



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



# The Voice

December  
2011  
*Articles translated  
into six languages*

The newspaper of Neighborhood House

## A union for riders of public transit

### *Transit Riders Union holds inaugural public forum*

BY LYNN SEREDA  
*Housing Choice Voucher Holder*

“Better transit for the 99 percent” was the theme of a public forum on the fate of transit sponsored by the newly formed Transit Riders Union (TRU). The group’s kick-off event was held Nov. 15 in the Rainier Valley and featured keynote speaker James Bible, President of the Seattle/MLK County chapter of the NAACP. The forum was facilitated by Tracey Brown, a Denny Terrace resident who has taken an active role with TRU.

The mission of the TRU states that as a democratic organization of working and poor people, they are building up the power to change society for the good of both people and the planet. Central to this mis-



PHOTO BY LYNN SEREDA

Tracey Brown (right), a Denny Terrace resident, facilitated a public forum organized by the newly-formed Transit Riders Union.

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### *HEN program offers rent, utility assistance in place of Disability Lifeline*

BY TYLER ROUSH  
*The Voice editor*

The state’s Disability Lifeline cash grant program has ended as part of the recent round of cuts to the state budget. In its place, a new state program has been created to offer rent and utility assistance to those in need.

Disability Lifeline’s (formerly GAU) cash grant program had long been considered vulnerable during discussions about the state budget. Whittled away during previous rounds of budget cuts, it finally became a casualty of the state’s multibillion dollar budget deficit. Grant payments were discontinued Nov. 1; the program’s health care program has been renamed the Medical Care Services (MCS) managed care program. If you were a Disability Lifeline recipient, you should be automatically enrolled

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## Testing reveals housing discrimination in Seattle

### *Office for Civil Rights conducts testing on basis of race, disability*

BY TYLER ROUSH  
*The Voice editor*

Have you ever experienced housing discrimination? Maybe a prospective landlord quoted you a rental rate that was higher than market value, or you were turned away because you have a service animal?

Chances are, you may not have even known you were being discriminated against. But housing discrimination does happen in this city.

The City of Seattle recently filed charges of illegal discrimination against six private landlords in the city, after testing revealed patterns of discrimination in their housing practices.

“We’re filing charges in six cases where the differences in treatment based on race or disability are unambiguous,” said Julie Nelson, Director of the Seattle Office for Civil Rights. “Where we find clear evidence of discrimination, we must act to protect the public.”

Earlier this year, the Seattle Office for Civil Rights (SOCR) conducted tests for housing discrimination at rental properties, revealing alarming patterns of discrimination among private landlords in the city. Overall, the SOCR conducted 57 tests around the city; more than half (54 percent) revealed examples of illegal discrimination on the basis of either race or disability.

“These results confirm that housing discrimination is the reality for many

Please see “Housing” on Page 5

## Voters pass two initiatives, reject tolling measure

### *Two incumbents fall on Seattle School Board*

BY TYLER ROUSH  
*The Voice editor*

Washington voters want to privatize liquor distribution and approve of more training for long-term-care workers — but they’re OK with how bridge and highway tolls are collected.

Three state initiatives on the 2011 ballot garnered the majority of the attention in this election cycle, and voters approved two out of three. Meeting voter approval were Initiative 1163, which will reform the long-term-care system in Washington by increasing the required number of training hours and implementing federal background checks for workers; and Initiative

1183, which will privatize the state’s liquor distribution system, close state liquor stores and allow for the sale of hard alcohol in grocery stores and other large retail spaces.

Initiative 1125, which would have overhauled the way tolls are collected in Washington, was rejected by voters. The initiative, sponsored by Tim Eyman, would have required the Legislature to set tolling rates and disallowed toll revenue from one bridge or roadway to be applied to another project. It also would have banned variable toll rates, or the practice of charging different toll rates depending on the time of day.

Critics argued that the measure would have made it more challenging for the state to receive bonds for transportation projects, disrupted construction on the Highway 520 and Interstate 90 bridges, and jeopardized

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HousingSearchNW.org online service links prospective renters, property owners. See related story on Page 4

Stay safe and warm this winter. See related story on Page 3



## Health Notes

*A column devoted to your well-being*

### *Food safety is a key ingredient for a happy holiday season*

BY PUBLIC HEALTH - SEATTLE & KING COUNTY

Holiday memories should be of good times with friends and family, not of a foodborne illness caused by inattention to food safety. Properly handle, prepare, cook and store food to minimize the growth of E. coli, Salmonella, and other causes of foodborne illness. The majority of food borne illness stems from inadequate handwashing, cross contamination, and improper cooking, heating and cooling.

"Food safety for the holidays goes beyond the proper preparation and cooking of turkey," said Dr. David Fleming, Director and Health Officer for Public Health - Seattle & King County. "Whether you're preparing turkey with all the trimmings or other traditional favorites, be sure to handle all food with care to minimize the risk of food borne illness."

Here are important food safety tips to ensure you and your guests are protected from foodborne illness this holiday season

#### **Wash your hands**

Wash your hands for about 20 seconds with warm water and soap to get rid of the germs that can get into food and make people sick.

Wash your hands after going to the bathroom, after touching raw meat, fish or poultry, and after taking out the garbage, sneezing, or coughing.

#### **Keep foods safe from cross contamination**

Avoid cross contamination, which occurs when germs from raw foods get onto foods that will not be cooked or fully reheated to 165° F before eating.

Put raw poultry, meat and fish in the "meat" drawer of the refrigerator, or put them on the bottom shelf in the refrigerator so the juices don't drip on foods that won't be cooked.

Use a hard cutting surface with no splits or holes in it.

Wash, rinse and sanitize the cutting surface and utensils after cutting raw poultry, meat, and fish, as well as melons. Make a sanitizer with 1 teaspoon of household bleach for each gallon of cool water.

#### **Heat foods to their proper temperature**

In order to kill all bacteria, cook turkey, dressing containing turkey parts, other poultry and wild game to at least 165° F, ground beef and ground pork to 155° F, and fish, shellfish, lamb, other pork, other

beef, and eggs to 145° F. (Most people will prefer turkey that has been cooked to an even higher temperature).

Cold foods should be kept cold (lower than 41° F), and hot foods should be held hot (above 140° F).

#### **Cool and reheat foods properly**

Cool food properly by placing it in uncovered shallow pans in the refrigerator.

If you are taking prepared food to share with others, be certain that you keep it hot (above 140° F) or cold (41° F or below) during the trip and until it is served.

If food has been sitting at room temperature for not more than 2 hours, refrigerate it or reheat it. If food has been sitting out for longer than 2 hours, throw it out.

Take care with leftovers. Be sure the food has been cooled properly, then kept cold on the journey home.

#### **Vegetables and fruit**

Wash and scrub fruits and vegetables under cold running water.

Scrub the exterior of melons before cutting them, and then keep them cold at 41° F or below.

Keep "starchy foods" like cooked beans (legumes), rice, potatoes and pasta at 140° F or above, or cold at 41° F or below. Be sure to refrigerate within 2 hours after the meal.

Keep tofu and other plant protein foods hot (140° F or above) or cold (41° F or below).

Sprouts must be kept at 41° F or below until used.

#### **Donated foods**

Meal programs and food banks see a large amount of food donated around the holidays, and this year is no exception. Public Health encourages your generous food donations, and stresses that the biggest need is for high quality canned protein foods, fruits and vegetables. If you are donating fresh produce or a perishable food that has been kept continuously refrigerated at 41° F or less, call the donor agency before delivering to make sure that they have refrigerator or freezer space, and that they can accept what you would like to donate.

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

## White Center walks to school



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

On Friday, Oct. 28, students from White Center Heights Elementary, their families and volunteers participated in the International Walk to School Month with a community walk through the Greenbridge neighborhood. Participants are seen here with State Representative Joe Fitzgibbon (kneeling, center).

Each October, millions of children, parents, teachers and community leaders across the globe walk to school to celebrate International Walk to School Month. On Friday, Oct. 28, White Center Heights Elementary participated in the event for the third year. Students gathered at the Greenbridge plaza to walk to school together, participating in activities along the way. The school's P.E. Teacher, Jason Mauch, led an interactive morning warm up for parents and students. After the warm up, students

grabbed a healthy snack and continued their march to school where there was a reception for the parents and students as they arrived.

State Representative Joe Fitzgibbon joined in for the walk and the warm-up! Pictured above is Fitzgibbon (kneeling, center) with student participants. The event was supported by the King County Food and Fitness Initiative, King County Housing Authority and Neighborhood House's Be Active Together program.

### ANEW program offers job training for women

Attention women! Are you ready for high-wage employment? Have you wanted to change careers but need to keep your current job?

Apprenticeship & Non-Traditional Employment for Women (ANEW) offers part-time, high quality training to help you enter non-traditional careers in construction trades and manufacturing. Our course is free for most attendees and funded by government grants and industry donations.

The 12-week core training includes basic construction skill and safety training, first aid and CPR certification, fitness and strength training and flagger and forklift certification.

Advanced workshops cover such skills and topics as credit counseling, basic car

maintenance and repair, job interview and résumé preparation and long-term career planning.

Candidates must be 18 years or older, have reliable transportation, be able to pass a drug test and possess a GED or high school diploma.

Program orientations are held 2 p.m. Tuesdays at the Puget Sound Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee Building, 550 SW Seventh St., Suite B305 in Renton.

Call ANEW at 206-381-1384 to set up a personal interview, or visit [www.anewap.org](http://www.anewap.org) for more information.

ANEW partners with South Seattle Community College and King and Snohomish County Apprenticeship Programs.

### Learn new job skills while volunteering with Helping Link/Một Dấu Nôi!

Helping Link is a nonprofit in Seattle serving the Vietnamese Community for the past 18 years. We are looking for volunteers in the following areas:

Administrative, Accounting, Marketing, ESL Teachers, After-school Tutors and General Volunteers.

For inexperienced volunteers, training is provided! You do not need to speak Vietnamese to volunteer, although it is a plus.

Come learn new job skills and network with great people while helping out the Vietnamese Community.

For more information visit [www.HelpingLink.org](http://www.HelpingLink.org), call 206-781-4246 or



Helping Link

email [helpinglinkstaff@gmail.com](mailto:helpinglinkstaff@gmail.com).

Helping Link is located in Asia Plaza on the corner of 12th and Jackson, at 1032 S. Jackson St., Suite C.

We are easily reached by bus (#7, #49 and others), and by LINK light-rail (International District/Chinatown Station).

#### The Voice

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

# Be safe

## Tips to keep you safe this winter

By KELLY MCKINNEY  
Seattle Neighborhood Group

The holiday season brings lots of cheer and activity. Unfortunately, sometimes it also brings crime along with it. Whether you celebrate the holidays or not, there are still some precautions you can take to be safer during the winter months.

When out shopping, try not to carry too much at one time. It can be very distracting and make you vulnerable to thieves. Thieves often target people who seem distracted or overloaded with items.

Don't carry a purse or, if you do, carry it under your coat.

If you are driving your car, park in a place that is well lit.

If you are parking your car in a garage, park close to the elevator and stairs. If this isn't possible, identify the location of the elevator and stairway in relationship to your car. Always be alert of your surroundings.

Have your car keys ready before you get to your car.

If you think that there is an unsafe situation around your car, do not try and get

into your car at that time. Call the police.

It is better not to leave anything in your car at all. However, if you do leave something in your car, put it somewhere where it can't be seen.

If you do some shopping and then put something in the trunk of your car, move your car.

If you take the bus, use well lit bus stops at night.

If there is suspicious activity around a bus stop, use another bus stop. You can call 911 to report suspicious behavior at bus stops.

At night, you can ask a bus driver to drop you off at a location along the route that is close to your home. It doesn't have to be a bus stop, but it does have to be along the route.

Take only what you will need on a trip. If you don't need your checkbook, don't take it with you. Leave things like social security cards at home.

Remember — if you feel unsafe, trust your gut, and call the police if you see something suspicious. Hopefully, these tips will see you safely through into the new year.

## It's a cold winter, but you can keep your family both safe and warm

### Make fire safety your priority

Winter increases the potential for house fires and other threats such as carbon monoxide poisoning. But fire and other potential dangers can be reduced by following a few simple rules.

#### Fire safety

Make an escape plan that shows two ways out of your house or apartment, and have every member of your family practice the plan.

Test your smoke alarm at least monthly by pushing the test button.

Clean your smoke alarm at least once a year. You may use a vacuum to clean out the dust.

Candles may pose a fire danger. If you light a candle, make sure it rests on a nonflammable candleholder. Never leave a candle unattended and never place it on or near anything that is flammable.

If the power is out, a flashlight or battery-operated lantern is a much safer lighting option than a candle.

Replace the battery in your smoke alarm whenever it beeps to signal it must be replaced. It is a good idea to replace

the battery twice yearly — in the spring and the fall, when we change the clocks for Daylight Savings Time.

Store matches, lighters, and other flammable materials in a safe place and out of reach of children.

#### Indoor heating

Never use gas-powered equipment, gas or charcoal grills inside the home, whether for cooking or for heating. Such objects include portable generators and barbecue grills. These devices emit carbon monoxide, a lethal gas. They should only be used outdoors in a well-ventilated area, and should never be used indoors.

Do not use your oven to heat your home. An oven, particularly one that is left unattended, can be an extreme fire danger.

All objects, including furniture, curtains, clothing and other objects, should be kept at least 12 inches away from any heater. Baseboard heaters can easily ignite bedding, pillows, curtains or other flammable materials they come into contact with. Check regularly to ensure that your heaters are free of clutter that could start a housefire.

Talk to all of your family members, including children and adults, about the importance of fire safety.



## One to grow on

Garden tips for community gardeners

### Stock up on seeds now to prepare for next season's crop

*Editor's Note: A version of this article appeared in the January 2008 edition of The Voice.*

By ANZA MUENCHOW  
Special to The Voice

It is the end of the year, and I'm getting excited about the next season's garden. Here in the Puget Sound basin, we can grow so many incredible vegetables, shrubs and trees.

But to get the best production out of our crops, we need use the local seed and tree suppliers to find the best "cultivars" for our growing conditions.

By cultivars I mean the specific genetic material in the species of plants we want to grow.

When we plant tomatoes, we all know that some do better in Seattle than other types. Forget the beefsteak varieties; try Stupice or Early Girl, which are bred to do well with cool summers.

The typical grocery store seed displays may have seeds that grow well in the Midwest or south of us. Let me suggest some better seeds for our area.

#### Buy seeds locally

Several local seed companies have done much of the research needed to supply us with the cultivars that will perform the best for us.

Some good companies that come to mind are Abundant Life and Territorial Seeds in Oregon and Osborne Seeds in Mt Vernon.

They all have very interesting and informative free catalogues that you can send for.

Abundant Life sells only organic seeds. Many of these are heirloom seeds, open pollinated. This means they are not hybrids.

(They were not specifically crossed with another cultivar, which changes the following generation of seed.)

Territorial Seed has a huge selection of seeds that all are tested to do well in the Pacific Northwest. They sell individual packets and bulk seeds. The descriptions in the catalogue are wonderful.

They have mouthwatering turnips, delicate crunchy lettuces and all kinds of varieties of veggies that will produce in our climate, even during wet summers like last year.

They even have starter plants that they can ship.

To obtain a catalogue from Territorial Seed Co. write to P.O. Box 158, Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or visit online at [www.territorialseed.com](http://www.territorialseed.com).

Osborne Seed Company has expanded over the years and now has a good collection of anything you might like to grow. They can be reached at [www.osborneseed.com](http://www.osborneseed.com), or write to 2428 Old Hwy. 99 South Rd., Mt. Vernon, WA 98273. You can also call 800-845-9113.

There are two seed companies in Maine that seem to have shown good results.

Try Johnny's Selected Seeds at [www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com), or call 877-564-6697 to get information on their large collection of products.

Fedco Seeds and Garden Supplies, at [www.fedcoseeds.com](http://www.fedcoseeds.com), is a funky little company with lots of organic seed choices that was recently recommended to me by a respected grower.

#### Why buy organic seeds?

To obtain the organic certification, growers are required to purchase organically

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## HEN

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in MCS.

However, program enrollees will no longer receive monthly cash payments from DSHS — cash that often went to basic needs like rent and utilities.

But if you need assistance paying the rent or your utility bills, the state's Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program may be able to help.

The HEN program, which began Nov. 1, is meant to bridge the gap for former Disability Lifeline enrollees who are no longer able to afford their rent or utility bills. People who are eligible may receive up to \$200 per month in rent or utility assistance.

The program does not offer cash grants — money distributed in the HEN program is paid directly to a landlord and/or utility company. Your landlord may be a Housing Authority, a nonprofit housing provider, a private-market landlord, or a friend or family member to whom you pay rent.

#### Am I eligible?

The HEN program is being operated by Catholic Community Services. If you would like rent and utility assistance through the

HEN program, you must meet the following criteria:

Be enrolled in the Medical Care Services program. Enrollees in the Disability Lifeline program in October 2011 should have been automatically transferred to MCS. If you're in doubt, contact DSHS.

Provide a government-issued photo ID and a DSHS client identification number to Catholic Community Services.

To receive rent assistance, you must provide a Pay or Vacate notice, an eviction notice or a statement of rent obligation signed by your landlord.

To receive utility assistance, you must provide a utility bill in your name and a utility shut off notice or late payment notice.

Your landlord must also submit a W-9 form.

To set up an enrollment appointment with Catholic Community Services, call 206-328-5755 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Eligibility information is taken from the Catholic Community Services' HEN website, [www.henkingcounty.org](http://www.henkingcounty.org). The website includes more detailed program information and links to forms that you may need to complete before going to your in-person screening appointment.

## Community notes

### DO-IT Scholars program offered to students with a disability

DO-IT is actively recruiting students for its capstone program, DO-IT Scholars. For this unique program it is seeking students who

- are sophomores or juniors in high school in Washington state;
- have an aptitude for and interest in attending college;
- have a disability such as a mobility impairment, learning disability, sensory impairment, or health impairment;
- and are interested in interactions with other students with disabilities.

DO-IT Scholars are loaned computer

equipment and adaptive technology needed to participate in electronic mentoring and Internet support year-round. For up to three summers, DO-IT Scholars attend a live-in summer program on the University of Washington campus for one to two weeks, where they will learn about college selection, challenging careers, self-advocacy, and adaptive technology. Students are encouraged to apply by Jan. 10, 2012, but enrollment continues until all positions are filled.

You may contact DO-IT to request application materials at 206-685-3648 (voice/TTY) or download forms at [www.uw.edu/doit/Programs/scholar.html](http://www.uw.edu/doit/Programs/scholar.html).



Neighborhood House  
Strong Families. Strong Communities. Since 1906.

## New housing search service will connect renters with housing

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

A free internet housing search tool and call center will soon be available to link renters seeking affordable housing with property owners who have apartments to rent. The one-stop resource for those looking to list or locate affordable rental property throughout King County is being created through a cooperative effort by public agencies, nonprofit housing developers and landlords.

The new service is expected to be available for tenants to search for housing beginning in early 2012.

HousingSearchNW.org is being designed so that renters, property owners, housing professionals and social service providers can have access to real-time rental housing information.

For people living in public housing, the service will provide information about what is available in the wider housing market. For Section 8 voucher holders, the housing locator service will show which landlords have prior experience with Section 8 tenants and what apartments are available across price categories.

Listings will include information about apartment features, deposits required and handicap accessibility. They will also include information regarding transit routes and nearby amenities as well.

Seattle Housing Authority Communications Director Virginia Felton represents the housing authority on the committee designing the site and is helping to coordinate the launch of the new program.

"I believe this new service will be valuable to a very wide audience," she said, "since it will provide information on real time vacancies and will require that landlords update their listings frequently in order to keep them on the site."

Felton noted that the same "Language Line" services available to Seattle Housing Authority tenants will also be available to anyone using Housing Search NW. "The call center already handles several languages, and is prepared to assist everyone who calls or uses the website."

Basic information for a property can be entered once and then updated as vacancies occur or are filled by tenants. There is also experienced, toll-free call center support for those who do not use the Internet.

### Welcome

to HousingSearchNW.org - a free resource to help you find a home anywhere in King County that fits your needs and budget. Property owners and managers throughout the county can post apartments or homes for rent any time, which means that our list is always current.

**We update our listings daily, so be sure to check back often.**

 **Find a Place to Rent**

 **List a Place to Rent**

 **Tools and Resources**

 **Frequently Asked Questions**

Socialserve.org, a nation nonprofit, has been hired to design and run the new service. A North Carolina-based nonprofit, Socialserve.org does business with over 125 housing authorities and state housing finance commissions across the country.

The new service was created by local housing groups including the Rental Housing Associa-

tion and the Tenants Union. It is supported with seed money provided by a legal settlement that involved fees unlawfully charged to landlords for inspections more than 20 years ago. Contributing sponsors of the consortium include the City of Seattle's Office of Housing, King County, the Seattle and King County housing authorities and United Way.

## Gardening

Continued from Page 3

grown seed if they are available. This has expanded the organic seed market tremendously.

I'm pleased to see this change because all of agriculture needs to embrace organic principles.

Do I believe that organic seed is much better than conventionally grown seed? I personally don't think it makes a big difference at this point.

But it is something I think about as I pay the extra dollar or two on a few packets of organic seed.

### Plant starts can save time

If you want to buy plant starts and not take the extra effort to grow from seed (especially with tomatoes, peppers and eggplant), I recommend going to local spring plant sales.

Don't have the plant starts shipped to you. With shipping, the packaging is bulky and the results are not reliably favorable.

Sometimes I do purchase onion starts from catalogues, having them shipped for early March plantings. They are rarely damaged.

Shop at farmers markets in May to buy your warm season plant starts and find great selections of good local stock.

Raintree Nursery in Morton, offers great stock for fruit trees, berries and other perennial edibles. They have some interesting old varieties as well as the newer cultivars recommended for our area.

The catalogue descriptions will explain the pest problems and disease resistance of each cultivar. This is especially important for the crops that you plant once and expect to produce for years and years.

For annual crops, you can always move them to another spot in your garden to avoid pests and some disease. Not so for the long lived trees and bushes.

Definitely do the research and study your cultivars before you decide to invest in a tree.

For more information about Raintree Nursery, the address is 391 Butts Road, Morton, WA 98356. Or visit them online at [www.raintreenursery.com](http://www.raintreenursery.com).

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

## Election

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the development of planned light-rail across the floating bridges.

### Ballot bears bad news for Mayor McGinn, School Board

Seattle voters issued another symbolic defeat for Mayor Mike McGinn by voting down a proposed \$60 car-tab fee to fund roads, buses and bicycle transportation improvements. The measure, which had been supported by McGinn, was rejected by 56 percent of voters. It is the second defeat in as many elections for McGinn, who saw voters in August's primary support a referendum on the proposed deep-bore tunnel to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct. McGinn had opposed the tunnel project, which is now moving forward.

Some members of the Seattle School Board experienced backlash of their own this election cycle, with voters voicing apparent frustration in the wake of the financial scandal that came to light earlier this year and resulted in the firing of then-superintendent Marie Goodloe-Johnson.

School Board President Steve Sundquist lost his re-election bid to challenger Marty McLaren, a former district teacher who received 54 percent of the vote. Challenger Sharon Peaslee edged incumbent Peter Maier, winning by a margin of just under 2,000 votes out of about 197,000 ballots cast.

Two other incumbents on the ballot this year, Sherry Carr and Harium Martin-Morris, won re-election.

All five members of the Seattle City Council won re-election, with Jean Godden (50.4 percent) receiving a strong challenge from longtime city employee Bobby Forch (49.2 percent). Incumbent councilmembers Bruce Harrell, Tom Rasmussen, Tim Burgess and Sally J. Clark were re-elected by comfortable margins.

Incumbents also swept the ballot in King County Council races, with Councilmember Jane Hague defeating challenger Richard E. Mitchell and Councilmember Joe McDermott defeating challenger Diana Toledo. Councilmembers Larry Gossett and Larry Phillips won unopposed.

Seattle's election results brought good news for progressive voters with the successful renewal of the 7-Year Families and Education Levy. The levy, first passed in 1990, provides education and health support for tens of thousands of Seattle children and families. It passed comfortably with nearly 64 percent of the vote.

Statewide voter turnout was underwhelming, with about 53 percent of the state's 3.65 million registered voters cast-

ing a ballot. Turnout in King County was slightly below the state average, with just under 52 percent of voters casting a ballot. Tiny San Juan County, which encompasses the San Juan Islands, claimed the prize for highest turnout — more than 69 percent of the county's 11,573 registered voters cast a ballot.

### Campaign spending makes headlines

For some, this year's election served as a reminder of the role that campaign spending has in winning over voters.

Costco's largesse made headlines — the wholesaler contributed a record \$22 million to the Yes on 1183 campaign, a possible indicator of just how much the company stands to gain from the privatization of liquor distribution. The initiative limits liquor sales in most cases to stores that are larger than 10,000 square feet, meaning that large grocers and retailers are most likely to benefit from a spike in liquor sales. Safeway and Trader Joe's also contributed money to the Yes on 1183 campaign.

The initiative will shutter the state-run liquor stores in Washington state by June 1, 2012, though the law would allow a private store to reopen in an existing state liquor store location. The Washington State Liquor Control Board will no longer be in charge of the distribution and sale of liquor; instead, private parties will be authorized to distribute and sell liquor at large retail locations.

Though it lacked the profile of the liquor campaign, Initiative 1163 — which more than doubles the amount of training required for long-term-care workers and requires stricter background checks — was funded through \$1.7 million in contributions from the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). The measure received overwhelming support statewide, with voters approving it by a nearly 2-to-1 margin.

The initiative will cost the state a projected \$31 million over the next two years, offset by an estimated \$14 million in new federal revenue over the same span of time. Critics argued that because the initiative doesn't provide a revenue source to fully fund the initiative, it will be left to the state Legislature to make cuts elsewhere.

SEIU and supporters of the initiative argued that the measure will protect a vulnerable population of seniors and persons with disabilities, and that reforming the long-term-care system cannot wait any longer.

A similar initiative passed in 2008, but the Legislature delayed implementation because the state was in the midst of a budget shortfall. Not much has changed in 2011, with the state once again facing a multibillion-dollar budget deficit.

## Transit union

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sion is the fight to preserve, expand and improve the local public transportation system so that everyone has access to safe, affordable and reliable transit.

Many such transit unions take their inspiration from the Los Angeles Bus Riders Union, which won a legal consent decree in 1996 based on the racial disparity in access to transit.

Parts of the settlement meant that the city of Los Angeles had to reverse cuts in service to low-income areas and reinstate a more affordable monthly bus pass.

Bible, a leader in local racial justice struggles, opened the forum with his keynote address.

Bible talked about the importance of public transit to the Civil Rights movement, with its legacy of freedom riders and the Montgomery bus boycott, and shared how bus rides as a child with his grandfather helped form his deep commitment to social justice.

Bible's grandfather did not let the fact that a cross was burned on his lawn to deter him from activism. He would say to his grandson, "Let's ride the bus today" and they would wear a "sweatshirt of the week" that would bear a slogan like "Fear breeds bigotry" emblazoned on it. The purpose was to start conversations on the bus about justice.

The TRU forms at a time when transit service locally and region-wide is vulnerable. Earlier this year, deep cuts to Metro were proposed, some of which would eliminate entire bus routes.

In July, Katie Wilson and Scott Meyers launched the Save Our Metro campaign, where a small, dedicated group of volunteers wearing yellow Save Our Metro T-Shirts went to bus stops with leaflets detailing the impact of these cuts, along with the dates of public hearings with the King County Council.

It was at one of these bus stops that organizers met Brown. At the forum, Brown used her group facilitation skills to moderate the lively panel discussion, along with a question and answer session with the audience.

Wilson noted that transit cutbacks are not just a fluke, but a part of worldwide austerity measures hurting working and poor people, as there has been a shift in wealth distribution. Movements such as Occupy Wall Street are a sign that people are pushing back. Another such example is the successful mobilization of hundreds of transit riders to attend the King County Council's public hearings about Metro funding, which helped motivate councilmembers to adopt a car-tab fee to close a \$50 million gap in Metro's budget.

Ultimately, many organizers believe it will be necessary to address this issue at the state government level to find a long-term sustainable source of funding for public transit. That is why supporters believe a well-organized transit riders union can be very effective.

The TRU already has the support of the Metro Drivers Union, and several bus drivers attended the forum. Nate Chappelle, former Metro Driver of the Year and panelist, held up a copy of his union magazine "In Transit," which featured articles on the national "Occupy" movement — also supported by the drivers union. Chappelle noted that the movement has "now come full circle."

As the Civil Rights movement was a mobilization of working-class people of color and often involved transit related actions like Rosa Parks sitting in the front of the bus, once again transit is now an important part of today's economic human rights struggle.

Looking around the room, Chappelle said the diversity at the forum was a "real rainbow coalition" with its multi-racial and intergenerational composition. He also noted the presence of persons with disabilities.

"(The powers that be) are counting on us not talking to each other about human dignity, diversity and wealth distribution," Chappelle said. "The bus is political. You have to get involved, or you'll be left behind."

For more information about the Transit Riders Union visit [www.transitriders.org](http://www.transitriders.org), email [contact@transitriders.org](mailto:contact@transitriders.org) or call 206-651-4282.

## City gathers feedback on Transit Master Plan

By JIM BUSH  
Center Park resident

The City of Seattle's Department of Transportation is taking input on its Transit Master Plan (TMP), a project being done in collaboration with Metro and Sound Transit that will reshape local public transportation for the next twenty years.

A total of five open houses were scheduled all over the city to get feedback from the public on what steps should be taken to make transit more available, efficient and affordable to everyone.

Several people attended the open houses held in October and November and provided valuable input, including advice on how Metro could improve its transit service (including the design of some transit vehicles), where sidewalks and curb cuts could be built or improved, and other issues of importance to people with disabilities. They also learned about some of the ideas being talked about within the City's infrastructure.

What are some of these ideas? For starters, Metro and Sound Transit are looking at creating 15 major transit corridors throughout Seattle and King County. Three of these are classified as "high-capacity transit" corridors, meaning they will presumably be used by a large number of passengers. That means they will be served by larger buses (or trains) offering frequent service.

The other 12 corridors, while not being identified as high-capacity, will have frequent bus service as well. All corridors will have enhanced passenger amenities, such as off-vehicle fare payment options (ORCA card readers or ticket vending machines) at the bus stop, large shelters and improved pedestrian access (better sidewalks and curb ramps for those people needing them).

Where are these proposed corridors? Here's the list of major bus routes, destinations and neighborhoods along each corridor.

Corridor 1: Currently served by Metro bus route #54 (RapidRide Route "C" will cover this route starting next year), this corridor connects the Fauntleroy/West Seattle area with Downtown Seattle.

Corridor 2: This is the corridor between Burien and Downtown, currently served by Metro's #120.

Corridor 3: Between the Othello LINK light-rail station (in the Rainier Valley) and the University District, this one is served by a combination of Metro #36, #49 and #60.

Corridor 4: Spanning Mount Baker to Downtown via Rainier, this corridor is served by Metro #7.

Corridor 5: Lying between the Rainier Valley and the University District, this corridor is currently served by a combination of Metro #7, #8 and #48. There is a proposal to convert the #48 to a trolley route between the Rainier Valley and the University District.

Corridor 6: This is a high-capacity transit corridor between downtown and Madison Park. It is served by Routes #11 and #12.

Corridor 7: Queen Anne, South Lake Union and Downtown would be connected via Denny Way with this corridor, which is currently served by a combination of the Metro #1 and #8.

Corridor 8: This high-capacity transit corridor connects Roosevelt Way to Downtown via the University District. It is currently served by a combination of Routes #66, #67, #70, #71, #72 and #73.

Corridor 9: Between Aurora Village and Downtown, this corridor is currently served by Route #358, but is scheduled to become RapidRide Route "E" by 2013.

Corridor 10: This segment is between Northgate, Ballard and Downtown and is currently served by a combination of the Routes #5 and #75.

Corridor 11: This high-capacity transit corridor is between Loyal Heights (north of Ballard), the Ballard area and Downtown, and is served by Route #17. Routes #15 and #18 also operate between Downtown and Ballard, but will be converted to RapidRide Route "D" by 2013.

Corridor 12: Between Lake City, Northgate and the University District, this corridor is served by a combination of the Routes #41, #66, #67 and #72.

Corridor 13: Want to get between Ballard and the University District? This corridor is currently served by the #44. There is a plan to extend the #44 route to Laurelhurst to serve the Children's Hospital and Medical Center, which would probably eliminate service on this route south of 45th and University.

Corridor 14: Between Crown Hill and the University District, this segment is served by the Route #48.

Corridor 15: From the Phinney Neighborhood (north of Fremont) and Downtown, this corridor is currently served by the Route #5.

Do you want to see the whole TMP and provide input? You can go online to [www.seattle.gov/transportation/tmp.outreach.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/tmp.outreach.htm) to see the entire plan for yourself.

## Housing

Continued from Page 1

people who live in Seattle," said Mayor Mike McGinn. "That is simply not acceptable. The actions that we are taking as a response to these results will help us to become a more equitable city."

Results were most dramatic for racial discrimination — 69 percent of tests showed inconsistencies in housing policies that generally favored white testers. Violations included quoting higher rent prices or using different screening practices for African American testers.

Discrimination against persons with disabilities was less pronounced than in the case of race-based testing, yet still occurred in more than one-third (36 percent) of tests. Examples of discrimination against persons with disabilities included refusing service animals, not telling testers about available units, or not providing designated accessible parking for persons with disabilities.

"As a community, we cannot afford to allow discrimination in housing," said Seattle City Councilmember Bruce Harrell. "Knowing these test results help us to re-dedicate ourselves to work for greater fairness across Seattle." Councilmembers Harrell and Tim Burgess asked SOCR to conduct the tests late last year.

To conduct their discrimination testing, the SOCR used paired testers with similar rental profiles, except on the basis of race or disability. Testers visited properties while posing as prospective renters and recorded the information they received about vacancies, rental rates and terms, as well as the level of service they received from leasing agents.

Properties were selected at random from among

properties with vacancies within the Seattle ZIP code boundary. Two properties were included based on prior case experience, according to the SOCR.

The SOCR used the test results to determine where inconsistencies in treatment occurred on the basis of race of disability status. Testing was carried out on a contract basis by the Fair Housing Center of Washington between January and July 2011. Visits were conducted both in person and over the phone.

"The testing provided a snapshot of normal, everyday business practices," said Jennifer Yogi of the Seattle Human Rights Commission. "Most fair housing enforcement is complaint-driven — that is, an individual files a charge with the Office for Civil Rights against a specific housing provider. Testing allows the city to go beyond this, assess current conditions and take steps to address problems in the rental market."

The goal of the housing discrimination testing is to create a fair housing environment for everyone in Seattle. Access to fair housing is protected under federal law; the City of Seattle has its own fair housing laws in addition to those enforced by HUD.

While more than half of those properties tested revealed evidence of discriminatory housing practices, the good news is, nearly half did not — according to the SOCR, 46 percent of properties showed no indication of housing discrimination.

To help landlord and property managers comply with fair housing laws, the SOCR offers ongoing education and training programs.

For more information about the Seattle Office for Civil Rights, visit [www.seattle.gov/civilrights](http://www.seattle.gov/civilrights).

### Write a letter to the editor

Send your letters by e-mail to [tylerr@nhwa.org](mailto:tylerr@nhwa.org), or by regular mail to:  
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905 Spruce St., Suite 200  
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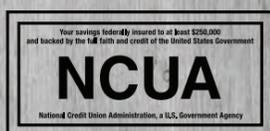


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The mission of the Seattle Housing Authority is to enhance the Seattle community by creating and sustaining decent, safe and affordable living environments that foster stability and self-sufficiency for people with low incomes.

**A time to give thanks**  
COMMUNITY MEAL AT YESLER  
See Page 7



# SHA NEWS

**December  
2011**

News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

## *Housing Authority to move offices to Lower Queen Anne in early 2012*

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

Seattle Housing Authority staff members are in the midst of planning for a move to a new office building located at 190 Queen Anne Ave. N.

The move will consolidate staff from the Porchlight building in Ballard, the Operations Support Center in North Seattle and the Central Office at 120 Sixth Ave. N.

The new office building is a five-story building just north of Denny Way on Queen Anne Avenue North.

Seattle Housing staff will occupy four out of the five floors, including the ground floor, where there will be an admissions office and a large meeting room where the Board of Commissioners will hold its meetings.

The reasons behind the move include the desire of housing authority staff to take advantage of favorable lease rates rather than tying up capital in building ownership.

The Central Office building was sold this summer and the Porchlight office building in Ballard is currently up for sale.

"The new offices will allow us to coordinate our staff work more closely," notes Communications Director Virginia Felton. "Having most administrative staff in the same building will add to our efficiency overall."

The new offices are well served by transit from downtown Seattle and from the Fremont/Ballard area.

While slightly further from the downtown core, the transit connections for the new location are convenient.

Early in 2012, residents will be notified of changes to managers' addresses and office locations.

## **City receives \$3 million to promote development in the Rainier Valley**



PHOTO BY LAURA GENTRY

Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn and HUD Northwest Regional Administrator Mary McBride announce that the City of Seattle has received a \$3 million HUD grant to promote smart, sustainable development along the Central Link light rail line in Seattle's Rainier Valley neighborhood.

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn and HUD Northwest Regional Administrator Mary McBride held a press conference on Nov. 21 to announce a \$3 million grant awarded to the City of Seattle to

improve housing and promote jobs along the Link Light Rail line in the Rainier Valley. The event was held at the mixed-use development known as The Station at Othello Park, across Martin Luther King

**Please see "Funding" on Page 6**

## *HUD funding trending downward for upcoming fiscal year*

BY TYLER ROUSH  
The Voice editor

HUD funding for 2012 has been approved by Congress and signed into law, and for housing authorities across the country, the outlook is not great.

Operating funds for HUD in 2012 have been slashed by about 15 percent from 2011 funding levels, while capital funds are down 10 percent.

President Barack Obama signed the HUD appropriations bill into law Nov. 18, authorizing a Public Housing Operating Fund budget of \$3.962 billion. That figure is down considerably from last year's enacted budget of \$4.617 billion.

The Public Housing Capital Fund for 2012 will be set at \$1.875 billion, down from last year's total of \$2.04 billion.

Seattle Housing Authority Executive Director Tom Tierney said the appropriations announcement confirmed the housing authority's expectations that 2012 would be a lean budget year.

"In the 'minibus' appropriations bill recently passed, both the Public Housing Operating Fund and the Capital Fund are around 15 percent lower than appropria-

**Please see "HUD" on Page 2**

## **Board approves resolution to prohibit smoking in all Seattle Housing residences**

*The policy will take effect on or before Feb. 1, 2012*

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

In a unanimous decision at its Nov. 21 meeting, the Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to adopt and implement a policy that will prohibit smoking in all dwelling units owned by the agency.

The policy, which will be implemented on or before Feb. 1, 2012, states that smoking will not be permitted in individual apartment homes or the common spaces of any Seattle Housing Authority community or facility, unless otherwise specified.

"This is a significant decision on behalf of the health of our residents. I am proud of the stance our Commissioners have taken and look forward to implementing the new policy with fairness and compassion," said Tom Tierney, Executive Director of Seattle Housing.

The new non-smoking policy does not mean that residents or employees will have to quit smoking in order to live and or work at agency properties. The policy simply limits smoking to designated areas. For residents who are interested in quitting smoking, the agency is committed to providing tobacco cessation information and resources.

In August 2010, Seattle Housing implemented a non-smoking policy across all Seattle Senior Housing Property (SSHP) buildings. The agency then passed a resolution in Oct. 2010 expanding the rule to include both new construction projects and substantially rehabilitated properties.

This new policy will extend access to a non-smoking environment to all residents, including Low-Income Public Housing (LIPH) units as well as all units in HOPE VI communities, special portfolio buildings and privately managed buildings.

**Please see "Nonsmoking" on Page 4**

## *Save the date for RAC's volunteer recognition event*

BY RESIDENT ACTION COUNCIL

Join us on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 1 to 3pm at the Center Park Community Building as we recognize the volunteers and leaders who have made a difference in their communities. The event will honor and celebrate Seattle Housing Authority residents nominated by their peers and recognized for their efforts in leadership and volunteerism — everything from hosting coffee hours, helping out at a local food bank, arranging community barbecues or holiday parties, staffing computer labs or working to improve community safety.

This is the first time the Resident Action Council has organized a volunteer recognition event. Nominations for this year's event are now closed, but keep in touch with your Resident Action Council to learn more information about how you can get involved in future events.

The Center Park building is located at 2121 26th Ave. S and is accessible by Metro buses 4, 7, 8, 9, 34, 42 and 48.

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## Cantwell visits Blakeley Manor to talk heating costs with seniors



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEN. MARIA CANTWELL'S OFFICE

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) held a press conference at Blakeley Manor on Sunday, Nov. 20 warning that a bill passing through the U.S. House of Representatives could change the way funds in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) are distributed. The House bill would redistribute some funds for heating assistance in northern states in the winter to cooling assistance for southern states in the summer. Cantwell said she prefers the Senate version of the bill, which retains the current formula.

## Surviving a fire emergency What you need to know

BY JIM BUSH  
Center Park Resident

We all know that most emergency situations (medical ones, primarily) can be dealt with or recovered from fairly quickly, but what about a fire, power outage, flooding, winter storm or earthquake? How long does it take to recover from them — and how much help can you expect to get after one?

Earlier this fall, 60 people from Seattle Housing communities all over the city gathered at Seattle's Emergency Operations Center to learn about this subject. While we think the information provided by staff from the Seattle Office of Emergency Management, Seattle Fire Department and Seattle Housing was extremely helpful, we also think what was learned can be somewhat daunting for a lot of people, since there's so much of it — and it's all very important.

For instance, how many people know what to do in case of a fire, the most common form of disaster, and the deadliest? Many people do, but if you don't, here's what we learned.

As most people may know, learning how to prevent a fire is as essential as knowing what to do in case of one — and most fires are quite preventable, if people follow these rules:

No smoking in bed or when you're drowsy. This is a primary cause of fire-related fatalities because when you're in bed or feeling drowsy, you tend to fall asleep, forgetting to put out that cigarette, pipe or cigar in a proper ashtray that won't tip over. The ashes may still be hot enough to ignite anything they come in contact with, includ-

ing bedding. (The Seattle Housing Authority has adopted a non-smoking policy for all of its properties, which will take effect Feb. 1, 2012. For more information, see the story on Page 1.)

Keep an eye on your stovetop. This is especially true if you're cooking with oil, because that oil can get very hot and ignite. If you have to leave the stove for any length of time, turn it off so your food doesn't catch fire.

Give your heaters room to breathe. Now that it's getting colder, many people will be turning their heaters on again. If you live in an apartment with electric heaters, those things need space — at least one foot — in front and on top of them. Don't leave clothing, sheets or curtains on top of them — and make sure any furniture is at least a foot away from them. This way, your heaters can do the job they were meant to do and won't be a fire hazard in the process.

Now what should you do in case of a fire? If the fire's in your apartment and you can't put it out yourself (even if you have a fire extinguisher nearby), close your windows, get out and close the door behind you — that way the fire is contained within your apartment and won't spread. If the fire alarm hasn't been activated already (in many buildings, the hallway smoke detectors sound the building alarm, which in turn alerts the Fire Department), do so by pulling one of the red boxes near the stairwells. If you can get out of the building safely, use the stairs. The elevators will not be working.

What if you see or hear the alarm going

**Please see "Emergency" on Page 4**

## New faces in your community

### Full Life Care receives grant to offer mental health services in Seattle Housing high-rises

If you live in a Seattle Housing Authority High-Rise building, you may have seen some new faces recently in your building. In August, Full Life Care's Mental Health Service Coordination staff began to introduce themselves to residents, Seattle Housing staff and other providers.

This marks the beginning of a 3-year project to increase the amount of support available to Seattle Housing Authority residents to maintain their health and independence at home.

This spring, Full Life Care was awarded a Resident Opportunity for Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Grant from HUD to provide Service Coordination services in 28 SHA high-rise buildings. This grant, combined with additional funding provided by Seattle Housing Authority, has allowed Full Life Care to offer six full-time mental health staff positions in Seattle Housing's High Rise communities. Our Service Coordinators may be able to help with a variety of issues:

- Assistance with finding counseling or other mental health support;
- Assistance with finding resources for rent, bills and other financial issues;
- Assistance with bed bug and other pest/clutter control issues;
- Assistance with finding low-cost Home Care services;
- Assistance with chemical dependency

and substance abuse issues; and

- Referrals for medical services.

There are many ways that you can reach the Service Coordinator working in your building. In some buildings, your Full Life Care Service Coordinator will have scheduled office hours. In other buildings, we'll schedule an appointment to see you at a time that's convenient for you.

You can request a referral from Seattle Housing staff in your building, from the ADS Case Manager assigned to your building, or by contacting Full Life Care directly:

By email at [solsticeSHA@gmail.com](mailto:solsticeSHA@gmail.com)

By phone at 206-467-7033

Online at <http://tiny.cc/rhl2j>

Full Life Care (formerly Elderhealth Northwest) is a community-based non-profit whose mission is to support the continued health and independence of low-income adults and families living in our community.

Full Life Care has a long history of supporting Seattle Housing Authority residents and staff. We have two Adult Day Health programs co-located in Seattle Housing Authority buildings at Jefferson Terrace and Ravenna School Apartments. Our Solstice Mental Health and Home Care programs are based in Seattle Housing's Jefferson Terrace building.

Over the past year, Full Life Care has provided Mental Health, Home Care and Adult Day Health services to more than 300 Seattle Housing high-rise residents. We hope that you'll contact us in our new role as Mental Health Service Coordinators to see whether we can help you, too!

## HUD

Continued from Page 1

tions for 2011," Tierney said. "Without all of the details, it is still too early to tell exactly what impact this will have on our local housing authorities. Even so, it is clear that our conservative approach to budgeting for this year was necessary, and 2013 may be even more challenging for us."

If there is a silver lining in the 2012 appropriations bill, it is that funding for Section 8 voucher renewals received a slight uptick. Tenant-based rental assistance, which primarily funds Section 8 as well as a number of smaller voucher programs, has been allotted \$18.97 billion for 2012, up from the \$18.345 billion provided in 2011. The 3.3 percent increase, it bears mentioning, is only slightly more than a standard cost-of-living adjustment.

Project-based Section 8 likewise re-

ceived a \$9.34 billion allotment, a modest bump from last year's allotment of \$9.264.

The federal funding allotments for 2012 are well off the funding recommendations made by both the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities (CLPHA) and the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO).

Both organizations had recommended funding for HUD's operating budget be set at nearly \$5 billion; the actual amount authorized is about \$1 billion below that request. The gap between recommended and actual funding amounts for HUD's capital budget is even more pronounced. CLPHA and NAHRO had recommended capital funds of \$4 billion and \$5 billion, respectively — a reflection of the significant need for capital improvements in the nation's public-housing stock. The actual allotment is billions of dollars below the recommended amount.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## The future unfolds at three SSHP properties



IMAGE COURTESY OF GGLO

A digital rendering shows what Blakeley Manor will look like following renovation efforts that have begun this year.

BY SVEN KOEHLER  
Seattle Housing Authority

A year ago residents of four Seattle Senior Housing Program (SSHP) communities learned that rumors of long-awaited construction to spruce up their buildings were finally coming true. The Seattle Housing Authority was awarded millions of dollars by the City of Seattle to fund exterior renewal projects.

Fast forward to a year later: Hammers are pounding, saws are cutting and scaffolding surrounds parts of three of these buildings (Nelson Manor, Olmsted Manor and Blakeley Manor). The schedule at the fourth, Bitter Lake Manor, is not yet final, but construction could begin there as soon as early 2012.

All four buildings are getting new windows, new façades and several ventilation and energy saving upgrades. This plan follows in the footsteps of the renovations at Schwabacher House, Reunion House and Willis House that were completed in 2008 and 2009.

At this point, half of the old stucco exteriors of Nelson Manor and Olmsted Manor have been demolished by crews from Porter Construction, revealing some spots where wood structural members have been damaged by years of water infiltration. Repairs are being made with replacement framing.

In addition to replacing wood studs, the buildings' structure is being stiffened with the addition of new plywood sheeting where there was none before. Without the rigidity of the sheeting, the walls had tended to move a little bit, which was barely perceptible but enough to cause cracks in the seals of the old glass window panes. With cracked seals, the insulating gas between the glass panes disappears. With that, the windows lose their insulation value and begin to fog up in between the panes.

"The sheeting installation has involved a lot of hammering noises, but the guys are not at it all day and not every day. If it helps the building structure and solves some of those steamed up windows, it is worth it!" said Mary Jean Russell of Nelson Manor, who eagerly awaits the new windows. The new

windows will be of high-quality reinforced vinyl, with double pane, high-efficiency insulating glass that should overcome those past problems.

Soon, new waterproofing will be applied to the exterior, complemented by good flashing details. This should stop leaks into the interiors that have plagued some units, especially those with corners that seem to face incoming rainstorms. Additional wall insulation will be installed to help lower energy usage at the buildings. In a month or so, the first residents will be able to look out of brand new windows.

Work at Blakeley Manor has just begun with a different contractor, Tatley-Grund, but the issues with this building's skin and structure are expected to be similar. At the Nov. 22 kick-off meeting, residents met some of the contractor's crew and learned about the plans for construction and the preliminary schedule. Scaffolding installation began Nov. 28 and will continue through four phases, one every three to five weeks until the whole building is under wraps.

After the meeting, the residents and new Senior Property Manager Bruce Garberding joined the construction crew in a celebratory toast to the success of the project. An added attraction at the end of the meeting was a happy birthday sing-along for the longtime Resident Manager, Nancy Carpenter. Residents from almost half of the building's 70 apartments were represented, which shows a high level of interest in the building's future.

By next summer, what the future holds for the monotone bluish-grey exterior siding and stucco of Blakeley Manor is a more vibrant, contemporary façade. There will be cheerful accents of ochre-colored fiber cement panels, which is a very durable and moisture-resistant building material.

Resistance to moisture intrusion is a goal of the project that came into focus after an investigation by building consultants in 2007 revealed water damage behind the siding of the narrow planters outside some of the upper level apartments. This type of condition

Please see "Future" on Page 5

## Changes at the helm of the Seattle Senior Housing Program



PHOTO BY SVEN KOEHLER

Merna Soper, one of the original residents of Blakeley Manor, greets one of the newest members of the Seattle Senior Housing Program community, the new Senior Property Manager Bruce Garberding. The two were checking out the construction information board after the resident meeting kicking off the exterior renewal project at the building on Nov. 22.

BY SVEN KOEHLER  
Seattle Housing Authority

The winds of change have been gusting through the Seattle Senior Housing Program this fall. The different income verification and rent determination procedures resulting from the new federal public housing subsidy were completed by every resident. Within the last two months, the transformation of three additional senior buildings got underway, as construction projects kicked off at Olmsted Manor, Nelson Manor and Blakeley Manor.

Finally, a big change occurred in early November, when the well-loved senior property manager of the program, Judith Anderson, said farewell. She entered into retirement after being at the helm of the program for six years.

Anderson's career at the Seattle Housing Authority spanned over 20 years. This followed her previous career as a welder, working in Seattle's shipyards.

"I'd sometimes be hanging 50 feet in the air, working on ship hulls, but, as a single mom back then, I thought I'd better look into another line of work," Anderson recalled about her decision to come to the agency.

Here, Anderson soon found she excelled at property management. Judi, as

she was known to residents, also discovered she loved working with people.

"When I came out to the buildings, I was always delighted to talk with residents and share in your lives," Anderson recounted in a farewell letter to residents of all her buildings.

As sad as it is to say farewell, the flip side is the chance to say farewell to Anderson's replacement, Bruce Garberding. Like Anderson, he also has more than 20 years of experience with the Seattle Housing Authority.

As the new head of the Seattle Senior Housing Program (SSHP), Garberding looks forward to returning to working with buildings such as Reunion House and Primeau Place, where he served as Property Manager about eight years ago. He left that position to become Senior Property Manager of all the agency's Low Income Public Housing (LIPH) high-rises north of downtown Seattle.

Since the program's inception in the early 1980's, the SSHP had to fund itself independently through the rent it received from residents and regular budget infusions from the Seattle Housing Authority and the City of Seattle. With his depth of experience working with federal subsidies

Please see "SSHP" on Page 4

### Community notes

#### Bake sale with an international flair at Blakeley Manor

The International Bakers of Blakeley Manor invite you to sample a world of tasty treats at its upcoming holiday bake sale. The sale begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10 at Blakeley Manor, located at 2401 NE Blakeley St.

Residents of Blakeley Manor hail from places around the world, including

Italy, Russia, Ukraine, the Philippines and South America. They'll be preparing specialties from their home countries for sale to visitors. The goodies include hearty piroshky, crispy lumpia and a variety of Scandinavian holiday breads, among other delicacies.

The event is open to all. Proceeds from the bake sale will go directly to the Blakeley Manor Resident Council.

# HIGH POINT HERALD

NEWS ABOUT THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY

## New technology center opens at Neighborhood House High Point Center

BY NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

High Point residents now have a new technology resource in their community with the opening of the High Point Technology Center.

The new, mobile computer lab is based in the Neighborhood House High Point Center at 6400 Sylvan Way SW.

The lab boasts 15 internet-ready laptops that are free to use during open lab hours. Programs available on the lab's computers include Microsoft Word, Photoshop, Rosetta Stone language software, Mavis Beacon typing software and Nero CD and DVD burning software.

Lab attendants also offer one-on-one job assistance.

"People can come in asking for help creating a résumé, cover letter or completing an online job application, because we know it's very hard to even find a paper job application now," said High Point Technology Center Coordinator Kathryn McGhee.

The High Point Technology Center hosts open training programs on Fridays, including a Job Search Skills class from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and a Computer

### High Point Technology Center

## December



Neighborhood House

## High Point Center

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	November 29th	November 30th	1	2	3
	10-3: General Open Lab in Family Center	ESL: 9:30-12:30	ESL: 9:00-12:30 Youth Access Corps (Y.A.C.): 3:00-6:00	9-11:00: Open Lab 11:00-1:30: Job Search Skills 1:30-3:30: Computer 101 3:30-5:00: Youth Open Lab	Open Lab 11-5 Computer 101: 12-2pm
5	6	7	8	9	10
	10-3: General Open Lab in Family Center	ESL: 9:30-12:30	ESL: 9:00-12:30 Youth Access Corps (Y.A.C.): 3:00-6:00	9-11:00: Open Lab 11:00-1:30: Job Search Skills 1:30-3:30: Computer 101 3:30-5:00: Youth Open Lab	Tech Center Closed
12	13	14	15	16	17
	10-3: General Open Lab in Family Center		Youth Access Corps (Y.A.C.): 3:00-6:00	9-11:00: Open Lab 11:00-1:30: Job Search Skills 1:30-3:30: Computer 101 3:30-5:00: Youth Open Lab	Open Lab 11-5 Computer 101: 12-2pm
19	20	21	22	23	24
	10-3: General Open Lab in Family Center		Youth Access Corps (Y.A.C.): 3:00-6:00	9-11:00: Open Lab 11:00-1:30: Job Search Skills 1:30-3:30: Computer 101 3:30-5:00: Youth Open Lab	Tech Center Closed
26	27	28	29	30	31
Tech Center Closed	Tech Center Closed			9-11:00: Open Lab 11:00-1:30: Job Search Skills 1:30-3:30: Computer 101 3:30-5:00: Youth Open Lab	Tech Center Closed

Located at:  
Neighborhood House  
6400 Sylvan Way SW  
Seattle, WA, 98126  
206.588.4900  
Open to the public!

For questions or volunteer opportunities contact: Kat McGhee at [kathrynm@nhwa.org](mailto:kathrynm@nhwa.org)

101 class from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. The Computer 101 class also meets Saturdays from noon - 2 p.m. Those classes are free and open to all.

Open lab hours are from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Tuesdays, from 9 - 11 a.m. Fridays and from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturdays. Youth open lab hours are from 3:30 - 5 p.m. Fridays.

The Technology Center is also home to two closed programs: the South Seattle

Community College's ESL class meets in the center twice a week, and the High Point Youth Access Corps meets Thursdays.

The center is closed a number of days during the holiday season in December: Saturday, Dec. 10; Saturday, Dec. 24 through Tuesday, Dec. 27 and Saturday, Dec. 31.

For more information, contact McGhee at [kathrynm@nhwa.org](mailto:kathrynm@nhwa.org).

## Emergency

Continued from Page 2

off? The best rule of thumb is to get out of the building using the stairs and head to your building's designated "meeting location" (it may be the parking lot outside the main entry or a location across the street; check with your building's management for the exact location). Do not gather in the lobby, since the Fire Department needs the space for their "command center" when they arrive — and they usually show up with more than one engine or ladder truck, since any building with more than four or five floors is considered a "high-rise."

What if you can't use the stairs or it's not safe to leave your place? (Is there smoke or fire in the hallway? Feel your door; if it's hot, don't open it!) If you're in your apartment, remain there and put a towel under your door to keep any smoke from getting in. Call 911 to report the fire emergency and where you are in the building, so firefighters can come and get you, if necessary. If you're not in your apartment, head to a "safe area" such as a stairwell or a neighbor's apartment — you may also need to call 911 to report where you are, so firefighters will know and help you get out if needed.

If you do evacuate (either by yourself or with help from firefighters), you can expect to be out of your apartment at least two or three hours — sometimes up to three days or longer, depending on how much damage there is to the building and how long it takes for firefighters to extinguish it and clean up the mess.

If you're out of your apartment for two or three days, what can you expect? Well, that depends, but usually the American Red Cross will work with folks who are unable to return to their homes after a fire or other emergency. They will work to help people find temporary shelter during this time, as will Seattle Housing.

Metro may send a bus or two to the site of a fire or disaster, if they're able to — and all of their buses can accommodate people with disabilities.

## SSHP

Continued from Page 3

in the LIPH world augmenting his previous work with SSHP, Garberding is in an excellent position to lead the way forward as the program adjusts the changes brought about by receiving federal funding.

But he says jokingly that perhaps his age was his most impressive qualification for filling Anderson's shoes.

"Being a senior myself, I am confident that I will be able to understand many of the issues we are all facing as we move into the future. I am honored to have the opportunity to lead this program," Garberding said.

For the last few months, Garberding has had his foot in both worlds, as he covers responsibilities in both his old position and his new job during the transition. Nevertheless, during this time, he has been introducing himself to residents at meetings at every one of the 23 Senior Housing buildings.

"I have always strived to work on a grassroots level with our residents, and I will continue to do so with the folks in SSHP," he said.

At Blakeley Manor recently, he had the chance to get to know not only residents, but a VIP guest, as well. The office of United States Senator Maria Cantwell called Garberding late on Friday, Nov. 18, asking if Blakeley Manor would serve as the site for a press conference with the Senator just a day and a half later.

Garberding had his hands full with arrangements all weekend, but on Sunday,

Nov. 20, the media's spotlights focused on Blakeley Manor. Senator Cantwell stood in the building's community room to present a statement about preserving federal utility assistance funding for seniors and other low-income residents of Seattle. Making sure the event went off without a hitch was an unexpected call of duty for Garberding on short notice, but he took it in stride as an important opportunity for the SSHP community to shine, and for residents to meet and talk with their Senator.

While this kind of dedication will be a boon to the Senior Housing program, Garberding's service and expertise will be missed in his old job. Of his time at the helm of his LIPH portfolio, Garberding said, "I will miss my team more than anything. Any success I have had is owed so much to their tremendous support and willingness to let me lead for all these years. I will, of course, miss the wonderfully diverse group of residents who motivated me to do my best to make sure they have quality housing."

Garberding's focus on teamwork and service is reflected in his goal for his tenure at the helm of the Seattle Senior Housing Program.

"I think the security of having a place to live where you feel safe is important for everyone, but I also think that is an even higher priority for seniors," he said. "Surviving in these times of uncertainty is challenging to us all. I hope my team can bring a sense of trust that we are doing everything we can to provide the housing they need."

## Nonsmoking

Continued from Page 1

Resident feedback of the non-smoking policy has been largely supportive, first indicated by a residential survey in April 2011, which showed 71 percent of LIPH residents supporting a completely smoke-free environment for all public housing. A small number of residents have opposed the policy, concerned that their personal rights are being infringed upon.

John Littel, Chair of the Seattle Housing Board of Commissioners, addressed the extensive process the agency and its board have taken on to ensure that a fair policy was drafted.

"This is a policy we have been considering for over a year. We have done extensive outreach and community meetings and have had almost monthly conversations about it at our board briefings," Littel said. "We have made several revisions to the policies as a result of feedback we have gotten. We will continue to follow the implementation of the policy and will take the issues brought up today very seriously."

Due to numerous health studies indicating the dangers of secondhand smoke — especially to children, the elderly, and people who are ill — the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) sent all public housing authorities a recommendation in 2009 that they make their buildings smoke-free. Approximately 275 housing authorities across the U.S. have already implemented similar policies.

Julie Peterson, Senior Director of Public Affairs at the Comprehensive Health Education Foundation, spoke of the overwhelming health data regarding the dangers of secondhand smoke.

"There is no safe level of secondhand smoke. The King County Board of Health is encouraging all rental housing organizations to make their apartments smoke-free. It is a trend that is happening nationally throughout the rental housing industry," said Peterson. "We have found that the majority of residents — even smokers — support a no-smoking policy in their rentals."

Seattle Housing provides homes for a variety of people, including seniors, people with health problems or disabilities, children and vulnerable population groups. Some suffer from heart and respiratory problems including emphysema, asthma, bronchitis and heart disease. Secondhand smoke in their environment often worsens their condition by intensifying symptoms.

The process of drafting the Non-Smoking Policy involved examining policies from various regional housing authorities and receiving input from Public Health — Seattle & King County, as well as holding multiple meetings with agency staff, the Smoke-Free Housing Advisory Council and Seattle Housing residents.

Residents will be notified of the policy change and will be invited to community meetings to understand the policy, what is involved, and how to comply. Residents will also be required to sign a lease addendum.

# RAINIER VISTA NEWS

NEWS ABOUT THE RAINIER VISTA COMMUNITY

## Tamarack Place welcomes a one-of-a-kind restaurant

BY SCOTT FREUTEL  
Seattle Housing Authority

If there's a more pleasant place to grab a bite and talk with friends than the just-opened Bananas Grill, in the Tamarack Place building at Rainier Vista, it's hard to bring it to mind.

Many people, friends and neighbors, came by to wish the owners well at the restaurant's Grand Opening on Nov. 11. They were made welcome by members of the family who dreamed up, created and staff the place — Farah Ismael and his wife, Amina, and their daughters Irkan Ismail and Fay Guled. (Guled is a nursing student at Seattle University, and her husband is a pharmacist.)

One of the Ismael grandchildren buses tables after school. All are exceptionally cordial, friendly and welcoming.

Bananas Grill is bright and spacious. As befits its name, the restaurant is painted yellow with gold and ochre accents. Chandeliers and big windows provide abundant light.

Most of the windows look out over a colorful playground; others allow customers to sit at a counter and observe goings-on on Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. There are sixteen tables.

The Bananas Grill menu is largely

Bananas Grill is at 4626 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way S. — it's the business at the north end of the Tamarack Building. Hours are 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. every day of the week. The telephone number — the number to call to place a to-go order for pickup — is 206-420-4839.

At present the restaurant provides dining in and take-out. Plans are in the works to offer catering services and, maybe, delivery.

Middle Eastern and Mediterranean: falafels and gyros and roasted chicken and baklava and other Middle Eastern specialties. But it also serves such standard American fare as hamburgers, popular with kids en route to or from the next-door Boys and Girls Club and with construction workers building homes nearby. Soft drinks and espresso are served.

Farah and Amina hail from Somalia, and they've made a point of seeing to it that everything served in Bananas Grill is halal.

Farah Ismael is 53-years-old and has lived in the United States for 12 years. He and his wife live on nearby Beacon Hill. He's a retired petroleum engineer.

Asked on the day of the Grand Opening why he wanted to start a restaurant, a business that he must know will keep him at



PHOTO BY SCOTT FREUTEL

Farah Ismael, left, co-owner of the just-opened Bananas Grill, in Tamarack Place, with cook Waleed, await their first customers of the day.

least as busy as he was when he was working as an engineer, he said he and his family wanted to create "a special place where we could work together" while providing the community with fresh, healthy, inexpensive cooked-to-order food.

"We want to give the community a place of enjoyment with delicious meals and friendly service," Ismael added before urging a reporter to tell readers of The Voice to come give Bananas Grill a try.

## Rainier Vista residents gear up for winter with preparedness fair



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

Rainier Vista residents access winter safety and preparedness information from a variety of providers during an event at the Neighborhood House Rainier Vista Center.

BY SEATTLE UNIVERSITY NURSING PROGRAM

Seattle University nursing students held a Winter Preparedness fair at the Neighborhood House Rainier Vista Center on Thursday, Nov. 10. The event kicked off with a raffle of three full-sized emergency kits for residents. Free emergency kits for the first 50 families in attendance were also distributed.

Event topics covered how to prepare your house and car for the upcoming

winter. Residents learned how to check tire pressure, inspect windshield wipers and check car tire treads.

Residents also learned how to prepare their home for winter storms: Keep extra blankets in event of power loss, install pipe covers so pipes don't freeze and have extra batteries available for flashlights in case power is interrupted. Also, do not use gas or charcoal grills or portable camping stoves inside your home — these should only be used outdoors. And do not sit in your car waiting for it to heat

up for a long period of time, due to carbon monoxide dangers.

The Seattle Fire Department, NeighborCare Health, the American Red Cross, Seattle Housing Authority and Neighborhood House partnered in this event to help inform the community about important weather preparation techniques. About 85 residents attended. This fair was a fun way for the community to come together and prepare for the upcoming chilly weather.

## Future

Continued from Page 3

made repairs necessary in the past, and would lead to damage in units below the planter if left unchecked.

Following the adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, the decision was made not to replace the planters when the new exterior is installed. Though their loss is not popular with some residents, these planters represent a high potential for water intrusion into the building, exactly the problem that plagues the building now, explained Brent Palmason, Project Manager from Seattle Housing Authority for the project.

One requirement of the funding that will pay for the renovation is that the project earns points for environmental sustainability. Streamlining the buildings' exteriors without the planters made long-term sense to reduce future maintenance issues and assure the building's durability. As the project's building consultant Micheal Aoki-Kramer of RDH put it, "A durable building is a sustainable building, and the way to keep a building durable is to manage water well."

Merna Soper had special reason to be intrigued by the building's new look. She was a shopkeeper in nearby University Village and lived right across the street when Blakeley Manor was first being built in 1984. "I thought, that looks like a nice place, I should live there," Soper recounted.

Soper and a neighbor moved in when the building opened. Now, she is the only original resident remaining at the building. "I'm ready to see what's in store next for my building," she said as she checked out the renderings of what Blakeley Manor will look like in its next incarnation.

# NEWHOLLY NOTES

NEWS ABOUT THE NEWHOLLY COMMUNITY

## NewHolly resident and advocate for local Vietnamese community participates in social justice summit

By JOY BRYNGELSON  
Seattle Housing Authority

Rang Phan has been an advocate and leader in NewHolly and the Vietnamese community in Seattle since moving here in 1991. When he heard about the City of Seattle's Race & Social Justice Initiative and the community forum on Nov. 12 at the Rainier Community Center, he wanted to attend to find out more about what the initiative actually does for the Vietnamese community and the multicultural neighborhood of NewHolly.

With help of interpretation provided by Linh Thach, Asian Community Liaison from the Seattle Police Department, Phan participated in the half-day workshop and shared his ideas during the community input sessions. When asked about his priorities for the city, he said "We need jobs for low-income residents of Seattle. That is the most important thing right now."

Phan is planning on bringing the information he gathered at the forum back to his community and encouraging more people to get involved in discussions and projects that can end racism towards the Vietnamese community and other communities of color.



PHOTO BY JOY BRYNGELSON

Rang Phan with Julie Nelson, Director of the Office of Civil Rights at the City's Race and Social Justice Initiative Community Forum at Rainier Community Center.

## NewHolly safety fair a success



PHOTO BY JOY BRYNGELSON

Neighborhood leaders show appreciation for security staff and local SPD. (Left to right from back: Mark Solomon, Erik White, George Lee, JoJo Cambrono; Feliz Sanchez, Ann Alouch, Rahma Jama, Daphne Schneider.)

By APRIL YEE  
NewHolly Community Building Intern

Forty-five members of the NewHolly community gathered for the NewHolly Safety Fair on Tuesday, Nov. 15. Local resident Carrie Lawshe initiated and coordinated the event, which proved to be both fun and informative for all who attended.

Seattle police officers Mark Solomon and JoJo Cambrono presented helpful tips on home and community safety, performing skits of a burglary in progress and how the SPD would respond to an anonymous tip. They also answered residents' questions about reporting crimes and promoting safe communities.

Above all, the officers emphasized the importance of "knowing your neighbors." When you know your neighbors, it's easier to identify trespassers in the community perpetrating crimes, Solomon and Cambro explained.

Community leaders promoted neighborhood gatherings like block parties, barbecues and safety walks as ways to meet each other.

Allan Davis of the Seattle Neighborhood Group offered tips about automobile safety. A majority of car thefts, he explained, are "crimes of opportunity." This occurs when the owner of the vehicle gives the thief easy access to the car by keeping windows open or doors unlocked, or leaving valuables in plain sight. Preventative measures can go a long way in preventing car theft, Davis explained.

At the end of the night, each attendee received a free car club, courtesy of a \$700 mini-grant that was approved by voting residents of NewHolly at one of the quarterly NewHolly Neighborhood Nights. The next opportunity to apply for a community project mini-grant will be the upcoming Jan. 6 Neighborhood Night and New Year Potluck (see ad on this page).

## Funding Continued from Page 1

Jr. Way from NewHolly.

The mayor described the grant award as an opportunity to help "widen the circle of prosperity" for people who live or work along the Link Light Rail line in the Rainier Valley.

"This grant will help us support a diverse community in the Rainier Valley," McGinn said. "With it, we can help protect existing businesses and residents in the neighborhood as we work to fulfill the promise of the light rail."

McGinn also noted that most of the businesses along that corridor are locally owned by Rainier Valley residents, making it a particularly unique and valuable business district for the city. City Councilmember Nick Licata added, "This is about making government real, improving real people's lives."

The city will put the grant money to use by:

- securing key development sites along the light-rail corridor in the Rainier Valley to promote more mixed-use, transit-oriented development;
- creating a strategy to stabilize existing business and to grow new business opportunities in the Othello neighborhood; and
- planning the development of a multicultural community center that will help

strengthen the cultural and ethnic diversity of the area.

The grant is part of HUD's Sustainable Communities Program, which was designed to foster planning for more livable, sustainable communities — places where transportation, housing and commercial development investments are coordinated to better serve the people living in those communities.

In Nov. 2010, the Puget Sound Regional Council, an 18-organization consortium in which Seattle Housing Authority participates, was awarded \$5 million from the same program to help shape the region's urban form and ensure that transportation improvements support sustainable development and foster vibrant, healthy neighborhoods for all.

The planning of the multicultural community center is expected to last 18 months and will identify an appropriate building site and help determine what services and amenities it would need to best serve the surrounding community.

Abdurahman Jama, Executive Director of East African Community Services, reminded the crowd attending the event that 98118 is the most diverse ZIP code in the nation.

"It is very, very important to have a multicultural service center in this neighborhood," Jama said.

Happy New Year NewHolly!  
You and your family are invited!  
Meet your neighbors!  
Please come and have fun!



# New Year Potluck Dinner & Neighborhood Night



Friday  
Jan. 6, 2012  
6 - 9 p.m.

NewHolly Gathering Hall  
7054 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave S.

\$25  
You can be reimbursed for up to \$25 for bringing a family size dish to share! Bring your grocery receipts.

Hosted by the NewHolly Multicultural Communication Committee!

Get involved! Volunteer to be part of this event!  
If you have ideas or have questions, please call Joy at 723-1725.

# YESLER HAPPENINGS

NEWS ABOUT THE YESLER TERRACE COMMUNITY

## Yesler seniors gather for annual Thanksgiving luncheon

BY VOICE STAFF

In what is a holiday tradition, members of Yesler Terrace's senior community came together for a Thanksgiving luncheon Nov. 18 at the Yesler Community Center.

The annual event provides food, fun and entertainment for Yesler's elders.

This year's event included a special guest: Belete Shiferaw, who owns Kokeb Restaurant with his wife Yeshi Shiferaw. Kokeb Restaurant donated much of the food that was served at the luncheon.

Shiferaw spoke of his experience in immigrating to the United States with his wife, Yeshi.

"We had nothing when we came here — actually, we lost our luggage on the trip," he said.

Given a few hundred dollars to settle in a new country, they eventually established Kokeb Restaurant in 1982. The couple had two children born in the U.S. — daughter Askale is currently enrolled in dental school; son Paulos is a UW student and former member of the U.S. National Junior Hockey program.

"I have a lot of reasons to say 'Thank you,'" Shiferaw said. "This is a way to express my gratitude and appreciation."

Volunteers from Seattle University served more



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

*Belete Shiferaw, who owns Kokeb Restaurant along with his wife Yeshi Shiferaw, speaks during the luncheon. Kokeb Restaurant, an Ethiopian restaurant in Seattle, donated some of the food for the luncheon.*

than 100 meals to the guests in attendance.

Sponsors of the Yesler Thanksgiving Luncheon, in addition to Kokeb Restaurant, included Bon Appetit Food Services, QFC, Seattle University and Neighborhood House.



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

*Guests at the Yesler Terrace Thanksgiving Luncheon line up for food served by volunteers from Seattle University.*

## Choice Neighborhoods grant will fund housing, neighborhood improvements and education access

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

Seattle Housing Authority was notified in September that a \$10.3 million Choice Neighborhoods grant from HUD has been awarded to begin redevelopment of Yesler Terrace. While this is less than the \$27.1 million that the housing authority applied for, it is being supplemented with 60 new Housing Choice Vouchers worth approximately \$560,000 per year in additional subsidy for the project. The addition of the 60 vouchers is critical to making it possible for the housing authority to reach its goals of building new housing east of Boren.

The long-term plan is to focus on expanding housing for all income levels throughout the Choice Neighborhoods area. Now there are just over 1,000 units of housing in the neighborhood, mostly low-income. The vision is to expand to nearly 6,500 units, serving a mix of renters throughout the neighborhood, with a total of nearly 2,000 serving households with incomes below 80 percent of area median income.

The first phase of redevelopment will add a total of 218 units to the area east of Boren. Seattle Housing Authority will build 100 of these units at a new development at 1111 East Fir St. The housing authority will also rehab the vacant Baldwin Apartments at 14th Avenue and East Fir to create 18 one-bedroom apartments.

Of these housing authority units, 98 will be replacements for public housing units currently existing at Yesler Terrace. A market-rate housing developer will build a 100-unit building at 12th and Yesler that will also include 5,000 square feet of neighborhood retail.

In order to help the people in the neighborhood thrive, a coalition of partners will

use \$1.5 million of the Choice Neighborhoods grant to coordinate a comprehensive approach to education in order to improve the academic success of Yesler's children and youth. The driving vision for these services is that every child will receive a high-quality education leading to college or living wage work.

Seattle University will oversee a "cradle-to-college" pipeline of educational support services based on the Harlem Children's Zone model. Seattle Public Schools and other educational entities are key partners. This approach will make it possible for low-income children in the neighborhood to have access to a range of programs from early learning (e.g. Head Start) and tutoring to mentoring aimed at helping students enter college and receive scholarships.

The vision for the Neighborhood component is to transform the Yesler Neighborhood into a diverse, connected, safe and sustainable neighborhood of choice for people of all backgrounds and incomes, adjacent to downtown and major regional employers, for the benefit of the entire city.

This component will focus on the community infrastructure and amenities that are needed to create a truly viable mixed-income neighborhood. Choice Neighborhood grant funding of \$1.5 million will leverage other funds to create a pedestrian hillclimb connecting Yesler Terrace to the Little Saigon neighborhood along the 10th Ave. S. right of way.

Horiuchi Park, located off Boren Avenue, will be converted with help from the City of Seattle into community garden space. Finally, the retail space at 12th and Yesler will be subsidized to make lease rates affordable to small neighborhood businesses.

## Community members talk priorities as parks department prepares to cut back center hours

BY TYLER ROUSH  
The Voice editor

With cuts to the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department upcoming in 2012, community centers like the one at Yesler Terrace are on uncertain footing. Changes to programming offered may be forthcoming at many community centers, which will see their weekly hours reduced on average by 12 percent.

What is known is that the Yesler Community Center will be open to the public for 45 hours per week beginning in 2012. Last month, Parks and Recreation staff met with members of the Yesler Terrace community to discuss programming priorities for the center.

Kristin O'Donnell, longtime Yesler resident and president of the neighborhood's community council, said that the community center's service base is the youth that live in the community. Many teens and young people visit the center on a daily basis.

"Programs for school-age kids oughta be the last programs standing," she said.

Keisha Cannon, Assistant Coordinator at the Yesler Community Center, echoed that sentiment.

"I think we all agree that youth are numero uno here," she said.

It's also important that existing programs for seniors don't lose momentum, said Judi Carter, Seattle Housing's Property Manager at Yesler. Such programs have obvious and dramatic health benefits for seniors, but can only be successful if

given stability.

"We are getting these people out of their homes and improving their lives," Carter said.

Michael Neguse, of the Seattle Neighborhood Group, added that adult programs, such as a community kitchen program that has drawn East African men and women, have had the power to tear down cultural barriers.

"Most East African men, they don't go into the kitchen to cook," Neguse said. "But now, we are teaching them ... and they really like it."

Increasing volunteer hours at the center is one way to protect as many programs as possible, Cannon said.

"Volunteers are huge ... especially for programs," she said. "If you have volunteers, it keeps the costs way, way down."

While the parks department will be working to preserve as much of the programming at the Yesler Community Center as possible, they'll be doing so without Cannon. As part of the reorganization, Cannon will be relocated to another site.

Community members lamented the loss of Cannon, who had been at the center for more than a year. But Carter added that change always brings new faces to fill older roles.

"Every time somebody new comes, they make it their own and they bring a new flavor," Carter said.

For more information about the reorganization of the parks' community center system, visit [www.seattle.gov/parks/centers/operations.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/centers/operations.htm).



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