



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



The Voice

September
2011
*Articles translated
into six languages*

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

County Council approves car-tab fee to fund Metro

By TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

Metro Transit will not see deeper service cuts, thanks to a car-tab fee approved last month by the King County Council.

The council voted Aug. 15 to approve a two-year, \$20 car-tab fee “councilmatically,” meaning the ordinance does not require voter approval. Council support ensures that funding for King County Metro will remain stable, at least for now.

The car-tab fee will raise a projected \$50 million to fund Metro, closing a substantial budget shortfall and staving off deeper service cuts — estimates put the cuts at 17 percent of Metro service. The \$20 fee will expire after two years.

Agreement came just weeks after the car-tab fee appeared headed to the ballot in November. Shortly before an Aug. 15 deadline to act on the ordinance, Republican Councilmembers Jane Hague and Kathy Lambert reversed their positions on the car-tab fee, and said they would join the five Democrats on the council in approving it. The seven votes on the nine-member

Please see “Car tab” on Page 3

A Day of Remembrance



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

A memorial and day of remembrance on the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks will be observed at the International Fountain in Seattle Center. The event, which is open to the public, will be from 5 – 10 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 11. For more details, see the related story on Page 2.

Gregoire tells state agencies to gird for further cuts

By VOICE STAFF

Less than two months after approving more than \$4 billion in cuts to the 2011 – 13 budget, Gov. Chris Gregoire has signaled to state agencies to prepare for more blood-letting.

Gregoire’s message to state agency directors is to prepare for cuts of 5 to 10 percent. The high end would put total cuts at \$1.7 billion.

The state will have to await the results of a Sept. 15 quarterly revenue forecast before deciding how to proceed if revenue is indeed down. Estimates put the shortfall at around \$500 million

More bad news for the state followed in the week that Gregoire made her announcement to prepare for more cuts. The state’s Economic and Revenue Forecast Council announced that sales-tax receipts were down \$9.4 million for the one-month period from July 11 – August 10, or about 0.8 percent below the forecast. Other revenue sources were also down over the same period, and personal income statewide could be down \$3.2 billion from projections.

Voters approve Hwy 99 tunnel; primary results set stage for November

By TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

The Highway 99 deep-bore tunnel is shovel-ready.

Voters approved Seattle Referendum 1 by a healthy margin in last month’s primary election, finally setting the Highway 99 tunnel and viaduct-replacement project in motion.

The referendum passed with 58.4 percent approval. The successful passage of the referendum authorizes the Seattle City Council to proceed

Opponents point to traffic studies that indicate that the tunnel may actually increase traffic congestion downtown and on Interstate 5, as drivers change their routes to avoid the tunnel’s tolls.

They also stressed that Seattle taxpayers

will be made to foot the bill for any cost overruns on the project, which has a budget of \$4.25 billion, including \$2 billion for the tunnel alone.

The referendum is a political defeat for Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn, who made opposition to the tunnel one of his signature issues even as the City Council voted to go ahead with the project.

Groundbreaking is scheduled for this month, and the tunnel is expected to be opened for traffic by December 2015.

Tunnel supporters outspent the opposition by a nearly 5-to-1 margin.

Voters approve Veterans and Human Services Levy; general elections races set

King County voters overwhelmingly approved renewal of the Veterans and Hu-

man Services Levy, with about 69 percent casting a “yes” vote.

The levy, funded by a property tax rate of 5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, is projected to generate \$100 million through 2017. Funds will provide a wide range of social services, including employment assistance for veterans, treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and affordable housing and rental assistance. The levy benefits both King County veterans and low-income individuals and families.

Two races for King County Council appeared on the primary ballot. In District 6, incumbent Jane Hague (37.9 percent) will face challenger Richard Mitchell (30.1 percent).

And in District 8, incumbent Joe McDermott (68.2 percent) will face challenger Diana Toledo (26.6 percent). The race will be

a rematch of the Nov. 2010 general election, in which McDermott and Toledo vied for the council seat vacated when Dow Constantine was elected King County Executive.

In primaries for two Seattle City Council positions, two challengers emerged to face incumbents in November’s general election.

In the Council Position 1 race, challenger Bobby Forch, a longtime city employee, received 26 percent of the vote. Forch will face incumbent Councilmember Jean Godden (43.4 percent) in November’s general election.

In the Council Position 9 race, incumbent Councilmember Sally Clark (72.2 percent) will face challenger Dian Ferguson (21.9 percent), the former executive director of public-access channel SCAN TV.

Please see “Primary” on Page 5

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“Anything is possible if you really want it. The million-dollar question is, what do you want?”
— Thach Nguyen inspires a group of young people during a visit to the Neighborhood House High Point Center. Please see the related story on Page 4.



Health Notes

A column devoted to your well-being

Ready for school? Immunize for a healthy and safe school year

BY PUBLIC HEALTH - SEATTLE & KING COUNTY

The start of school is just around the corner. For a healthy and safe 2011 - 2012 school year, every parent's back-to-school checklist should include making sure children are up to date in their immunizations.

Recent cases of pertussis in Washington state, the unusually high number of imported measles cases in the United States this year, and an ongoing mumps outbreak in neighboring British Columbia are all important reminders that vaccine-preventable diseases remain a threat to health.

This school year, the following vaccines are required:

- All students will need proof of three doses of hepatitis B vaccine and two doses of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR), an age-appropriate series of polio vaccine and diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine.

- Two doses of chickenpox (varicella) vaccine or doctor-verified history of disease are required for age kindergarten through grade 3. Students in grades 4,

5 and 6 are required to have one dose of varicella or parental history of disease. Varicella vaccine is recommended for children in grades 7 - 12 who have never had chickenpox.

- Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis vaccine) is required for students in grades 6 through 10.

The complete list of the immunization schedules for schools, including child cares and pre-schools, is online at www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/immunization/children.aspx. If you do not have a health care provider, contact the Family Health Hotline at 1-800-322-2588 or www.ParentHelp123.org for assistance.

Although not required for school entry, immunizations are also recommended for children to protect against hepatitis A, meningococcal disease and human papillomavirus (HPV) infection. Ask your health care provider about these vaccines.

Parents or legal guardians have the right to choose not to immunize their children, based on medical, religious or

Please see "Health" on Page 3

Sign your child up for free or reduced-price meals at school

Your children could be eligible for free or reduced-price meals at school through the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

Your household income will determine if your children are eligible. The 2011-12 guidelines specify that if you're in a family of four, your children are eligible for free meals if your household's pre-tax annual income is no more than \$29,055, or \$2,422 a month. If you're in a family of four, your children are eligible for reduced-price meals if your household's pre-tax annual income is no more than \$41,348, or \$3,446 a month.

Income includes wages, Social Security, pension, unemployment, welfare, child support, alimony, and any other cash income.

You can apply any time throughout the school year by asking for a National School Lunch/School Breakfast application at your child's school and returning it to school personnel. You'll likely need to provide your child's name, the names of all household members, income by source for all household members, and an adult family member's signature.

If your children are eligible, they'll be able to eat lunch at school for free or for a reduced price and eat breakfast at school for free. Children in kindergarten through third grade who qualify for reduced-price meals can eat lunch for free.

All meals meet federal food guidelines and must contain one-third of the recommended dietary intakes for protein, calcium, iron, vitamin A and vitamin C.

Federal income guidelines for free, reduced-price meals, 2011 - 12

Household size	Annual income, reduced price meals	Annual income, free meals
2.....	\$27,214	\$19,123
3.....	\$34,281	\$24,089
4.....	\$41,348	\$29,055
5.....	\$48,415	\$34,021
6.....	\$55,482	\$38,987
7.....	\$62,549	\$43,953
8.....	\$69,616	\$48,919

Volunteer of the month



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Jared Schapiro helps arrange a place setting prior to the 10th Annual Neighborhood House Breakfast Celebration.

BY TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

Since coming to the agency in March, Jared Schapiro has joined the ranks of Neighborhood House's super volunteers.

In between jobs as a public-school teacher, he has taken on a nearly full-time gig volunteering for Neighbor House.

"I've been getting to know the organization as much as I can," Jared said, during a break while assisting in one of our ESL classes at the Neighborhood House High Point Center. "I've enjoyed everything I'm doing right now."

That Jared is getting to know the organization is almost an understatement.

Jared has volunteered for a wide range of Neighborhood House programs, including our ESL job training, our youth tutoring summer camp, our YELS pro-

gram at High Point, and our development department. He was also a volunteer referee for a youth basketball tournament at the High Point Center this spring, and at our agency's 10th Annual Breakfast Celebration in April.

It might seem easier to list the programs he's not volunteered with.

Of course, he does have his favorites, and given his background as a teacher, it's not surprising he prefers working with young people.

"What I probably enjoy the most is working with teens, in a program like YELS," Jared said.

He'll have that opportunity in his new job — with Neighborhood House. The agency recently hired Jared as its Youth Tutoring and Activities Assistant.

"I really want to use my education to serve the community," he said.

Community invited to gather for 9/11 Day of Reflection

10+Seattle, in partnership with Boundless Events, City of Seattle, Compassionate Action Network and Seattle Center, invites Seattle residents to attend a memorial and remembrance events on the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

10+Seattle - A 9/11 Day of Reflection will be held at Seattle Center on Sunday, Sept. 11. The event includes a period of quiet reflection from 5 - 8 a.m., followed by open community interaction from 8 - 10 a.m. The group will gather at the International Fountain at Seattle Center.

The event will aim to provide a place for all who wish to be together to reflect and share moments of remembrance, resilience, empathy, healing, community and compassion.

Background and more information

On Sept. 11, 2001 and the following days, more than 30,000 people gathered around International Fountain for a flower vigil that became one of many such spontaneous

gatherings around the world expressing the depth of humanity's capacity for empathy and compassion when faced with great loss and sorrow.

Ten years later, on Sunday, Sept. 11, the fountain will once again welcome all who wish to gather and turn their thoughts and hearts once again toward humanity's greatest strength — compassion.

There will be no speeches or presentations. At 5:46 a.m., the Kobe Bell will sound, correlating to the time that the North Tower was struck. The consecutive three events of Sept. 11, 2001 will be marked in the same manner at 6:03 a.m., 6:37 a.m. and concluding with a final ring at 7:03 a.m. All are welcome and asked to stay for at least ten minutes in meditative reflection and remembrance.

For more information visit www.seattlecenter.com, call 206-684-7200, e-mail tenpluseattle@gmail.com or find the event on Facebook under "10plusSeattle."

The Voice

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

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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Seattle, WA 98104



Neighborhood House

Be safe

September is a good time to conduct a lighting survey in your neighborhood

BY KELLY MCKINNEY
Seattle Neighborhood Group

September has arrived and the nights are getting longer. Fall is an excellent time to do a lighting survey around your neighborhood. If you find a street light that is burnt out or malfunctioning you can tell Seattle City Light about it on their website. Here is the address: www.seattle.gov/light/streetlight/form.asp

A neighborhood lighting survey is a great community building activity as well. Neighbors can have a community dinner and then walk around the neighborhood to check the lights.

If you live in one of the family communities (High Point, NewHolly, Rainier Vista and Yesler Terrace), it is important to be aware of who owns which lights. Report lights owned by the Seattle Housing Au-

thority to SHA. Report lights owned by the City of Seattle to Seattle City Light.

Every Seattle City Light pole has a number. The number is etched onto a tag, which is nailed onto the pole.

The website also asks for the address of the house or building closest to the pole, your name and contact information. You will also be asked to describe the nature of the problem.

Lighting is an important element to keeping your community safe at night. Making sure that outdoor lights function properly is important step in ensuring community security.

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

Car tab

Continued from Page 1

council were enough to ensure automatic passage of the fee.

The deal was contingent upon a series of reforms to Metro, most notably the elimination of the Ride-Free Area in Downtown Seattle, a popular program that nonetheless cost Metro a net of \$1.8 million annually to operate. (The City of Seattle paid Metro \$400,000 annually to offset the total cost of \$2.2 million.)

The agreement will also create a transit incentive program that will provide eight bus vouchers with each car tab renewal during the duration of the fee program. Metro will also increase the pool of discounted bus tickets allotted to local social service agencies, which in turn pass the tickets on to clients.

In a statement, King County Executive Dow Constantine thanked the councilmembers who supported the ordinance.

"Though statesmanship may be on its deathbed in Congress, tonight's vote shows that it is alive and well here at home in King County," Constantine said. "This is a victory for our regional economy and a victory for those who turned out overwhelmingly to call upon us to save Metro Transit. The people of King County spoke, and we heard them loud and clear."

Support for automatic passage of the car-tab fee was overwhelming, with an

estimated 1,500 county residents turning out to offer comment at four public hearings on the issue. Nearly all of those who offered comment voiced their support of the ordinance.

News of the deal was first reported Friday, Aug. 12, with an announcement by King County Executive Dow Constantine that an agreement had been reached on reforms to King County Metro.

Councilmembers Hague and Lambert had said they would join fellow councilmembers Bob Ferguson, Larry Gossett, Joe McDermott, Julia Patterson and Larry Phillips in supporting the car-tab fee.

The Monday, Aug. 15 vote made it official, and the \$20 fee received councilmatic approval by a margin of 7-2. Councilmembers Reagan Dunn and Pete von Reichbauer opposed the ordinance.

Seattle car-tab fee to appear on November ballot

Although the \$20 King County Metro car-tab fee will not appear on the November ballot, Seattle voters will be asked to weigh in on a city car-tab proposed by Mayor Mike McGinn.

The \$60 annual fee would help fund road and transit projects, and would raise about \$200 million a year. Of that, 49 percent would go to transit projects, 29 percent to roads and 22 percent to bike and pedestrian projects.

Health

Continued from Page 2

philosophical reasons. However, there is a risk when choosing against vaccination. In addition to the potential risk of becoming infected with a vaccine-preventable disease if exposed to the illness, a child who is not fully immunized may be excluded from attending school or childcare during an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease.

In King County, the vast majority of

parents and guardians aim to complete the immunizations schedule, but 5.1 percent of children had a signed exemption at kindergarten entry in fall 2010. A new law, effective this year, changes the process for parents or guardians to exempt their child from school or child care immunization requirements. Under the new law, parents must get vaccine education from their health care provider and signed verification from their provider if they choose an exemption.



One to grow on

Garden tips for community gardeners

With the right techniques, a bountiful tomato harvest can be yours

BY ANZA MUENCHOW
Special to The Voice

Home-grown tomatoes are a Northwest favorite, but it is often difficult to get many ripe fruit. With the cool weather of early summer, many gardeners were discouraged about their tomato crops for 2011. Now we've had some lovely warm days to help the crops ripen, so let's take advantage of the last days of summer and get the tomatoes ready to harvest.

Tomato plants are either determinate (short, compact) or indeterminate (i.e. vining) varieties. Indeterminate varieties require trellises, cages or other vertical supports. These vining plants will continue to produce all the way until the end of September.

With a little work, we can get these plants to work on ripening the tomatoes instead of growing vines and leaves. To keep them healthy through the late season, allow more sunlight and air to reach the fruit by pruning away the lower leaves and any branches (suckers) that are not bearing large fruit.

Vertical growing keeps plants up off the ground and away from the splash of soil onto the leaves. Consider removing all leaves and vegetative growth up about 10 inches from the ground level. Do continue to water the soil around plants in the morning because even if it rains, the soils are rather dry after August, and a little sprinkle of rain will not hydrate them.

Some gardeners force more ripening by using a pruning saw or other long, sharp implement to cut straight down into the soil about six to eight inches from the trunk, cutting a semi-circle around one side of the plant. The intent is to shock them a little and let them know it's time to ripen the fruit. Within a couple weeks, they will do just that.

The main tomato problem in September is late blight. Cool wet weather brings this disease, and there are only a few techniques to delay this. Keeping leaves dry is

the key. Constructing a rainproof plastic or glass cover will help, but remember to allow for good air circulation during the day to reduce humidity.

As this disease is almost inevitable in our climate, watch for its early signs and harvest when it invades your garden. Dark, mushy spots will form on the leaves and stems. Some pruning out of the disease will help, but if it is in the plant's vascular system, the disease spreads to the fruits and they will rot, not ripen.

I usually pick the whole uninfected vine (not roots) and hang these in a warm, dry, dark room where much of the fruit will ripen. Or just pick the fruits and lay them in trays without touching each other. Gardeners can often keep these fruits slowly ripening throughout the fall until November.

It is very important to remove any diseased vines from your garden. Good garden hygiene is extremely important when battling blight. The disease spores will build up in garden soils and attack your plants aggressively in following years. Do not compost the old tomato vines.

Rake up diseased leaves and take them far away from your vegetable garden. The Seattle City composting facilities can heat up the compost enough to kill the spores, or use as mulch in a forested area where the spores will die.

For those unripe tomatoes, we enjoy making lots of green tomato chutney or relishes. Chop and cook the green tomatoes with vinegar, spices and honey. Use lots of garlic and ginger. This can be stored in the refrigerator for a few weeks or can be processed in canning jars to use later in the winter. It is delicious on scrambled eggs or on pizza crusts with goat cheese.

Enjoy the bounties of your fall harvests.

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

Rainier Beach Community Center Late Night program has a new temporary home at South Shore K-8

BY SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION

2012 school year."

The Rainier Beach Community Center Late Night Recreation Program, displaced by planned construction of a brand new Rainier Beach Community Center and Pool, will continue to take place at South Shore K-8 School, 4800 S Henderson St., through the 2011 - 2012 School Year.

Seattle Parks and Recreation and Seattle School District staff used the summer to try out the program at South Shore K-8, and both agreed it is the best fit for our community of youth in Rainier Beach.

"It's great that our facility is used to serve our youth of the Rainier Beach Community," said South Shore K-8 Principal Keisha Scarlett. "We are excited to continue the partnership with Seattle Parks and Recreation through the 2011-

The Late Night program has been operating at South Shore K-8 since July 8.

The program will complete its summer quarter on Sept. 3 and will resume its Late Night operation every Friday and Saturday beginning Sept. 9.

For more information on Rainier Beach Late Night programs, please call Nicole Franklin at 206-255-2546 or e-mail Nicole.franklin@seattle.gov.

Seattle Parks Late Night Recreation provides a safe, supervised environment for teens ages 13 - 19 on Friday and Saturday evenings to socialize with friends, interact with staff and participate in a variety of formal and informal recreation and learning opportunities that build capacity and strengthen participants' life skills.

Live Aloha Hawaiian Cultural Festival

Seattle Center Festál: Live Aloha Hawaiian Cultural Festival offers exploration and insights into the culture of the Hawaiian Islands, Sunday, Sept. 11, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., in the Fisher Pavilion and Fisher Rooftop and the South Fountain Lawn.

Seattle Center Festál: Live Aloha Hawaiian Cultural Festival is presented by Seattle Center in partnership with the Live Aloha Hawaiian Cultural Festival Committee. For a full event schedule, visit www.seattlelivealohafestival.com, and for more information on this cultural series and other Seattle Center programming, click on www.seattlecenter/festal.com or call 206 684-7200.



The power to inspire

Thach Nguyen urges youth to follow their dreams

By TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

If there's one lesson Thach Nguyen wanted this roomful of young people to learn, it was this: Do what you want to do; be who you want to be.

Nguyen, 41, a local real estate agent, investor, and self-made millionaire, is living proof of the value in that lesson.

"Anything is possible if you really want it," Nguyen said. "The million-dollar question is, what do you want?"

He was speaking to a group of about 30 teens in Neighborhood House's YELS program, which encourages middle- and high-school-aged youth to become leaders and affect positive change in their communities. Many of the students in the class are first-generation Americans, and Nguyen said he saw himself in many of the faces in the room.

To reinforce his lesson, Nguyen shared with the group some of his many ambitions, which he has collected in a notebook. The goals range from the more immediately attainable — trips to Hawaii, Vietnam, Indonesia — to the far-reaching — a private jet, a yacht, a multi-million dollar estate. Far-reaching, but not necessarily far-fetched.

At one time it may have seemed that way, when Nguyen, 4, was fleeing Saigon with his family as a refugee of the Vietnam War.

Nguyen and four brothers, joined by his mother, Ngot, pregnant with a sixth child, and father, Nhon, who worked as a translator at a U.S. military base, were evacuated from Saigon in April of 1975, as the Viet-



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Thach Nguyen (kneeling, second from left) is a local real estate agent and developer who has a talent for motivating and inspiring young people.

cong entered the city.

The family spent time in what was essentially a shelter for refugees set up in Camp Pennington in San Diego before moving to Tacoma, to Sumner, and finally settling in the Rainier Valley.

Nguyen went to Asa Mercer Middle School — "I went there!" a girl interjects, excitedly — and to Franklin High School. He was teased, he said, for his poor English and for the clothes he wore from Goodwill. His family had very little money.

Far from a model student in high school, he graduated with a 2.3 GPA and barely passed his senior year. He described himself as "pretty much the top of the bottom of the list."

He said he lapsed into delinquency, following friends who were more interested in drinking or partying than in education. Some of those same friends, he said, are now dead or in prison. Judging from his tone, it does not sound like an exaggeration.

But Nguyen found himself on the other side of his troubled teenage years, enrolling in South Seattle Community College

and later taking a job with Windermere Real Estate. By age 27, he had made his first million.

He later joined John L. Scott and, through his success selling homes, expanded into real estate investing, development and home construction. He's now head of Thach Real Estate Group.

In addition to his for-profit real estate work, Nguyen's business has a philanthropic arm dedicated to providing housing for homeless families. His efforts have led to 25 families being placed in housing, according to his website.

He credits his drive to realize his goals and be the person he wants to be as critical to his own success.

"If there's anything you want to do in life, please make sure you follow your passion," he urged.

And while the ambitions of the teenagers in the room may seem far out of reach in the present, Nguyen reminded them to consider his own journey.

"I was just in your seat, not too long ago," he said.

Register for the SAT practice test

The Seattle Public Library and Kaplan are offering an SAT practice test at two locations Sept. 17. Test-takers will receive their results at a follow-up session Sept. 24.

Scores are confidential. Test-takers will also learn how to improve their score through smarter test-taking and will get tips on online resources to prepare for the actual SAT.

Bring a pencil, eraser, calculator and a snack. Preference is given to high school students. Registration is required, and the test is limited to those who can attend both sessions.

Test schedule

10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17 – Practice Test

10:30 a.m. – Noon Saturday, Sept. 24 – Test results and study tips

Test locations

Rainier Community Center
4600 38th Ave. S.
Call the Columbia branch at 206-386-1908 to register.

Lake City Community Center
12531 28th Ave. N.E.
Call the Lake City branch at 206-684-7518 to register.

Práctica del examen SAT

Sábado 17 de septiembre de 10:30 a.m. a 3:30 p.m.: Práctica del examen

Sábado 24 de septiembre de 10:30 a.m. al mediodía: Resultados del examen y consejos para el estudio

Rainier Community Center
4600 38th Ave. S.

Para inscribirte, llama a la sucursal de Columbia al 206-386-1908.

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

Para inscribirte, llama a la sucursal de Lake City al 206-684-7518.

Se requiere inscripción. Limitada a los estudiantes que pueden asistir a ambas sesiones.

Thực Tập Thi Trắc Nghiệm SAT

10:30 giờ sáng – 3:30 giờ chiều, Thứ Bảy, ngày 17 tháng Chín – Thực tập trắc nghiệm

10:30 giờ sáng – 12 giờ trưa, Thứ Bảy, ngày 24 tháng Chín -- Kết quả kỳ trắc nghiệm và các mẹo hướng dẫn cách học thi

Rainier Community Center
4600 38th Ave. S.

Xin gọi Chi Nhánh Columbia ở số 206-386- 1908 để đăng ký.

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

Xin gọi Chi Nhánh Lake City ở số 206-684- 7518 để đăng ký.

Cần phải đăng ký. Giới hạn cho các học sinh nào có thể đến dự cả hai buổi.

የSAT የልምምድ ፈተና

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Imtixaanka Tijaabada ah ee SAT

10:30 a.m (subaxa) - 3:30 p.m. (galabtii). Sabti, 17-ka Sibtambar – Imtixaan tijaabo ah

10:30 a.m. (subaxa) - Duhurka Sabtida, 24- ka Sibtambar – Natiijooyinka imtixaanka iyo talooyinka barashada

Rainier Community Center
Xarunta Bulshada Rainier
4600 38th Ave. S.

Ka wac Laanta Columbia lambarka 206-386-1908 si aad isu sajiiso.

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

Ka wac Laanta Lake City lambarka 206-684-7518 si aad isku sajiiso.

Sajilaad ayaa loo baahan yahay. Ku xaddidan ardayda kulanada timaada.

News notes

Blooming into resiliency: King County Mental Health Conference

The 2011 King County Mental Health Conference, "Recovery and Resiliency: Stepping Stones Into Recovery," will be held from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 9 and Saturday, Sept. 10, at Seattle Central Community College and the Broadway Performance Hall, which is adjacent to the college.

Thirty-six workshops focused on Wellness, Skill Building and Leadership will be offered free of charge to those who are either consumers or in the workforce in the publicly funded mental health system.

Workshops range from how to quit smoking to youth- and parent-directed peer support groups and supported employment. Creative self-empowerment, the healing power of the arts and learning personal boundaries are other topics that will be offered.

Keynote speakers include Amy K. Long, LPN, founder of Bridges of Hope, a supportive network for consumers working as providers; Rick Shepler, Ph.D., from the Ohio Center for Innovative Practices; and Terre Garner, LSW, executive director of the Ohio Federation for Children's Mental Health and trained parent partner.

Registration for the conference is required. Lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Terry Crain at 206-263-9000.

For veterans, an opportunity for rest and recovery at 'Stand Down' event

Seattle Stand Down

From 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Sept. 15 in the Charles H. Mitchell Activity Center at Seattle Central Community College.

A "stand down" is a military term for a time of rest and recovery for exhausted combat units.

This day, "Stand Down" is a need-based program that is designed to help our veterans and at-risk veterans, combat homelessness and get some needed resources.

Some of the resources will include medical, legal aid and employment services, as well as alcohol and drug counseling referrals, housing resources and personal hygiene items.

Guests will have an opportunity to take showers. Food and clothing will be provided.

"The central theme of this event is to have a respite from the streets," said Sam Barrett, a veteran, in a video promoting the event.

You can reach Seattle Central Community College via Metro Buses 8, 9, 10, 11, 43, 49 and 60. Free parking for the event will be available in the Harvard Garage, which is located on the corner of East Pine and Harvard.

If you would like to volunteer at the event, please call United Way of King County at 206-461-3700.

Local residents rally to raise funds for famine-ravaged Somalia

Fundraising event to be held Sept. 9 at High Point Center

BY SHUKRI OLOW
Special to The Voice

Historically, Somalia was a nation with a socialist dictatorship government that could provide for its people. With power comes thirst for more power and in 1991, tribes wanting their turn at leading the country ousted the Somali government, led by Siad Barre.

In the ensuing civil war, thousands of people, including children, the elderly and mothers, died at the hands of brutal militiamen.

Thousands of Somalis walked and hitchhiked for weeks and months to find freedom, to find water and basic necessities. Thousands died in that journey for survival.

After 19 years of insecurity, and a weak transitional government, famine in Somalia has now destroyed the lives of nearly 12 million people in the Horn of Africa. After years of drought, the crisis has now hit a tipping point.

Fundraiser to help famine victims in Somalia

When: Sept. 9 at 6 p.m.
Where: Neighborhood House High Point Center, 6400 Sylvan Way S.W.
The fundraiser will benefit Islamic Relief or Mercy Corps.

Famine has been officially declared in five regions of Somalia. The United Nations expects the famine to spread across all regions within two months. The famine is the result of crop failure, livestock death and prices in local markets that are too high for most people to buy what is needed to feed their families.

In addition, a weak government battling the militia group Al-Shabab has created one of the worst humanitarian crises of our lifetime.

United States officials and aid agencies reported that the drought and famine have taken the lives of 29,000 children under the age of five.

We have heard countless stories and seen unforgettable images, and the situation worsens.

In Somalia, children are starving to death before their mother's eyes as they

trek to Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, or to refugee camps. Without any time to grieve, a mother of five walked to save her only surviving child, racing against time only to die at the refugee camp.

In these tough economic times, we are all strapped for cash and have families to feed. But at the end of the day, it is up to us to do something because children and innocent victims are suffering.

High Point residents are hosting a fundraising event to make a difference. In an effort to provide support to aid agencies working in Somalia, residents are planning to raise \$20,000.

High Point residents have families in Somalia that are dying by the dozens. This tragedy is not only affecting the lives of innocent people in Somalia, but our clients, our neighbors, our friends and families.

Those dying in the middle of the road, in the bush, and in refugee camps are not nameless. Let's take a moment to remember their lives at this event.

The fundraiser will benefit Islamic Relief or Mercy Corps. Your donation will help save a life.

Shukri Olow is a Seattle Housing Authority employee and the High Point Community Builder.

Primary
Continued from Page 1

Four seats on the Seattle School Board were also contested in the August primary. Incumbents will advance to the general election in each case, but only District 1 Director Peter Maier (51.4 percent) received more than 50 percent of the vote. Maier will face challenger Sharon Peaslee (37.8 percent).

The primary was seen as a referendum on the Seattle School Board, which has been criticized for its handling of a financial scandal that ultimately led to the termination of Superintendent Maria Goodloe-Johnson.

In the other school board races, incumbent Sherry Carr (39.9 percent) will face challenger Kate Martin (32.4 percent) in District 2; incumbent Harium Martin-Morris (41.2 percent) will face challenger Michelle Buetow (28.3 percent) in District 3; and incumbent Steve Sundquist (43.2 percent) will face challenger Marty McLaren (30.2 percent) in District 6.

Voter turnout for the Aug. 16 primary was slightly better than 30 percent in King County.

The general election will be Tuesday, Nov. 8. For more information, visit www.kingcounty.gov/elections.

Note: Election results were compiled from www.kingcounty.gov/elections and were current as of Aug. 25.

Daytripper: With regional transit on the wane, take these trips while you still can!

BY KRISTIN O'DONNELL
Yesler Terrace resident

It was nice while it lasted. On Aug. 16 the Lower Columbia Community Action Program in Longview discontinued the public bus service between Olympia and Centralia.

Now there's a 30-mile no-public-transit stretch between the two towns, and it is no longer possible to get to Portland for under \$12 roundtrip. (Next most-affordable? Bring friends on Greyhound. The family and friends discount brings the per person round trip cost to Portland down to \$37 each if four people travel together.)

If you have internet access, check out Amtrak's weekly deals every Tuesday at <http://tickets.amtrak.com/itd/amtrak/weeklyspeicals>. The fares are around half price (about \$40 roundtrip to Portland) and sell out fast. Specials are not offered on every train every week — you'll need a flexible schedule.

This may not be the last public bus route that goes away. If you've been thinking about going on a public transit daytripper adventure south to Olympia, Steilacoom or Aberdeen, east to Snoqualmie or North Bend, west to the Olympic Peninsula or north to Bellingham, Whidbey Island, Mt. Vernon, LaConner or Monroe, do it while the bus still goes there. Do it soon.

Steilacoom

Go, but probably better to go on summer Wednesdays for the Farmers Market, or on the weekend. It's the oldest incorporated town in the state (1852), and is a really, really small town, with excellent views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains, and several little parks that would be good for a picnic.

Two museums, one tribal, one old-settler historical, are both open weekends only. There are no grocery stores in town and one (rather expensive) open-for-lunch restaurant. The restaurant is located in the historic Bair Drug and Hardware store. It has a lot of its original fittings and is worth a look around.

Bring a lunch, or pick up something from one of the many options in Lakewood, and perhaps buy an ice cream cone at Bair's. And yes, you can just look around inside the building and not buy anything.

The Puyallup Fair, Sept. 9 - 25

Baby pigs and lambs! Quilts! Scones with raspberry jam! Discounted tickets, saving up to \$2 off regular price, are available from Safeway and Walgreens. Admission rates are \$9 adult, \$7.50 for students (6 - 18) and seniors



PHOTO BY KRISTIN O'DONNELL

A stately Victorian home overlooks Puget Sound in downtown Steilacoom.

(62+). Children under six are free, and all children have free admission Sept. 9 and 10.

Vaux swifts migration in Monroe, mid-September (roughly Sept. 8 - 25)

Thousands of migrating Vaux swifts fly into the chimney of Frank Wagner Elementary School in Monroe each evening at dusk. Awesome! The school is in a residential neighborhood about six level blocks west of town. No food, no water, no restrooms. Plan ahead!

Getting there:

Steilacoom — Sound Transit 592 or 594 (on Second Avenue) Pierce Transit 204 or Sound Transit 574 to Lakewood Center Transit Mall. Pierce Transit 212 to Steilacoom.

Puyallup — Take Sound Transit 578 (on Second Avenue) to the Puyallup Sounder Station. Transfer to Pierce Transit 402 Graham. Get off at Puyallup Fairgrounds. Same buses in reverse, with option for Sounder Train from Puyallup to Seattle.

Monroe — Sound Transit 510 to Everett on Fourth Avenue (also stops at freeway stop in the University District) leaves every half hour on weekdays. Transfer at Everett Station 1 to Community Transit bus 275, which leaves Everett on the half hour and stops a block away from the school. The CT Local bus schedule has an adequate map of Monroe — the school is on the north side of West Main Street, between the ends of the Village Way loop — the Senior Center stop is closest. Return to Everett on the CT 271 and transfer to ST 510.

Getting home again:

All return trips involve buses that run infrequently (hourly) and stop running early. Know the schedules and where the return bus stop is. Do not miss the last bus home!

Because you may be waiting for buses more than a short time, warm clothes and a rain jacket or umbrella will be useful. And if you'll be trying any of the Daytripper journeys later than Sept. 30, check in advance to see if the bus route is still there.

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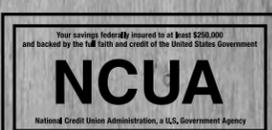
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Name _____ Address _____

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Write your ad here (one word per line)

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

Mail to: PPC, PO Box 80156, Seattle, WA 98108 Fax: 206-461-1285
E-mail: class1@nwlinc.com w/subject line "The Voice"

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

Shutterbugs

RV CLASS TEACHES PHOTOGRAPHY

See Page 5



SHA NEWS

September
2011

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

Come celebrate the grand opening of Lake City Court



PHOTO BY LAURA GENTRY

The new Lake City Court will provide 86 apartments, mostly to low-income families.

New complex to provide 86 low-income apartments

BY LAURA GENTRY
Seattle Housing Authority

Seattle Housing Authority invites friends and colleagues to celebrate the completion of Lake City Court on Tuesday, Sept. 20 from 11 am – 1 pm. The new complex is located at 12536 33rd Ave. N.E., next to the Lake City House apartments.

Doris Koo, who was instrumental in setting Seattle Housing Authority on a course to renew more than half its housing units through the HOPE VI program, will be the keynote speaker.

Lake City Court Grand Opening

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Sept. 20
12536 33rd Ave. N.E.
Accessible from downtown Seattle via 522 Express bus

The grand opening will feature tours of the site, a half-hour program at 11:30 a.m., and food from local restaurants.

Lake City Court can be easily accessed by bus. From downtown Seattle, catch the 522 Express at Pike Street and Sixth Avenue, and get off at the next stop on Lake City Way N.E. at N.E. 125th St. Walk one block east to the building. Other buses with stops within one block of the site include the 41, 64, 65, 72, 75, 79, 306, 312, 330 and 372.

Lake City Court provides 86 apartments for low-income residents on a 2.3-acre site rich with urban conveniences and services. With an emphasis on energy-efficiency and livability, the new apartment building conforms to the highest standards of green building.

Located in a pedestrian-friendly urban hub, it has services and retail within easy walking distance. There are excellent transit connections in the neighborhood, with 600

Please see "Lake City" on Page 5

2012 Budget and MTW plan are available for review

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

As of August 31, Seattle Housing Authority's proposed 2012 Budget Summary and the draft 2012 MTW Plan are available for review on www.seattlehousing.org.

The agency will host a public hearing at 5 p.m. Sept. 15 in the Board Room at Seattle Housing Authority's Central Office, 120 Sixth Ave. N., to hear from interested residents and others regarding these plans. The public comment period will extend to the end of the business day on Friday, Sept. 30.

Comments may be emailed to Beka Smith at bsmith@seattlehousing.org, or mailed to her at Seattle Housing Authority, 120 Sixth Ave. N, PO Box 19028, Seattle WA 98109-1028. Beka can be reached by phone at 206-615-3576.

Annual MTW plan aims to assist residents' transition from public housing

The general themes for the proposed MTW activities are to continue many of the same priorities of the past year, while increasing consistency between policies in the public housing and the voucher program. Seattle Housing hopes to encourage households that are able to increase their incomes to "graduate" into unsubsidized housing, thus creating room for those on the waiting list. New proposed MTW activities will include the following policy changes:

- If a household has assets of less than \$50,000 (savings or property, for example), the income from these assets will not be counted in calculating their rent. The extensive paperwork involved and the complexity of calculations are not justified by the results.

- In mixed-income communities such as NewHolly and Rainier Vista, Seattle Housing will no longer subsidize a household when their income exceeds the established limit for six months' duration. The household will be able to remain in their home without subsidy, but will pay market-rate rent.

Please see "MTW" on Page 6

Proposed 2012 budget initiates period of declining revenues, staff layoffs

A summary of Seattle Housing Authority's proposed 2012 Operating and Capital Budget is available on the web at www.seattlehousing.org. The proposed budget will be presented initially to the Board of Commissioners at their Sept. 19 meeting. The Commission will vote on both the Budget and the MTW plan at a special board meeting on Oct. 10.

The specifics of the totals for revenues and expenses were not yet available as The Voice went to press, but the overall themes are clear. Over the past year, pressure from Congress to decrease discretionary domestic spending has grown. Funding for public housing clearly falls into this category, and appropriations for public housing operating and capital funds are declining.

Projected revenues in 2012 will be the same or less than 2011 revenues. Expenses (including utilities, gasoline and employee benefits) will continue to increase. Because it is not possible to increase revenues significantly, budget planning work has focused on the need to decrease expenses by at least \$10 million

Please see "Budget" on Page 6

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In her sister's footsteps

Jackson Park resident scores Dream Big! scholarship

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

Faduma Moalim, a 17-year-old resident of Jackson Park, in North Seattle, has been awarded a Dream Big! Scholarship. She is one of six young residents of Seattle Housing programs to be awarded the \$1,000 scholarship.

Faduma's sister, Fardowsa Moalim, now 19, was awarded the same scholarship

last year, and is now a student at the University of Washington.

Faduma was born in Somalia. She lives with her mother, Asho Hassan, and two brothers and two sisters.

Faduma graduated from Ingraham High School. Like her sister, she has enrolled in the University of Washington, where she

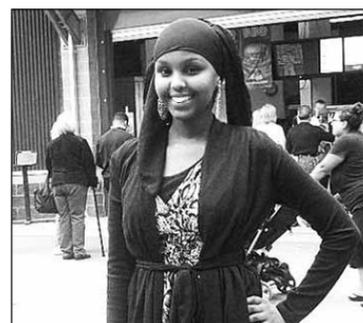


PHOTO COURTESY OF FADUMA MOALIM

Faduma Moalim has been awarded a Dream Big! scholarship.

plans to prepare for a career in medicine or dentistry. She said she intends to continue living in the Northwest after grad school.

Faduma said recently in an e-mail interview that she usually did 18 to 20 hours' homework while a senior at Ingraham, where she found math to be the hardest subject. Asked what her favorite subject was, she said, "I enjoy writing so I would have to say that was my favorite."

Faduma said that her goal for now is "to accomplish what I set out to ac-

Please see "Scholar" on Page 2

CSTI workshop provides a lesson in community organizing

By MATTHEW ANDERSON
University House resident

Last month I attended the Community Strategic Training Initiative (CSTI) conference at Reed College in Portland. CSTI is a three-day event, hosted by the Western States Center, and provides training for community advocates in the Northwest through a variety of workshops.

I looked over the CSTI website before applying and was pleasantly surprised with the wide range of training offered in areas such as diversity, fundraising, social change, and building alliances, just to name a few.

Each workshop contained a bio of its facilitator, all of whom were experts and very active within the arena of social justice.

It was hard to narrow my choices, but I finally decided to register for three workshops. Each of the workshops I attended left a unique impression on me, but what really stood out was the Community Organizing 101 workshop.

The workshop was a combination of a role-playing exercise and classroom learning. I was surprised at the varying degree of advocacy experience held by those in attendance.

We were divided into two groups to perform a role play pertaining to a local hospital. The hospital staff would report to the police anyone who brought in overdoses resulting in teenage deaths.

The first group was concerned citizens attempting to overturn the policy, and the other group was the hospital administration. The exercise became very emotional, because it was easy to be caught up in the struggle of the community involved.

After discussing the lessons we learned in the exercise, the facilitators outlined

how to develop a line of attack for advocates. I learned that effective organizing begins by defining what your goal is — in other words, what it is you want to achieve — and knowing who has the power to give you what you want.

Once you have defined these, you can outline a strategy, develop resources and see if there are any organizations that have resources in place with which to build alliances. This information will be a useful tool for the University House Resident Council to use when discussing and advocating issues in our own community.

Yet, I think my best memory from the conference was on the last night at CSTI. It was a cool evening and I sat on a porch in the middle of the Reed College campus with a few of the other attendees from Seattle Housing Authority.

As we relaxed, admiring one of the old buildings on campus, we talked about a wide range of subjects, such as how one group member's boyfriend cooks turkey on a grill, the history of Reconstruction and Prohibition, and how one member was able to reconnect with an old friend from school.

Soon the topic shifted as one of our group described a previous conference at Reed, and her time at Princeton. Every once in a while we would pause as the workers rolled the last convention tables by.

Then we would continue our talk. I was surprised as one of our group told us his experience studying physics at Reed, his alma mater. Eventually, our talk turned to peaceful silence. It was time to retire and say goodnight as the conference came to a perfect ending.

Matthew Anderson is the president of the University House Resident Council.

Resident testimony sought at nonsmoking policy public hearing

Seattle Housing is holding a public hearing to receive resident feedback and opinions on a nonsmoking policy. Attendees will be able to provide testimony in support of or share concern for the proposed extension of the non-smoking policy.

Nonsmoking Policy Public Hearing

Tuesday, Sept. 20
Porchlight Building
907 N.W. Ballard Way

The meeting will take place from 6 – 8 p.m. in the community room. Sign up between 6 – 7 p.m. to provide your statement.

Interpreters are available upon request. Please contact Thai Nguyen at 206-615-3338 by Sept. 12, 2011 to request an interpreter.

If you are unable to attend, Seattle Housing will also accept written comments during the public comment period from Sept. 1 – 30. You can review a copy of the policy summary in your Management Office and submit written comments on the nonsmoking policy.

If you wish to make comments on this policy, they must be in writing and returned to the Management Office, emailed to thnguyen@seattlehousing.org, or mailed to

Seattle Housing Authority
Policy Comments: Thai Nguyen
PO Box 19028
Seattle, WA 98109

All comments must be received in writing by 5 p.m. Sept. 30.

Authority's public housing programs and its Housing Choice Voucher program (Section 8). The award, of \$1,000 for tuition and fees, is paid to the school that the recipient will attend full-time in the next academic year. Recipients must be younger than 21.

Other awardees of this year's Seattle Housing Authority Dream Big! scholarships were Dolce Lopez, Danny Phan, Faduma Sharif and Jamila Sulayman.

Scholar

Continued from Page 1

comply, be the best I can be, help others and enjoy the work I am doing."

She's already made progress toward that goal: She has volunteered in Yesler Terrace's tutoring program for several years, and she worked as an intern with Microsoft during her senior year in high school.

Dream Big! scholarships are awarded annually to residents of Seattle Housing



Letters to the Editor

Readers of *The Voice* speak out

Doing one's part to clean up the neighborhood

Hi there, my name is Greg Potter. I live in "little old Lake City House."

Greg Potter has been working on the Lake City area, especially 33rd Avenue Northeast, with Chuck Dickey from the local Lion's Club. Also with Allan Davis, who teaches how to be safe in your neighborhood.

Greg and his aide have been on the phone for people to clean up 33rd Avenue Northeast. And now the power pole that had been lying on the ground for five years finally got taken away.

Greg is working on the pedestrian walkway just off Lake City House on the east side of the street. Greg asked for new painted pictures on the walkway, and new signs. Greg is doing his share around here!

Chuck Dickey has cut down the bushes

by the stream across the street — Thornton Creek on 33rd Avenue Northeast. Garbage and litter and junk in the ditches, on banks of dirt and in bushes — Greg has called people to pick those up.

Greg has had many articles in *The Voice* newspaper about how to prepare for emergencies, the weather and how to prepare for it, keeping his street clean, the upgrade of businesses and housing around him. Even an article about Greg's new wheelchair-accessible apartment when his building was remodeled!

Greg advertises for different stores with signs on his chair. He hands out copies of events, activities and info on himself. Greg goes to many events around Lake City.

Thank you!

Greg Potter

Lake City House

Seattle Housing receives HUD grant for resident services

Funds will focus on jobs, self-sufficiency

By SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

Seattle Housing Authority received notice last month that it will receive a \$708,759 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that will fund services to help low-income residents achieve their self-sufficiency goals.

This grant is part of \$31 million awarded nationally to some 110 public housing authorities, resident associations and nonprofit organizations under HUD's Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency (ROSS) Service Coordinators Program.

"This is a significant grant award that will allow us to support residents in their self-sufficiency goals. We are fortunate to receive this funding at a time when we are confronted both locally and nationally with a prolonged deep recession," said Community Services Administrator John Forsyth.

The funding will support three full-time staff positions at the Seattle Housing Authority. These caseworkers will assist public housing residents, particularly at NewHolly and Yesler Terrace.

Staff will work with residents to set goals pertaining to employment, education, savings accounts, budgeting or homeownership and then help them connect to the resources they need to achieve their goals. The grant

will fund staffing for three years.

Full Life Care, a Seattle nonprofit, also received a \$720,000 ROSS grant. The grant will fund three full-time case workers who will serve residents in 28 of Seattle Housing Authority's public housing buildings. Service coordinators will have a variety of roles in the buildings they serve, including assessing the medical and mental health status of residents, linking residents to needed services and assisting residents during emergencies.

Sean Walsh, Full Life's clinical operations manager, said, "For many years Seattle Housing Authority has been at the forefront of the effort to empower and support the self-sufficiency of residents in public housing. This ROSS Grant will enhance that effort by allowing our case managers to connect residents to opportunities for training, employment and support services. We're grateful to Seattle Housing and HUD for giving us the opportunity to work on this project."

According to HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, "We need to take a wider view of the needs of public housing residents beyond just housing if we're to be true to the goal of promoting self-sufficiency. The caseworkers that housing authorities can hire or keep on staff help thousands of public housing residents connect to opportunities to obtain jobs or increase their incomes that lead to self-sufficiency and improve quality of life."

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

Years in development, the Medical Respite Center has its grand opening

Facility will begin providing respite care this month

BY SVEN KOEHLER
Seattle Housing Authority

Recovering from hospital treatment is hard enough, but where would turn if you were living on the street or in your car? This is when a medical respite program could be a godsend, offering a safe place to heal for the homeless.

After years of preparation, the Seattle Housing Authority is proud to be hosting the newest of such facilities in King County, according to Executive Director Tom Tierney. The new Medical Respite Center at Jefferson Terrace is slated to begin operation in the first week of September.

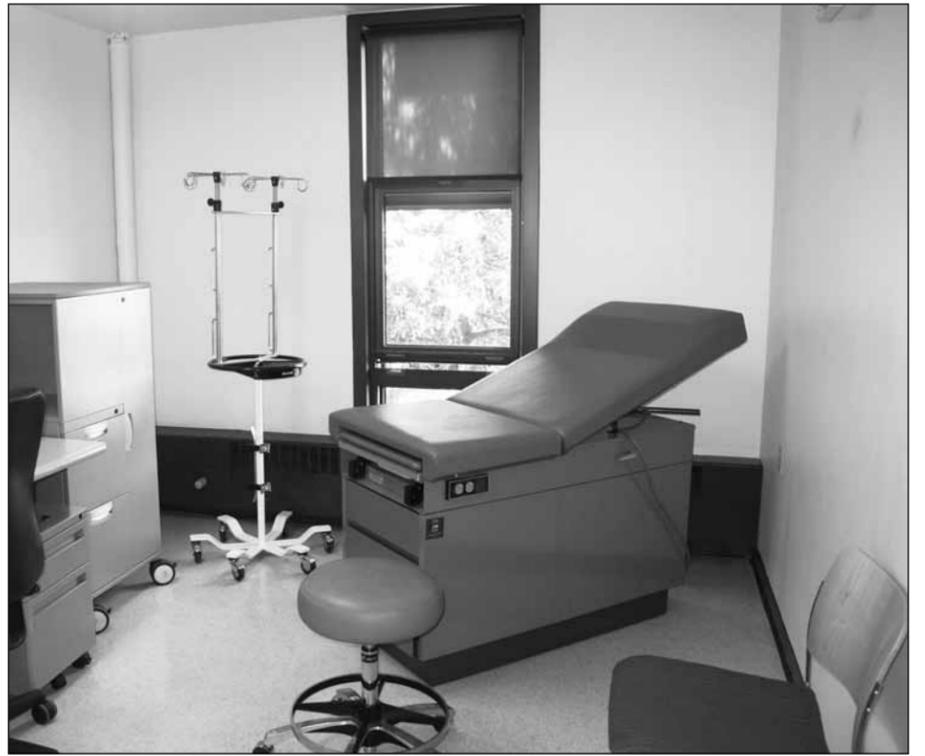
It is estimated that 500 clients will be assisted by the Center each year. They will stay only briefly, without leasing units, so the program is different from the Low Income Public Housing that is provided in most of the rest of the building.

The Center was developed by Public Health - Seattle & King County, with staffing from Harborview Hospital. The staff is independent of the building's property management team, just as at Full Life Care, the other standalone program hosted at Jefferson Terrace. Full Life Care provides



community services from the sixth floor. Although the Center's doors won't open for clients until early September, the first week of August marked the grand opening events. Jefferson Terrace residents, several of whom were involved in the planning leading up to the program, were treated to a sneak preview event on Aug. 1. Tierney and others spoke at a public grand opening ceremony the next day.

King County Executive Dow Constantine, who co-chairs the committee, also spoke at the event on Aug. 2. He stressed the important role that medical respite plays in meeting goals of the County's strategic plan. The program improves healthcare, uses hospital emergency care resources wisely and helps contribute to a more just and fair society. "Here is an excellent example of our medical, behavioral health and housing partners coming together as partners to maximize our resources, coordinate care and create opportunities for better health and stability



PHOTOS BY VIRGINIA FELTON

One of the former apartments (above) on the seventh floor was converted into an exam room for clients of the Medical Respite Center at Jefferson Terrace. King County Executive Dow Constantine (left) speaks at the grand opening of the Medical Respite Center at Jefferson Terrace. Over 100 people attended the event and toured the new facility on the building's seventh floor.

for a very vulnerable population," he said. Financial contributions for the construction came from the King County Mental Health Fund, plus a large capital grant from American Recovery and Reconstruction Act through the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA.) Operating costs will largely be covered by a consortium of King County hospitals that will refer clients discharged from hospitals or emergency room treatment to the program. Before the Center's doors could open, a

six-month-long remodel project began on Jefferson Terrace's seventh floor this March. Apartments were redesigned to offer temporary sleeping and recuperation quarters in a semiprivate configuration with more than one occupant per room. The kitchens in the apartments were removed to make room for two or three beds.

Other units became a space for common meals, a laundry and program offices. The

Please see "Respite" on Page 5

Maintenance problem and it's after hours?

You may need to call the emergency maintenance line

BY LISA WOOD
University House resident

If you live in a high-rise community, in Seattle Senior Housing or at Bayview Tower, you might be acquainted with the emergency and after-hours maintenance number.

The line is meant for maintenance problems that "poses an immediate threat to life, health, safety or property, or that is related to fire safety," but may also be used to report that a resident is locked out of his or her apartment.

There are other types of work order requests that can be explored in your building with your assistant property manager. In this article, the primary focus will be on the ones that pose immediate threats. It also includes locking yourself out of your apartment after hours.

Typically, office hours for most Seattle Housing Authority office buildings are from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

During after-hours, when an emergency arises, you can call 206-443-4440 to reach a

compassionate, caring person who will take some information from you and relay it to an electrician, plumber or carpenter. That person will assess the situation and return your call.

When you dial the emergency after hours answering service number, you are asked for your name, the building in which you live and your telephone number. It is very difficult for the answering service to relay the message properly if you don't provide that information to them. The message is then transferred to a qualified Housing Authority staff member, who assesses the situation.

The Housing Authority staff member proceeds to call the resident back, most of the time within an hour, and walks the resident through the problem.

"The goal is returning the call in one hour," said Carmine Pascucci, Operations Program Administrator for Impact Property Services.

The plumbers and electricians who work for the Housing Authority and respond to maintenance requests are all highly skilled, experienced professionals, Pascucci said.

"They have been here for five, 10, 15, and some even 20 years," he said. "When they get the call, they can assess the problem very

Please see "Maintenance" on Page 6

Denny Terrace features new UFAS units



PHOTO BY SVEN KOEHLER

As homeWorks begins wrapping up at Denny Terrace, residents began moving into the completely renovated, fully-accessible apartments created during the renovation project. Former one-bedroom units were reconfigured according to the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS). This meant moving walls to create larger kitchens and bathrooms that can accommodate the turning radius of a wheelchair. There are other features called for in UFAS that are meant to be friendly to wheelchair users, like knee space under kitchen counters and peep-holes on the front doors at the right height. Shown here is a bathroom with roll-in shower, featuring a collapsible lip on the shower pan that lets wheels roll over but keeps water in. Across Seattle Housing Authority's portfolios, over 180 UFAS units have been created since 2008, including 65 in high-rises.

HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY

Not-so-weird science: High Point fair showcases student experiments

By VOICE STAFF

Fun, friends and science — and the ubiquitous baking soda volcano — were on display last month at the High Point Science Fair.

Students in Neighborhood House's science club dabbled in the scientific method, testing out hypotheses and then sharing their results with a panel of judges.

One particularly inventive experiment involved using the positive and negative charges on a battery to split water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen.

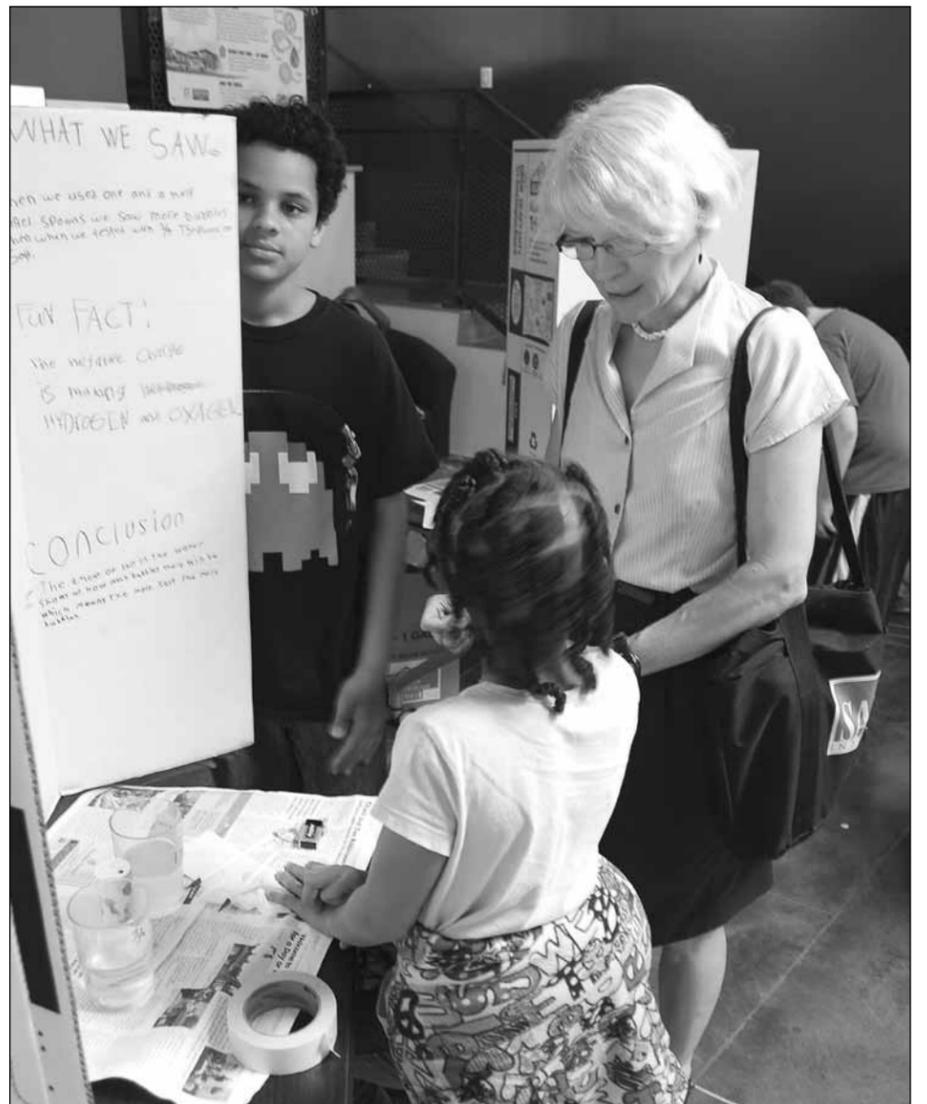
"We thought we could be different by

trying this," said Cynia.

One judge, Dr. Reitha Weeks — an honest-to-goodness scientist who works for the Northwest Association for Biomedical Research — said the science fair was a great way to get youth thinking about science... even if some of the experiments were a little short on detail.

"I think kids need to see scientists, and see how science can be exciting!" she said.

Other experiments included a do-it-yourself lava lamp (made with water, food coloring, vegetable oil and alka-seltzer), a cluster of alum crystals grown in a water solution — and two baking soda volcanoes.



PHOTOS BY TYLER ROUSH

At left, Isaac attaches wires to a battery for use in an experiment that splits water molecules into their component parts of hydrogen and oxygen. Above, Isaac and Cynia share the results of their experiment with science fair judge Dr. Reitha Weeks.

Seattle Market Garden's CSA program provides fresh produce to subscribers

By SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

For those in Seattle who feel the city got cheated out of a proper summer, a visit to the High Point Juneau Community Garden and Market Garden is a great antidote.

The garden, which is located at the corner of 32nd Avenue S.W. and S.W. Juneau Street and is currently flourishing, is part of the Seattle Market Gardens program. The program is a collaboration of the City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods and the nonprofit organization P-Patch Trust. The land is provided by Seattle Housing Authority.

One popular service of Seattle Market Gardens is the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Each week for approximately 20 weeks, subscribers to the

service can pick up organic produce from their community farmers. They receive eight to 15 items each week, depending on their "share" size. A full CSA share feeds approximately four to six adults and costs about \$25 per week. A half-share in the CSA program feeds approximately two to three adults and costs about \$15 per week. Pickup times for produce are Thursdays from 5 – 7 p.m. through Oct. 20.

At this time of year, CSA subscribers can expect to see produce such as basil, tomatoes, potatoes, salad mix, cucumbers, kale, bok choy and more.

The farmers who grow crops for the CSA program at the High Point market garden are primarily immigrants from East Africa and Southeast Asia and live in the High Point community.

The program allows these farmers to provide food for their family and friends, serves as a source of income for the farmers and gives them an opportunity to practice English speaking skills with their customers. You can read more about the farmers here: <http://1.usa.gov/n64QXS>.

CSA sales in Seattle's market gardens have actually gone down in recent years as farm stands have become a more popular option, which allow more flexibility and freedom for the consumer.

Sales at area farm stands have tripled in the past two years while CSA sales are declining. The Seattle Market Gardens program coordinators say they are assessing and reevaluating their programs each year to best serve the farmers and community.

The farm stand at High Point's market garden is open every Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m. until Sept. 28. For more information about farm stands in the Seattle Market Gardens program, see the story about it in the NewHolly section of this issue.

To become a CSA subscriber, you can print out the application at <http://1.usa.gov/rlaJEq> and mail it to the

address listed on the application.

For more information about the CSA program, you can contact Michelle Jones, the Seattle Market Gardens marketing manager, by phone at 206-372-6593 or email at michellj58@hotmail.com.



PHOTO BY LAURA GENTRY

Farmers at the High Point community garden work the land as they prepare for a Thursday evening pick-up time for their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) subscribers.

Shining in the summer sun



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Hundreds of yellow daisies were in full bloom near the P-Patch garden on the north end of the commons park on a sunny afternoon last month in High Point.

RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

An eye for photography

Youth learn photo skills in class at RV

By TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

The young shutterbugs fanned out across Rainier Vista’s urban farm, stooping to snap photos of a cluster of tomatoes here, a clever fan of leaves over there.

The aspiring photographers are part of Neighborhood House’s Digital Photography class at Rainier Vista.

Some of the students have been interested in photography, as they put it, all their lives.

“In preschool my teacher had a camera, and I always wanted it,” said Miryam, 15.

The class teaches the art of photography more than its technical aspects. Students are encouraged to develop their “eye” for photography — things like aperture settings, exposure value and white balance can come later.

Instructor Kat McGhee and Neighborhood House volunteer Louise Kurabi, herself a professional photographer, have collaborated on the class.

The class is designed to teach the youth “to use photography as a storytelling medium, because (cameras) are so ubiquitous today,” Kurabi said.

The idea is “not just to take a picture but to make a picture,” she said.

The students took a field trip to the nearby urban farm where, shot list in hand, they happily snapped away.

But first, they had to get their hands dirty.

Mariah Pepper, who works at the farm, guided the students through the art of weeding — how to pluck out unwanted invaders without leaving so much as a trace of a root behind. The six youths worked up and down the rows of plants, stopping every few feet to dig out a lone weed or the occasional clump of mushrooms.

Afterward, they shredded newspaper for use as habitat in the garden’s worm bins, which will help generate the rich fertilizer

needed to feed the garden.

Then it was back to the garden, this time with cameras in hand.

Their shot list included photos of four different types of plants, easily done among the rows of the rich and vibrant garden. The students were also asked to look for more abstract photography concepts — examples of a pattern, a specific shape, line and perspective.

The photos were to be assembled into a slideshow about Rainier Vista and the urban farm — teaching a method of storytelling through photos.

While the urban farm field trip highlighted photography techniques in a natural setting, a field trip the following week tested the students’ architectural photography skills. The class visited the Olympic Sculpture Park on Seattle’s waterfront. It’s a garden of a different kind, full of manmade objects with lines, shapes and patterns all their own.



PHOTO BY SHUAIB MOHAMED

Shuaib Mohamed likes to take pictures of everything that happens to him. On a field trip to the Olympic Sculpture Park in Downtown Seattle he became interested in the shipping traffic on Elliott Bay, seen here behind one of the park’s sculptures.



PHOTO BY ISA SALES

Isa Sales documented the issue of litter in the Rainier Vista community. This picture demonstrates the use of compositional techniques to make a strong picture. The photo makes the plastic cup look interesting yet still out of place in the grass.



PHOTO BY MARIYAM SALES

Mariyam Sales made a photo narrative about prayer and its importance to her as a Muslim youth. This picture of her sister praying captures an important moment of her family’s everyday life and identity.

Respite

Continued from Page 3

two-bedroom unit on the floor became an examination room and interview rooms where clients will be referred to mental health care and permanent housing options elsewhere.

Admission to the Medical Respite Center at Jefferson Terrace is by referral only, with no walk-up services. The program’s entrance is very discrete, without public signage that is obvious from the street.

The most noticeable modification for this project was the construction of an entirely new elevator that runs directly between the Respite Program’s outside entrance at the 6th floor street level and the facility on the seventh floor. This was created to reduce the burden on the buildings existing elevators that serve the rest of the 17 floors.

The clients of the program do not have

access to the rest of the building, so other modifications include cameras installed in the hallways to help with security during the 24/7 staffing in this controlled access facility. Fire doors leading to the rest of the building are alarmed and monitored, as well.

The last item on the construction list will not be completed until after the program opens, which is the relocation of the rose garden that once stood where the new elevator was built. Preserving the garden was one of the suggestions that residents of Jefferson Terrace made early in the planning of the program.

The roses were moved off site during construction, but will be replanted this autumn. The restoration of the rose garden may be on the agenda of the next meeting of the Respite Resident Advisory Group, which meets in the Jefferson Terrace Community Room at 4 p.m. Oct. 20.

Lake City

Continued from Page 1

bus trips originating every day within two blocks, including one-stop express bus service to downtown and ten additional bus lines.

Most of the apartments at Lake City Court will serve families. The units include eight one-bedroom apartments, 60 two-bedroom apartments, 14 three-bedroom apartments and four four-bedroom apartments.

In order to accommodate families with children, the building has been carefully designed for privacy and controlled access. Most ground-floor apartments have entrances that open directly to the outside. Access to the various wings of the apartment house is designed so that only those families who live in that section will have access. This design minimizes noise and enhances security.

Apartments are generously-sized for families, with dishwashers and efficient front-loading washers and dryers in each unit. Windows in the apartments are large,

allowing maximum light and radiant heat to minimize energy costs.

Lake City Court provides a comfortable and convenient environment for people with disabilities. Six of the apartments are fully accessible, and three are equipped to accommodate hearing- and/or sight-impaired individuals. An additional 20 apartments are adaptable for accessibility, and 60 of the apartments can be easily visited by people with disabilities.

Lake City Court sets a new standard for green affordable housing. Overall, construction at Lake City Court is 30 percent more energy-efficient than typical new construction. Its roof has an array of solar panels that will generate 71 kilowatt hours of electricity annually. This meets at least 10 percent of the building’s electricity needs. All units are individually metered to allow residents to control their own energy consumption.

The roof also supports a solar hot water system to generate half of the building’s domestic hot water (more during the summer months, less during the winter).



Neighborhood House

Strong Families. Strong Communities. Since 1906.

NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

NewHolly farm stand serving up fresh, organic veggies



PHOTO BY LAURA GENTRY

A customer at the NewHolly farm stand looks over the fresh produce provided by community farmers. The farm stand is open each Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. through Sept. 30.

By SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

If you've been admiring the green thumbs of gardeners at the NewHolly Rockery Community Garden this summer, Fridays are your chance to benefit from their bounty. The garden features a farm stand every Friday evening throughout the summer and early fall.

The farm stand was created by the Seattle Market Garden program, a collaboration of the City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods and the nonprofit organization P-Patch Trust. The program's mission is to establish safe, healthy communities and economic opportunity through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and farm stand enterprises. The land is provided by Seattle Housing Authority.

The farm stand, located right in the NewHolly neighborhood at the corner of S. Holly Park Drive and Rockery Drive S., offers a place where the community can meet their neighborhood farmers and pick up fresh, organic produce throughout the growing season. It is open every Friday from

4-7 p.m. through Sept. 30.

At this time of year, visitors to the farm stand can expect to see produce such as onions, shallots, potatoes, salad mix, kale, bok choy and more. Seattle Market Garden farm stands throughout the city are becoming more popular, with sales tripling in the last two years.

The farmers who grow crops for the farm stand at the NewHolly market garden are primarily immigrants from Southeast Asia and live in the NewHolly community. The program allows these farmers to provide food for their family and friends, serves as a source of income for the farmers and gives them an opportunity to practice English-speaking skills with their customers. You can read more about the farmers here: <http://1.usa.gov/n64QXS>.

The NewHolly market garden also features a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. For more information about the Seattle Market Gardens CSA program, see the story about it on Page 4, the High Point section in this issue.



Visit the NewHolly Community website at <http://www.newholly.org/>

You'll find a Directory of Services, announcements of neighborhood events and community projects, a link to The Voice resident newspaper and much more.

MTW

Continued from Page 1

- The Housing Authority will explore establishing a new savings match program to assist people who are moving out of subsidized housing.

- Besides these new activities, the 2012 MTW plan includes a number of activities that are a continuation of existing programs. These activities are organized around the overall directions established in Seattle Housing Authority's strategic plan (available at www.seattlehousing.org under "News and Reports"). Here is a sampling of these activities:

- Complete construction of rental units at Rainier Vista Northeast and Lake City Court;

- Rehabilitate elevators and continue envelope work and window replacement in Seattle Senior Housing Program buildings;

- Complete the assessment of the steam heating system at Jefferson and design a replacement system;

- Continue planning and redevelopment work for the rehabilitation of Yesler Terrace;
- Increase landlord recruitment and retention to enhance housing choice throughout the city;

- Expand "Ready to Rent" classes, teaching rental preparedness, search tips, and tenant rights and responsibilities;

- Become the administrator for a new

countywide housing locator website that provides information on available rentals in Seattle and King County;

- Transform the Yesler Terrace steam plant into a community center that will provide early childhood education and adult training for the neighborhood;

- Work with the school district, city and community partners to improve access to educational opportunities and youth services for youth residing in Seattle Housing properties and among voucher households, including initiatives such as the College-Bound Scholarship Program;

- Smoothly transition SSHP properties as they begin to receive public housing subsidy;

- Partner with the Seattle - King County Public Health Department to provide smoking cessation services to residents;

- Continue to transition Seattle Housing buildings to nonsmoking living environments;

- Convert payment for all Section 8 landlords to either direct deposit or stored value ATM cards, to eliminate mailing and reduce transaction costs; and

- Decrease car travel between Seattle Housing offices by moving to a new office building, thus bringing together staff currently located at the Central Office, Porchlight, and the north Operations Center.

For a printed copy of the MTW plan, contact Beka Smith.

Maintenance

Continued from Page 3

accurately, and they know each of these buildings very well."

"The staff will walk residents through the problem while they are still on the phone a lot of times," said Bob Wyda, Housing Operations Support Manager.

Pascucci stressed that, when calling the emergency line, it's important to remember that the person who calls you back from Seattle Housing Authority knows what he or she is talking about, has the situation under control and can be trusted.

In a crisis, it is difficult at best to remember that the people who are working on call are responsible for agency-wide emergencies. There is one carpenter, one plumber and one electrician on-call for the entire Seattle Housing Authority agency on any given night, according to Pascucci.

So the plumber that you need might be calling you from a South Seattle location while you are living in the north. When

the plumber calls he or she is going to ask you a series of questions to troubleshoot the problem.

In the troubleshooting he or she may deduce based on his skills and years working with different Seattle Housing Authority buildings that he does not have to come to your building, and that the problem may, in fact, not be possible to resolve until the following morning.

"A very small percentage of repairs are actually going to be charged to residents," said Pascucci.

Although the financial aspect is always of great concern for everyone, the resident's safety is the most important thing to all of the Seattle Housing Authority Staff at all times. And please remember that to receive the most efficient and prompt possible service, it is important to give your name, building and apartment number when asked for it by the person at the answering service. That way he or she can assess the problem and offer help in the most efficient way possible.

Budget

Continued from Page 1

in order to balance the budget.

With the recent agreements on the debt ceiling, Seattle Housing staff members believe the agency is very likely to see continuing decreases in HUD revenues over at least the next five years. These revenues (which make up about 75 percent of our funding) are likely to be flat after that. Because this will likely be a long-term decline in revenues, temporary measures cannot make up the difference. The agency must look to new ways of operating in order to address this challenge.

The Housing Authority will be looking to change how it does business in significant ways. The agency will continue its commitment to the established directions in the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan, but it will have to move forward more slowly.

Unfortunately, the Housing Authority is faced with the necessity of reducing its

operating expenses by cutting non-staff expenses and by reducing its workforce by nearly 10 percent. This means that up to about 50 employees will lose their jobs (depending on the number of occupied vs. vacant positions among those being eliminated). These layoffs will not include resident managers. Layoffs will be seen in all departments of the agency, however, and changes in services to residents will result.

Over the long term, Seattle Housing's goal will be to continue to serve at least the same number of households it is currently serving. It will adjust standards for operations, maintenance, landscape and other areas. Seattle Housing will rethink and re-engineer its business models and will re-examine its policies. The Housing Authority must inevitably choose to do less in some areas.

More specific information about the budget is available in summary format at www.seattlehousing.org.

YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

Young Yesler residents learn about the world of work — and thrive

BY SCOTT FREUTEL
Seattle Housing Authority

Late last month a City Club luncheon honored seven interns who had just completed participation in the Yesler Terrace Youth Engagement Program, which was sponsored by Seattle Housing Authority in partnership with Seattle Neighborhood Group and Creastives4Community.

Honored were Dagiem Alemu, Winta Yohannes, Andy Trinh, Fardowsa Farah, Hai Xiang Liao, Kiseri Tensaew and Clairra Le. All are residents of Yesler Terrace and all are between the ages of 16 and 19.

The interns were selected following an interview and review of their résumés. They were required to work four days a week for firms and associations involved with Yesler Terrace and its redevelopment; on Fridays, they worked on professional development, including developing résumés. All the interns completed their assignments successfully.

A budding civil engineer?

One intern for whom the program has already made a significant difference is Clairra Le, 16, who lives with her mother, Linh Nguyen, and her brother, Andrew, 8.

Clairra was placed as an intern with SvR Design, a firm that provides civil engineering, landscape architecture, planning and environmental restoration and that specializes in innovative and sustainable solutions. (The firm describes its approach to projects as “equal parts passion and creativity” and “holistic and collaborative.”)

SvR Design, which has worked on such Seattle Housing Authority projects as the High Point and Rainier Vista communities,

“She’s the only 16-year-old I’ve ever met who’s read an Environmental Impact Statement.”

— Matt Suhadolnik of SvR Design, referring to Yesler Terrace resident and intern Clairra Le

is involved in planning for the Yesler Terrace redevelopment project.

Clairra is a junior at Cleveland High School. She’s taking AP classes and maintains a near-4.0 GPA. This fall, inspired by her experience at SvR design, she’ll also be taking landscaping and civil engineering courses at Seattle Central Community College.

“This is a whole new field for me,” she said recently. “I’m looking forward to challenging myself this coming year — and I’m excited to know that I will have a lot of help from SvR staff if I have questions about these courses, or just in general.”

A strong work ethic

Clairra worked for SvR Design for about six weeks beginning in July. She worked six hours a day Monday through Thursday. According to Matt Suhadolnik, senior landscape designer who supervised and mentored her at SvR, Clairra was committed to her work and to learning about the firm, and often came into the office early.

Suhadolnik has nothing but good things to say about the program, and high praise indeed for Clairra.



PHOTO BY SCOTT FREUTEL

Yesler Terrace Youth Engagement Program interns (back row, from left) Andy Trinh, Kiseri Tensaew, Daglelem Alemu, Hai Xiang Liao and (front row, from left) Fardowsa Farah, Clairra Le and Winta Yohannes

“We were very impressed with the program,” Suhadolnik said recently. “We had had interns in a similar capacity before, but this program was of particular value in that it focused on Yesler Terrace’s young people — young people who are interested and invested in the Yesler Terrace development project. I would judge the program a success because the people who worked with the interns on behalf of the sponsors were hands-on, and they stayed involved.”

“I had the experience of meeting all the candidates,” he continued. “The first time I met Clairra she stood out as someone who was deeply committed to Yesler Terrace and to the work. I was thrilled when Clairra was

assigned to us. She came in very well prepared — she’s the only 16-year-old I’ve ever met who’s read an Environmental Impact Statement. And she posed great questions, questions that made us think.”

Fully involved

At SvR, Clairra sat in on staff and client meetings, especially those dealing with the Yesler Terrace redevelopment project, went on visits to project sites, and assisted with filing and other clerical tasks. She attended a presentation before the Seattle Design Commission. She took on a project to inventory, catalog and archive the firm’s products and materials samples, and she worked with administrators and other staff doing whatever needed doing.

Clairra summed up her experience at SvR Design by saying, “Working at SvR was challenging because I never expected that I would be in a real working environment. I encountered a lot of things I didn’t understand at first, but I was lucky in that everyone at SvR was always willing to help and to answer my question. One thing I liked is that everyone was always honest, pointing out my mistakes right then and there.”

“I learned that time management and teamwork are important, and that communication is very important, too. And I learned that these things help you succeed in life and in working at and with a large firm.”

Would she recommend a similar position to other young people who may be thinking of trying for a position on the program next year?

“Yes, I would,” Clairra said. “This was a really good opportunity and a way of networking. I might want to participate in this program again next year. In this program, you gain a lot of knowledge, and you understand more about the background of Yesler Terrace. You meet really nice and helpful people. You’d be surprised by all the stories people tell you about Yesler Terrace and their experiences living here.”

Finally, Clairra was asked whether she’d consider a career in a firm like SvR Design.

“Yes,” she said. “I would like to go back to SvR and be a part of the firm — I mentioned this to SvR on my last day. SvR is really a wonderful firm — and it’s environmentally friendly.”

CRC members visit Portland



PHOTO BY BRETT HOUGHTON

Attending the trip to Portland were (from left), interpreters Asmeret Gebremichael and Emmebet Molla and CRC members Yin Lau, Serkalem Mengesha, Ngu Vu and Zufan Tekelemariam. Not pictured is CRC member Kristin O’Donnell.

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

On July 29, Seattle City Council Member Sally Clark sponsored a study trip to Portland, Ore., with City staff members, staff from the Seattle Housing Authority and several members of the Yesler Terrace Citizen Review Committee.

The purpose of the trip was to have a

look at how Portland works as a dense urban neighborhood, and to see whether there were ideas that could be applied at Yesler Terrace or in the South Lake Union neighborhood.

Some members of the CRC shared their impressions about the trip and what they saw.

Zufan Tekelemariam felt that the trip

helped her to understand how beautiful Yesler might be when it is redeveloped.

“I liked the houses because they are neither high nor too low,” she said. “The flowers are gorgeous, and it is pleasant to be in that kind of environment.”

She also found the streetcars very useful and felt that they would be good at Yesler Terrace.

“I wish all Yesler Terrace residents could see what I saw in Portland,” she said. “I definitely recommend that all the design, including the streetcars, be duplicated here at Yesler Terrace.”

CRC member Ngu Vu found three aspects of urban design in Portland most appealing: “The streets in the neighborhood are clean, the railways and streetcars are very well designed and riding is smooth. The flat platform level with the streetcar is most convenient for people to get on and off, and there were small parks throughout the neighborhood.” He felt that all of these features could be applied at Yesler.

Yin Lau thought that the buildings in the neighborhood looked very well designed, and liked the small library inside the building. But he felt that energy conservation could be more aggressive. “Instead of having gardening, they should install solar panels on the rooftops to save energy,” he said.

CRC members traveled to Portland on the train and returned to Yesler Terrace in the evening.

