traditional public housing subsidy to the Seattle Senior Housing Program (SSHP). This will make it possible to keep rents affordable and pay for needed building repairs.

This administrative change will bring federal funding into the SSHP program. At the same time, it will continue to be operated as a separate program targeted to Seattle seniors. Current rent policy for SSHP will remain in effect and most administrative practices will remain the same.

The buildings were originally built in the 1980s with \$50 million generated from a city bond issue. While there have been about 150 SSHP residents who have used Section 8 vouchers to help pay the rent, there has been no dedicated subsidy for the

Please see "SSHP" on Page 3

RAC eyes expansion of executive committee

BY VOICE STAFF

The Resident Action Council's executive committee could triple in size, in revisions that the resident advocacy group is planning to make to its bylaws.

RAC members discussed the proposed revisions at the council's meeting March 9.

While many of the revisions clarify existing portions of the RAC bylaws, the Executive Committee would be a significant change — RAC's current executive committee, consisting of five officers, would expand

to as many as 15 members. The existing positions of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and ombudsperson would be joined by up to 10 at-large positions.

Executive committee membership would be limited to no more than two members from any one Seattle Housing Authority community. In the event that three or more people from one community receive the votes necessary for election, only the highest two vote-getters will be elected.

Terms for executive committee members would be cut in half, from the current two-year terms for RAC officers to one-year terms for all executive committee members.

Voting on the bylaws revisions are expected to take place at RAC's next regular meeting, scheduled for 1:30 p.m. April 13 at Center Park, 2121 26th Ave. S., at the northwest corner of MLK Way and S. Walker St.

On the #4 or #8 bus, get off on MLK Way at South Walker. On the #7, #9, #34, #42 or #48, get off on Rainier Avenue South at South Walker and walk east two blocks on Walker.

RAC has some funding to issue taxi scrips in certain cases. Call 206-322-1297 for more details.

Judge issues preliminary injunction in grievance hearings lawsuit

RAC, Seattle Housing tenants challenge legality of LIPH grievance process

BY TYLER ROUSH

The Voice editor

A federal judge has granted a preliminary injunction in a lawsuit filed against the Seattle Housing Authority challenging its LIPH grievance hearing process.

The Resident Action Council (RAC) and several LIPH tenants filed the lawsuit against Seattle Housing and Weldon Mediation Services, the contractor that oversees the Housing Authority's LIPH grievance hearings. The suit contends that the Housing Authority's LIPH grievance hearings do not meet due process standards or allow for a tenant to mount a legal defense.

Representing RAC and the tenants, attorney Eric Dunn of the Northwest Justice Project said that LIPH tenants are entitled to due process in a grievance hearing.

"No matter what particular issue the grievance hearing is about, whether it's an eviction, a plumbing bill, an extra bedroom

... the decision from the grievance hearing is going to depend on legal rules and provisions," Dunn said.

But Seattle Housing Authority has maintained that LIPH hearings are only meant to determine the facts upon which it is basing its decision. Legal arguments follow if and when a case goes to trial, Fearn said.

"We think the purpose of the grievance hearings is to review the factual basis upon which Seattle Housing Authority has made its determination to take action," Seattle Housing's General Counsel James Fearn said. "We think the current grievance hearings procedure does that adequately."

In the preliminary injunction, U.S. District Court Judge Richard Jones ruled that the plaintiffs would likely succeed in multiple counts in their lawsuit: that the Housing Authority's current LIPH hearing process violates the law by not considering a tenant's legal arguments; that the current hearing officer is not qualified to hear legal arguments; and that the Housing Authority does not comply with HUD regulations regarding the selection of hearing officers.

Please see "Lawsuit" on Page 6

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Sign up soon for the College Bound Scholarship

Seattle Housing encourages all seventh- and eighth-graders to enroll in the College Bound Scholarship Program, a state program that will help pay tuition and up to \$500 for books for students at any state-funded college or university in Washington.

To be eligible, low-income seventh- and eighth-graders must sign a pledge by June 30 of their eighth-grade year. Students pledge to graduate from high school, demonstrate good citizenship and seek admission to a college or university.

This year's deadline for enrollment is June 30, 2011.

The scholarship can be applied to dozens of 2- and 4-year colleges and universities in Washington state. Locally, four-year schools such as the University of Washington, Seattle University and Seattle Pacific University and two-year schools such as North Seattle Community College, Seattle Central

Community College and North Seattle Community College are all included in the College Bound Scholarship Program.

More information on the College Bound Scholarship, including a list of institutions qualified in the program, is available online at www.hecb.wa.gov. Click the "College Bound Scholarship" link.

Haven't signed up yet?

Come to Seattle Housing's 2011 registration event from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Thursday, April 21 at the Porchlight office, 907 N.W. Ballard Way, Suite 200.

A representative from the College Success Foundation will be on hand to help with the application and to answer questions.

For more information call Karmin Hallberg, housing counselor, at 206-239-1572, or e-mail khallberg@seattlehousing.org.

Two new MTW activities proposed in plan amendment

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

Through an agreement with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Seattle Housing Authority is able to use Moving to Work (MTW) flexibility to replace selected federal regulations with policies that better meet local needs.

Each year, a plan is submitted to HUD outlining its MTW activities for the year. Seattle Housing is planning to amend its 2011 Annual MTW Plan to propose the following two new activities:

- applying MTW flexibility to Seattle Senior Housing Program (SSHP) units to allow them to receive public housing funding while continuing to operate similarly to how they operate today (see related article on **Page 1**).

- a simplified utility allowance structure for the Housing Choice Voucher program

Seattle Housing Authority will hold a public hearing on the proposed amendment on Monday, May 2, 2011 at 3:30 pm in the community room at PorchLight, 907 NW Ballard Way, Seattle.

Seattle Housing participants and the public are encouraged to attend and share their ideas.

The proposed amendment will be available on www.seattlehousing.org on April 8 and available for public comment through May 9.

For more information, disability accommodations, or to arrange an interpreter for the public hearing, call Beka Smith at 206-615-3576 by April 25.

Mai Lan Riggle named to new post

In February, Seattle Housing Authority named Mai Lan Riggle senior property manager for Rainier Vista and for the new Lake City Village. Cindy Sribhibhadh, property management administrator, in announcing Riggle's promotion, said, "Mai Lan has both strong



Mai Lan Riggle

compliance and property management skills and experience.

"She has been with Seattle Housing for five years as Compliance Auditor for the HOPE VI communities," Sribhibhadh added.

Prior to coming to Seattle Housing, Riggle's experience included managing tax credit properties and a portfolio that combined residential and commercial spaces.

Riggle's office is at Rainier Vista, in the new Tamarack building.

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods grows "bumper crop" of new P-Patch community gardens

BY CITY OF SEATTLE

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods has released an update on the progress of new P-Patch community garden development funded by the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy.

The 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy set aside \$2 million for development of four or more community gardens on city-owned property. Not only have four projects been completed, but there are 11 additional projects underway. This success is due to the P-Patch Program's focus on engaging neighbors, collaborating with other city departments and leveraging partnerships with community organizations. Together, these 15 gardens are adding space for 225 new households to garden.

The goal of the levy-funded work is to increase access to community gardening

opportunities for Seattle residents. New projects are strategically selected to serve neighborhoods and communities previously underserved by the P-Patch Community Gardening Program. Staff is working with interpreters and multi-cultural outreach teams to engage a broad diversity of Seattle residents in these neighborhood projects. In turn, the community update report has been translated into eight languages to support outreach efforts.

The P-Patch Community Gardening Program, in conjunction with the P-Patch Trust, a nonprofit organization, oversees 73 P-Patches located throughout the city. These gardens are gathering places where Seattle neighbors strengthen community connections and steward a piece of open space for everyone to enjoy. The community update can be found at www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch/levy.htm.

Daytripper: Beyond the locks, a heron-watcher's wonderland

BY KRISTIN O'DONNELL
Yesler Terrace resident

Bird watching can be challenging. Most birds are little and sort of grayish brown. They hide in the bushes, and when you finally see them, they fly away before you can figure out if they have yellow legs or black legs — a very important difference to the serious birdwatcher. This month's trip makes bird watching easy.

Just above the Ballard Locks in Magnolia, Kiwanis Ravine Park has one of the largest great blue heron nesting colonies near Puget Sound. Early this month, before the trees leaf out is the best time to see them feeding their always hungry chicks.

The great blue heron is a big bird — four feet tall, with a wingspan of nearly six feet. (A very big bird.)

It flies slowly, gliding, folding its long neck back against its body, its long legs trailing behind. They can't be mistaken for anything else that flies around here.

The herons aren't really blue, but gray, darker on the back and head than underneath. (The bird books say that adult birds have a blue plume — maybe they do, but you'll need binoculars to see it.)

Walk quietly on the trail that goes gently downhill through the Kiwanis Ravine woods — notice the ferns and spring flowers. Stop in the middle of the railroad overpass.

Most days in early spring, there will be some herons resting on the roof of the house on the far side of the bridge. Stand on

the overpass and listen — there will be loud clicking sounds, and a bird call that sounds like a giant duck with a sore throat.

Look toward the noise. There will be a big messy nest near the tree tops, with heron chicks, usually two but sometimes three, impatiently waiting for their lunch. It takes two heron parents to keep the chicks fed.

Within a short time, you will see a big bird gliding in from its fishing trip. The noise from the nest gets louder, as the chicks push each other aside, clacking their beaks together to be first to be fed. The adult heron flies away toward the water to catch more fish for dinner. If you look further into the treetops, you will probably see other nests.

Continue down the trail. The trail ends at 33rd Avenue West on the south side of the Ballard Locks. From there you can either loop back up the trail to the West Government Way bus stop, or go down a steep quarter block on 33rd West to Commodore Way.

Cross Commodore Way and go down the switch-back and not-too-steep downhill sidewalk to the fish ladder and the Ballard Locks. There are several benches along the way, good places to sit and watch the boats go through the locks.

Cross to the other side of the locks and continue north through the lovely Carl English Garden, where there are lots of those fast-flying little grayish-brown birds,

Please see "Daytripper" on Page 6



Letters to the Editor

Readers of *The Voice* speak out

A fond farewell

Dear Seattle Housing tenants:

As some of you may already know, my position as your mental health case manager for the downtown high-rises ended on March 10. I can't believe it was six years ago when I first started working in the high-rises — it feels just like yesterday. I thought I was a pretty experienced clinician, but I learned all sorts of new things working with Seattle Housing Authority tenants, like looking out for bedbugs, assisting with the grieving process when a friend and neighbor passed away, dealing with the stress of homeWorks construction, getting furniture for tenants

through the Sharehouse, and seemingly a million other things.

There were some tough days and some really fun days, and through it all I thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many of you and working at improving our lives. I know I learned a lot more from all of you than you did from me, so I want to take this opportunity to thank you. I hope to see you again sometime in the future, as they say: "Down the road."

Sincerely yours,
Roger Eddy
Seattle Housing Authority Housing Case Manager

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 tylerr@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

More work to come after new windows installed at Denny Terrace

BY SVEN KOEHLER
Seattle Housing Authority

If you want to catch a glimpse of what Denny Terrace apartments looked like for the first 40 years of its existence, you'd better hurry. The building's facade is more than half hidden from view with scaffolding.

The homeWorks project is about to transform it from a monotonous brick exterior to a more colorful, smooth stucco finish that should make the building the most modern addition to the skyline of Capitol Hill.

In fact, if you want a feel for the old version of Denny Terrace, you're almost too late. The first part of the transformation is nearly over. About \$20,000 worth of interior renovations in each apartment were just completed.

The work started this past December. Now, each resident's apartment has brand-new windows, remodeled showers and plumbing fixtures, new lights, heaters and electrical systems and other updates.

The new windows are a big hit. While many residents were anxious about the switch from sliding windows to casement windows that open inwards, the change has been positive, noted resident Katherine Anderson.

"We all tend to be nervous about change, but the new windows are wonderful. The sound from the outside is more dampened, they don't leak, and when I touch the frames they actually feel warm rather than cold like the old ones," she said.

Another nice touch is the fact that the new window design includes sills, while the old windows had none. Residents have commented that this seems to lend a more home-like feel to the apartments.

As unglamorous as it sounds, the powerful new high-pressure toilets that were installed in each apartment also made a positive impact. Resident Tara Guggenmos exclaimed, "They're awesome! They just flush really well compared to the old ones."

It is good news that they function better and use less water than the previous version.

These extensive changes to each apartment were accomplished during an intense three-week process. So much work was going into each apartment that each resident was offered a free hotel reservation for a week or more during a pre-scheduled construction period.

Leading up to the unit work, residents got help packing and moving items out of the work zone, but nonetheless it was a



PHOTO BY WG CLARK

A bird's eye view of construction in progress at Denny Terrace. The building is being wrapped in phases for the installation of new exterior insulation. The old brick will be covered by a new exterior color scheme, which could make the building a landmark visible from much of South Lake Union and I-5.

monumental task for everyone. There were six to 10 people leaving or coming back to the building practically every day as part of the well-planned construction schedule.

To make this work, a dedicated crew from

Seattle Housing and Pioneer Human Services visited each apartment several times before the scheduled construction period to

Please see "Denny Terrace" on Page 7



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Work is underway to create a new entrance to the seventh floor of Jefferson Terrace for the Respite Care program.

Respite construction kicks off

BY SVEN KOEHLER
Seattle Housing Authority

Thanks to a discreet construction fence, the work site next to Jefferson Terrace's front door isn't much to look at. But for three days in late March, the distinct sounds of a concrete saw at work heralded the start of construction of a new Respite Care facility. Anyone in earshot knew that the project to modify the seventh floor of the apartment building had begun.

Since 2009, momentum has gathered to locate a medical respite facility at the building, where homeless people can have a safe place to heal after release from hospital care. In 2010, the seventh floor of the building was leased to Public Health – Seattle & King County for this purpose, after the program received an economic stimulus plan award to help fund construction.

Jefferson Terrace Apartments was built in 1964 to significant acclaim in the architectural community due to its modern, exposed concrete design. Many residents remark that they love their building because of the sense of solidity that the material provides, despite being 17-stories high.

Of course, it is this very concrete that makes modifications a challenge. A concrete-cutting saw with blades almost 3 feet in diameter was used to slice openings in interior walls between units to create an office and community space for the Respite facility out of the vacant studio apartments.

The same tool was used to chop out the concrete rail of the seventh floor elevator lobby balcony. This will serve as the direct entrance to the Respite facility via a new, dedicated, controlled-access exterior el-

Please see "Respite" on Page 5

SSHP

Continued from Page 1

program. As a result, it has been difficult to set aside enough reserve funding to pay for the needed repairs.

The Housing Authority began looking at the possibility of bringing Low Income Public Housing (LIPH) subsidy to SSHP when testing in the last few years revealed serious water intrusion problems in a majority of the buildings. An assessment of capital improvements needed over the next years revealed that about \$48 million was needed to make important repairs to window, siding and elevators. Some of this work has already been funded, bringing the remaining total to about \$33 million, but existing resources have largely been used up. Making the units in SSHP eligible for public housing subsidy will result in a net increase of about \$1.9 million per year in operating subsidy from

HUD and about \$1.1 million per year in additional capital funding. The program's total yearly operating expenses are about \$4.8 million.

Senior Property Manager Judy Anderson noted that the rents charged in the program are not enough to fund these repairs. "We want to keep rent levels about where they are now in order to fulfill the goals of this program," said Anderson, "but we couldn't do that without a new funding source."

Anderson noted that adjusting the program to fit within LIPH will make a few changes necessary. "We will have to review residents' income information every three years instead of just at move-in, and there will be a few more inspections. Residents will have to verify their citizenship. Other than that, there should be very few changes. Our hope is that residents will hardly notice the transition."

The idea of applying LIPH subsidy to the

program has been discussed for about a year with the SSHP Rent Advisory Committee and with SSHP residents in the program's Joint Policy Advisory Committee (JPAC). The alternative to this solution is to raise rents in the program, a move which neither residents nor management wants to adopt.

In order to provide more information about the transition, Anderson will visit each building for an information session during the month of May. Details of these meetings will be posted on the Seattle Housing Authority website and in the buildings. All Senior Housing buildings will be included in this administrative transition except for South Park and Leschi House.

The transition process requires the Housing Authority to amend its annual MTW plan and receive approval from HUD. This will also involve a public meeting in May. See the May issue of The Voice for details.

Formal policy changes for the program

SSHP JPAC meets this month

There will be an SSHP JPAC meeting from 1 – 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 6 in the Community Room at Porchlight, located at 907 N.W. Ballard Way, Suite 200.

The agenda will include a summary of the policy changes relating to the proposal to bring Public Housing subsidy to SSHP.

For more information, contact Community Builders Marcia Johnson (239-1530) or Ellen Ziontz (239-1625).

will also need to be adopted and will be available in each building in early May. For more information on these changes, see the article about MTW amendments on Page 2.

HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY

Artwork created by High Point teens dedicated in West Seattle Junction



PHOTO BY LAURA GENTRY

This mural in the breezeway in the West Seattle was one of three created by High Point youth through a High Point Community Center program that was funded by Seattle Housing Authority.

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The West Seattle Junction breezeway is getting a breath of fresh air with newly acquired artwork created by High Point teens. Last summer, Seattle Housing Authority provided funding to the High Point Community Center to start a youth recreation and leadership program. As part of that program, approximately 40 youths took part creating three mural artwork pieces that were installed in the breezeway last August.

The breezeway is a walkway near the corner of Southwest Alaskan Street and California Avenue Southwest in West Seattle that connects junction-area shops, restaurants and parking lots.

This February, a few community mem-

bers got together to dedicate the artwork by putting up a plaque letting passersby know who to thank for the artwork. The plaque states:

“As youth, we envision a diverse world that accepts everyone without judgment and allows us to explore our options. Our work is open to interpretation and we hope to inspire and open your eyes to the diversity and aspirations of the youth living in the West Seattle community. – High Point Youth – Summer 2010”

Each of the murals were created with the theme “Past, Present, and Future” in mind, and many of the youth who worked on the pieces left their mark by writing down what they wanted to be in the future.

High Point Neighborhood Association trustees needed

BY MIRANDA TAYLOR
HPNA Trustee

Everyone who lives in High Point is a member of the High Point Neighborhood Association. High Point Neighborhood Association is having elections for Trustees June 3rd at the Community Potluck, and nominations are already being accepted.

You might be wondering what it means to be a neighborhood association Trustee. The responsibility of an HPNA Trustee is to represent your neighbors by attending monthly evening meetings where we discuss neighborhood issues as a small group.

We also attend quarterly (every three months) all-neighborhood meetings, which hold us accountable to all our neighbors. If you have a particular interest, you may choose to head a committee and find neighbors to help, as I am doing to secure an exercise space.

Everyone — more specifically all High Point Neighbors — can improve their lives by participating in community events.

We have employees like Seattle Housing

Authority Community Builder Shukri Olow, and many Neighborhood House staff, able, organized, and willing to take the time to help you follow through with street safety, park and playground improvements, gardening, self defense classes, exercise classes and more.

Chris Smithco is currently our Treasurer, and he keeps us up to date on our funds. I am the Secretary and take notes to make sure everyone remembers what we decided in meetings. Jennifer Cobb is our tireless President, who oversees all our work.

A few of us are able to attend daytime meetings with our partners, like the High Point Resources Coalition, keeping them informed of our changing needs. Some attend the SW Police Precinct or Delridge Neighborhood Council meetings.

Building relationships with people will find you more resources to make our world a better place. We welcome you to do the best you can, and we invite you to join us!

Nominations are now being accepted. Nominate a neighbor or yourself!

Free tax preparation available at High Point Center through United Way

BY TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

Tax time can be stressful.

Fortunately for low-income individuals and families, there's a way for them to receive free tax preparation from someone who can make sense of the W-2s and 1040s.

The Neighborhood House High Point Center is hosting one of 18 sites in the United Way of King County's Free Tax Preparation campaign.

Individuals and couples earning less than \$50,000 in 2010 are eligible to have their taxes done by a trained and IRS-certified tax preparer.

On a recent Sunday afternoon, volunteer Chris Siegel paused during a lull to talk about his involvement with the free tax preparation program.

“It's a good way to pay it forward,” he said.

Siegel said the program helps low-income people “unspend their money” that they might otherwise have to invest in professional tax preparation.

Hiring a tax preparer can cost \$100 on average, Siegel said, so the United Way's Tax Preparation campaign essentially puts \$100 back into the pockets of low-income individuals and families.

And that's before accounting for any refund they might receive.

Many families who are eligible for free tax preparation services are also eligible to

receive the earned income tax credit, an IRS program designed to put money back into the pockets of working families.

For example, a single parent with three children earning \$43,352 in 2010 (or a married couple earning \$48,362) may be eligible to receive a \$5,666 tax credit.

That's money saved for many families. And when the credit exceeds their taxes due, the difference is paid out in a tax refund — critical savings for low-income families.

“A penny saved is a penny earned for someone on a fixed income,” Siegel said.

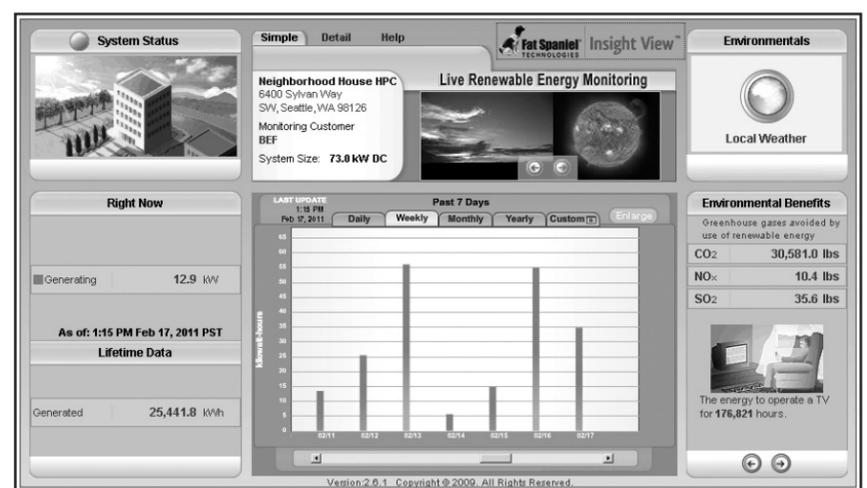
Tax center open Thursdays, Sundays

Mike Davis, who manages the High Point Center site, said during a recent afternoon in March that the High Point tax center had already helped more than 75 individuals and families file tax returns — a number that will certainly rise as the tax deadline nears.

Davis said its particularly important for low-income people to take advantage of the United Way's free tax preparation campaign because it's an easy way to learn about the Earned Income Tax Credit, a federal tax program that can save eligible individuals and families hundreds and even thousands of dollars.

The center is open from 5 – 9 p.m. Thursdays and noon – 4 p.m. Sundays at the High Point Center, 6400 Sylvan Way S.W.

High Point Center solar panel metering goes online



BY VOICE STAFF

Just how much power are those huge solar panel arrays atop the High Point Center generating, anyway?

By visiting the Neighborhood House website, you can now know precisely how many kilowatts are being produced by the High Point Center's solar arrays at any given moment.

The solar metering application is available online at www.nhwa.org/high-point. From the main page, select “What's up with the solar panels?” link, under the “Going Green” tab.

The metering app displays the current power output for the center's solar array,

as well as graphs charting daily, weekly, monthly and even annual production.

The application also features links to local weather information, for comparing current output with weather conditions.

The tool also converts the building's lifetime energy production to a handful of common appliances and devices, making it easier to quantify just how much energy the array has captured.

For example, according to the application, the center's solar panels have already generated enough energy to power 196 computers for an entire year!

Fat Spaniel Technologies set up the metering application.

RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

Linda Hardin, originally from Rainier Vista, returns to her old (changed) neighborhood

BY SCOTT FREUTEL
Seattle Housing Authority

When Linda Hardin moved into her brand-new apartment in Tamarack Place last November, technically speaking she was returning to a community she'd left years before. But the community along Martin Luther King, Jr. Way has changed so much that Hardin is still getting her bearings.

Nine years ago, when redevelopment of Rainier Vista was just getting off the ground, Seattle Housing Authority relocated Hardin from an apartment in Rainier Vista to one in Holly Court. She didn't care for the Holly Court place at all. Her apartment there was dark and cramped, she said recently, and the building was noisy. For quite a while she and the residents of 30 other apartments shared just one washing machine and one dryer among them.

Now she's moved back to Rainier Vista, into a spacious, east-facing one-bedroom apartment that's full of light. She has a dishwasher and a big new refrigerator, plus a washing machine and dryer she doesn't have to share with anyone. As a resident of Rainier Vista when redevelopment began, she was entitled to come back to the original neighborhood once there was a place for her.

Although she likes Tamarack Place a lot, she says, she does miss seeing familiar faces among her former Rainier Vista neighbors. Apart from a sister, Kathleen Hardin, who has also moved into the building, her neighbors are all new to her. Many are recent immigrants, and that's fine by Hardin.



Linda Hardin

"Most of the people here are friendly, and I enjoy meeting them," she said recently.

Hardin's first-floor apartment looks out over a playfield used by the Boys & Girls Club. She says she's getting used to hearing the always energetic, sometimes noisy kids who use the field.

Close by is a big parking lot owned by the Boys & Girls Club visitors, and Hardin wishes that it was available for parking the cars of residents of Tamarack Place. She knew when she moved in that Tamarack Place had been designed without tenant parking on the assumption that tenants would make use of the Metro buses and Sound Transit trains that run right by the building. However, the task of finding street parking on a daily basis is not one she enjoys.

"I spend a lot of time trying to find places to park, and moving my car," Hardin says. "But don't get me wrong - I really like it here. All these changes have turned out for the better."

Spring health fair in Rainier Vista draws 200



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Members of the Rainier Vista Cambodian Youth Dance Group (from left) Malena, Prenz, Rosalynda, Stephan, Selena and Sovannarith perform a traditional coconut dance. Run by volunteers, the Cambodian youth dance program has existed in Rainier Vista since 1994.

The group was part of the entertainment at the Rainier Vista Health Fair, which drew more than 200 people out to the Rainier Valley Boys & Girls Club. In addition to the entertainment, guests were able to browse information from numerous health- and safety-related service providers, receive complimentary dental screenings and blood pressure checks, receive free, confidential HIV testing, and enjoy dinner and refreshments. Event sponsors included Neighborhood House, Seattle Housing Authority, Neighborcare Health, Seattle University, Community Health Plan of Washington, the Washington Oral Health Foundation and the Boys & Girls Clubs of King County.

Respite

Continued from Page 3

evator. This ensures that respite clients and the building's 280 residents won't have to compete for use of the building's existing two elevators.

The fact that admission to the Respite facility is only by doctor's referral means that there will be no walk-up traffic by the general public. This is reflected in the way the new elevator is designed to tuck out of the way of the main public entrance to Jefferson Terrace. It will be a discrete, slender tower about 30 feet high, just to the west of the main entry vestibule.

At community meetings about the construction project on March 18 and 24, residents of Jefferson Terrace were introduced to the contractor for the remodel work, CDK Construction Services. This contractor has proved itself successful at working considerately in an occupied building with seniors and disabled residents during a Seattle Housing Authority project in 2010, as well as in recent work in sensitive environments like neighboring Harborview hospital.

The crew size will only be about half a dozen workers, and the duration of construction will be about five months due to ensure

the facility is completed by this summer. This limits the impact on the everyday life of the building, especially once the demolition is done in early April and concrete work for the elevator enclosure is done by mid-May, according to project manager Brent Palmason.

Besides the obvious physical work on site, there has been action behind the scenes in moving the project forward. With resources from its existing Pioneer Square Clinic, Harborview Medical Center was chosen as the operator of the Respite Care program. Jefferson Terrace resident Art Himmelman learned many details of the requirements for successfully operating the program, as he took part in the public Request for Proposal process to select the operator. He commented at the Feb. 3 Respite Care Advisory Group meeting that they clearly possessed the strong qualifications required for the job.

The operator will soon join the meetings of the Respite Care Advisory Group, which presents a forum for residents of the building, property management and Public Health to discuss and monitor the project. The next meeting is scheduled for 4 p.m. April 14 at Jefferson Terrace.

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9:30am-6:00pm
Please call (206)-461-4568
x202

Ask for Kat or Heidi

WHAT TO BRING

Social Security or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN) for each family member and working adults

W2s, 1099s and other income forms

Childcare provider name, address and tax ID

Bank routing and account numbers for checking and savings accounts

Don't forget to ask about qualifying for SNAP or WIC benefits.
Dial 2-1-1 or visit www.thebeehive.org/snap for more information.

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TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT CALL

206-461-4568 X202.

1 Economy

REAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

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NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY CALENDAR-APRIL



Block Watch Training

6 - 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 19
NewHolly Gathering Hall

- *Meet with neighbors and increase safety.
- *Learn what YOU CAN DO to prevent crime.
- *Up to \$200 for your summer block party!

*Seattle Police, Security, SHA, + Community Leaders!

Interpreters: Somali, Vietnamese, Tigrinya, Cambodian.
Children's Area: Ages 2-12

FREE PIZZA DINNER!



Parents Committee brings you:

FREE WOMEN'S EXERCISE

Tuesday, April 5
6:15-8:30 p.m.
Campus Hall



Tuesday, April 12
11:45 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Campus Hall

- * Childcare available ages 2-12
- * Only for NewHolly neighbors.
- * Please register in advance.

Call Magan 723-1790

\$10 Gift Cards for NewHolly residents who participate in a 2-hour discussion group to share your opinions about NewHolly. Space is limited. Call 723-1790 to register for one of the April groups that you qualify for. Vietnamese, Cambodian, Somali Women, Chinese, Tenants, Owners, Men, African Americans

NewHolly Neighborhood Night

6 - 8:30 p.m. Friday, April 29

*Come vote on your community mini-grants! \$4,000 for NewHolly!

*Hear the results of the discussion groups. How is NewHolly really doing?

*Get information for spring and summer activities.

*Learn how to get involved in community projects and activities.

Volunteers
always
welcomed!

Please call
the
NewHolly
Community
Building
Office.

Magan &
Gabby
723-1790.

Block Watch teams forming at NewHolly, next community meeting to be held April 19

As the result of several successful community meetings at NewHolly, Block Watch groups are being formed to increase safety throughout the community.

The most recent community meeting, held on March 22, had a very impressive turnout, double the attendance from February's meeting. There was resident representation from all three phases of NewHolly and several community members have stepped up to take the lead in encouraging their neighbors to form these Block Watch groups in the making.

All residents of NewHolly are encouraged to get involved in the process of making NewHolly a safer place to live.

The next community meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19th from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Gathering Hall. Pizza, salad and cookies will be provided for all in attendance.

For more information about the Block Watch groups being formed, residents can contact Community Builder Joy Bryngelson at 723-1725 or by email at jbryngelson@seattlehousing.org.

Daytripper

Continued from Page 2

to Northwest Market Street, where there is a bus stop and several option for fish-and-chips lunch.

Getting there and back: #33 Magnolia bus leaves downtown on Fourth Avenue approximately every 30 minutes. Ask the driver to let you off at the stop before Discovery Park, 33rd and West Government Way.

Walk back to 32nd West and turn left — in a little over a block, the street dead-ends and the trail through the ravine starts.

From the bus stop on Market Street, bus #44 goes to central Ballard and the University District and bus # 17 goes to central Ballard and downtown.

Access: A mostly easy stroller and wheelchair downhill on a hard-surfaced trail as far as 33rd West, where the half-block to Commodore Way is quite steep, has no sidewalks and has rough pavement — it is possible, but challenging. Returning to West Government Way from the ravine on the trail is not steep, but it is uphill all the way.

Lawsuit

Continued from Page 1

However, the Judge Jones determined that the plaintiffs would likely not succeed in arguing that the hearing officer is biased.

The injunction prohibits the Housing Authority from employing its current hearing officer, Lawrence Weldon, until the lawsuit is resolved. A panel of lawyers have been contracted to conduct LIPH hearings in the interim, according to Fearn.

The lawsuit has something of a precedent in the 2007 legal challenge of the Housing Authority's Section 8 grievance hearings process.

In *Hendrix v. SHA*, a federal judge ruled that Section 8 voucher holders are entitled to present a legal defense in a grievance hearing.

Following the litigation, the Housing Authority subsequently replaced Weldon, who at that time was also the Section 8 hearing officer, with a panel of attorneys.

Dunn said the reforms have been very successful.

"(Seattle Housing's) hearings program for the Section 8 program is about as good as you'll find anywhere," said Dunn of the reforms.

But Weldon was retained as hearing

officer for LIPH grievance hearings. Both Dunn and Fearn agree that Weldon does not have the requisite legal training to hear legal arguments in an LIPH grievance hearing.

But due process isn't necessary in an LIPH grievance hearing, Fearn said, because the standard is met if and when an eviction proceeds to trial.

"Residents have the full opportunity to assert any legal defenses they have in court, before they're evicted," Fearn said. "It serves no purpose to make a grievance hearing serve judgment on legal issues that would be determined a second time in court."

That's a key difference between LIPH grievance hearings and Section 8 hearings, the latter of which was successfully challenged in *Hendrix v. SHA*.

The Housing Authority must invariably take an LIPH tenant to court to proceed with an eviction, at which point the tenant can mount a legal defense.

On the other hand, a Section 8 voucher holder may contest the loss of his or her voucher, but the onus is on the participant to hire a lawyer and take the Housing Authority to court.

But Dunn countered that not all LIPH grievance hearings go as far as eviction. One party in the lawsuit is contesting a plumbing

bill that he believes he wrongfully received. Another is contesting a change in rent.

Those cases are not likely to go to trial, and Dunn argued that those tenants also deserve due process in resolving a grievance with the Housing Authority.

While due process is necessary before a person is removed of a right or benefit, such as his housing, Fearn said that it is not necessarily extended to less serious disputes.

"The question is, do we want to have a trial in a grievance hearing over a \$200 plumbing bill?" Fearn said.

But Dunn said that no matter the dispute, tenants are entitled to a fair hearing.

"The regulation that gives you a right to a grievance hearing to contest an eviction applies in any individual dispute that the tenant would have with the housing authority," Dunn said. "If there's anything at stake, you have the right to a grievance hearing."

Changes to the Section 8 grievance process cost the Housing Authority money, and Fearn said he expects reforms to the LIPH process would have the same effect.

Seattle Housing has already increased its budget for Section 8 hearings from \$50,000 to \$85,000. To alleviate costs, the Housing Authority is also focusing on counseling and other measures prior to terminating a participant's voucher.

The average hourly rate for a lawyer on the Section 8 hearing panel is \$92 per hour, according to Fearn. Weldon had billed \$50 per hour for his work as hearing officer.

"There's no question the cost will be significantly greater," Fearn said.

While the preliminary injunction ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, both sides may still argue their cases in court.

"Clearly, the judge currently believes that participants in grievance hearings should be able to present any legal arguments they have, and should have someone present who can make a judgment on those arguments," Fearn acknowledged. "Our job is to have the judge understand that the level of formality that he currently believes is required is not."



Please recycle me



YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

Planned streetcar to provide a new transportation link to Yesler

By NATE COLE-DAUM
Special to *The Voice*

Starting in 2013, residents of Seattle Housing Authority's Yesler Terrace neighborhood will have a new option for getting around. Construction for the First Hill Streetcar is on schedule to begin later this year.

When it is complete, this new rail transit line will connect Yesler Terrace to Qwest Field, Pioneer Square, the International District, Little Saigon, First Hill and Capitol Hill. The streetcar will be part of the ORCA smart card system and will be a free transfer from Sound Transit Link Light Rail or Metro buses.

Station locations under consideration near Yesler Terrace include the intersections of 12th and Jackson, 14th and Washington and Broadway and Yesler. The project is funded by Sound Transit.

The inaugural line of Seattle's modern streetcar network, the South Lake Union line, opened in December 2007 to a bustling crowd of thousands. The line's ridership continues to grow to a current total of more than 2,000 per day.

As the second line in the City of Seattle's growing streetcar network, the First Hill Streetcar will create a new connection for transit riders via Sounder commuter rail and Link light rail, as well as enhance connections to public transit systems including Metro buses and Sound Transit buses.

Modern streetcars feature low floors and wide double-doors for easy, accessible boarding; air conditioning; large windows; smooth rides; automated passenger information systems; and quiet, zero-emission electric traction power. Modern streetcars are very durable, which makes them well-suited to dense neighborhoods that may benefit from frequent service throughout the day and evening.

The duration of streetcar construction is estimated at two years, but activity in any given three-block section of track is typically completed in four weeks (per direction), with



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE FEAREY GROUP

A digital rendering shows what a streetcar station and public plaza at Broadway and Marion Street might look like.

less than one week of street demolition followed by track placement, involving smaller crews and equipment, and one day to pour concrete.

During construction, the city and its contractor will have community outreach personnel available to provide informa-

tion to Yesler Terrace residents on a daily basis and to manage construction activities to minimize impacts. More detailed construction schedules will be developed and reviewed with the community prior to the start of construction.

Notes from the manager

By JUDI CARTER
Seattle Housing Authority

There seems to be some confusion about reporting changes in income to the housing authority. Lately, I have noticed that some households have failed to report increases in income, but when they had decreases in income, the unreported increase was found and instead of having a rent decrease, the rent actually went up.

It is important that all income that is new to the household be reported when the income is received. This includes newly received Unemployment payments, child support payments, new SSI payments, new or changed jobs, TANF payments, etc.

All income received for all individuals in the household is included. When it is discovered that income was received by a household but not reported, the back rent is charged retroactively. This can be a hardship on families and also could be considered as fraud, if it is discovered that the household had income that they purposely failed to report. All of the information about income reporting requirements is included in your dwelling lease.

As most individuals know, decreases in income could be used to lower rent, but need to be reported to the management office in the first seven days of the month following the decrease. Pay check stubs and bank statements (if you have a bank account) need to be presented along with a change of circumstance form available at the front desk in the management office.

Also, if a family member leaves the household, or you have a new family member you wish to add to your lease, this form must be completed. If you are in doubt, please ask your Assistant Property Manager.

Emergency preparedness

Earthquakes are on most people's minds, because of the recent ones that have occurred in Japan. Information on how to prepare for such a disaster is available in the management office. If you can, stop by between the hours of 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the normal work week to pick up flyers about what to do to get ready for the unexpected.

Final environmental impact statement for Yesler redevelopment to be issued this month

Residents will learn about the Development Plan for Yesler Terrace and actions that the City will be taking in the next year at a resident meeting on Saturday, April 2 in the Multi-purpose room of the Yesler Community Center.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement for Yesler Terrace will be issued on April 12, and will be available as a link on the Seattle Housing Authority's website homepage.

The Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will be studying the Final EIS and the

Development plan over the next month and a half. The Board will hold its monthly meeting at the Yesler Community Center on May 17. At that meeting the Board will vote to adopt a Development Plan for Yesler Terrace.

The Development Plan will include information about the number and uses on the site, phasing considerations, an approach to relocation, a community participation plan, information on social infrastructure programming, sustainable infrastructure opportunities and funding partnership goals.

Denny Terrace Continued from Page 3

help residents get their apartments ready for the work. There was also assistance for residents requiring more extensive help, provided by ElderHealth Northwest (now known as Full Life).

"It took a lot of coordination and communication between the building staff, the construction crew and residents. But with great cooperation from residents, the whole thing started and ended right on schedule. This is something we can all be proud of," commented project manager Juan Medina.

With the interior work now 99 percent complete, the next changes on the horizon for Denny Terrace are on the exterior.

The first section of the building has been coated with a waterproof layer that will prevent leaks through the walls and roof. Next, a one-inch layer of foam provides a higher level of insulation for the building. On top of that, a stucco-like product provides another layer of protection and serves as a vehicle for the future color coats.

Guggenmos says she is looking forward to the end of April when the scaffolding and protective wrap around her section of the building is removed.

She will be able to make full use of the new windows again, but also see the new color scheme as it is unveiled for the first time. Then, every six to eight weeks thereafter, another section of the new exterior will be revealed, until the transformation is complete this summer.

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