



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



# The Voice

October  
2013  
Articles translated  
into six languages

The newspaper of Neighborhood House — visit our website at [www.voicenewspaper.org](http://www.voicenewspaper.org)

## Saluting the volunteers who power the United Way Day of Caring



PHOTOS BY TYLER ROUSH

The annual United Way Day of Caring is always an exciting time at Neighborhood House, and this year's event on Sept. 20 was no exception. In a full day of service, volunteers from Farmers Insurance, Puget Sound Bank, Microsoft and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation engaged some of the communities served by NH in a host of projects. At Neighborhood House locations in High Point, NewHolly, Rainier Vista and Yesler Terrace, volunteers exemplified the true power of the spirit of caring. Whether it was cataloguing books and educational toys for home visiting programs, training Neighborhood House staff in computer skills or providing resume-building tips and mock interviews for low-income jobseekers, Day of Caring volunteers made a real and positive impact in the lives of so many individuals and families. For a full story about one such service project, Seattle Housing can turn to the related article on Page 2 of the Seattle Housing News section.

## New City of Seattle programs to promote voting and civic engagement among immigrants and refugees

BY VOICE STAFF

The City of Seattle has announced new initiatives to promote voting rights for immigrant and refugee communities in Seattle. The new programs are expected to make the city more voter-friendly for more than 100,000 foreign-born residents of Seattle.

The programs, which include the Immigrant Voting Rights Taskforce and Refugee Women Civic Leadership Institute, were included as part of Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn's proposed 2014 budget.

Immigrant and refugee rights have been a priority of the McGinn administration, which previously created Seattle's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs in 2012.

Work of the Immigrant Voting Rights Taskforce will focus on such areas as: where ballot boxes are located; voter registration deadlines for new citizens; increased outreach to promote voting among new citizens; and language assistance for non-English speakers.

The Office of Immigrant and Refugee

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### General election Tuesday, Nov. 5 — register to vote now

The 2013 general election is Tuesday, Nov. 5, but time is running out to register and be eligible to vote.

For most voters, the registration deadline in King County is Monday, Oct. 7. Registration for new voters only can be done in-person through Monday, Oct. 28.

For more information including how and where to register, visit [www.kingcounty.gov/elections.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections.aspx).

Already registered? You should be receiving a ballot and voter's guide in the mail. Follow the instructions on your ballot to vote and return it by mail — don't forget a stamp! — by Nov. 5. Ballots must be postmarked by that date to be counted.

## Pagans, saints and the origins of Halloween

BY TYLER ROUSH  
The Voice editor

Ghosts, goblins and a haunted house on a hill? The crooked smile of a jack-o-lantern? Or maybe a party of trick-or-treaters, pillowcases bulging with candy?

These are just a few of the images many associate with Halloween. Each year on Oct. 31, millions around the United States and the world carve spooky faces onto pumpkins, watch scary movie marathons, or dress up in costumes and go door-to-door, where an appeal of "Trick or Treat!" is most often answered with a generous handful of treats.

But from where did these traditions get their start? To trace the origins of Halloween, we have to travel back through the centuries, to the harvest festivals of Gaelic

pagans and, somewhat later, to Western Christian holidays of Medieval Europe.

### Samhain — "summer's end"

In the lives of the Gaelic people of ancient Ireland and Scotland, the end of summer marked the time to bring their cattle back from summer pastures, to take stock of their food stores, and to slaughter what animals would be needed so that the people might have meat to survive the winter.

Samhain, which translated from the Gaelic means "summer's end," was a festival that corresponded to the end of the harvest and the beginning of winter. The festival, which is still observed today, begins at sunset on Oct. 31 and concludes at sunset on Nov. 1. It is one of four seasonal festivals on the Gaelic calendar, and along

with Beltane (which marks the coming of summer) is one of the most important. Similar festivals are observed by the Celtic people of Britain and Northern France.

Celebrants lit bonfires and prepared feasts, leaving a place at their tables for the souls of dead relatives. It was believed that during Samhain the door to the Otherworld, or realm of the dead, would open just enough to allow the souls of the deceased to return and visit the world of the living.

References to Samhain in Irish literature date to the 10th Century, but the festival was certainly practiced centuries before. When Christianity expanded to Britain and Ireland in the Fifth Century, many of the Gaelic people became con-

Please see "Halloween" on Page 3

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# Greenbridge Community Action Team on the move

BY VELMA VELORIA  
Special to The Voice

The Community Action Team (CAT) at Greenbridge, a community leadership project started by Neighborhood House in 2009, wanted to make sure that members of the community could take advantage of the great summer weather and bring their families on a meaningful outing to the Henry Moses Aquatic Center in Renton. But there were challenges, particularly if you were not a resident of Renton. The cost for non-Renton Resident groups of 10 or more was \$16/person and transportation was needed to bring people to the park.

Have no fear! CAT members are here! Immediately, Greenbridge CAT members Spomenka Novakovic, Chato Carver, Libin Egal and Maryan Farah Mohamed began planning a fundraiser to provide discounts to families who were interested in participating. The idea of making, frying and selling sambusas to neighbors and friends was hatched.

Together the team calculated that in order to give some families discounts they would need to make, fry and sell 400 sambusas. They recruited friends and family members, and put them to work. Together, they were able to raise enough money to



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREENBRIDGE CAT

Members of the Greenbridge Community Action Team enjoyed a day out at the Henry Moses Aquatic Center in Renton this summer.

provide \$5 and \$10 discounts to each family member. Because of the relationship the CAT members had developed over the years with Tracie Friedman, Greenbridge Community Builder from King County Housing Authority, transportation to take over fifty residents to the park was sponsored by KCHA.

On Aug. 17, more than 50 Greenbridge residents along with the CAT leaders boarded the bus bound for Henry Moses Aquatic Center. Everyone had a great time!

## Join the fun! Help build a stronger Greenbridge community!

Become a member of the Community Action Team (CAT).

For more information, contact CAT leads:

- Chato Carver, 206-335-4293
- Spomenka Novakovic, 206-767-8039
- Maryan Farah Mohamed, 206-402-4516
- Libin Egal, 206-235-9068

# Be safe

# Communication and crime prevention

BY KELLY MCKINNEY  
Seattle Neighborhood Group

One of the most important tools for crime prevention is communication. Not just with the police department but between neighbors. The key to block watches and neighborhood watches is neighbors talking to each other about what is going on in the neighborhood.

It is not about being nosy. You don't have to be best friends forever. Everyone in the neighborhood has a stake in keeping the community safe for the people living, visiting and working in the area.

By setting up a Block or Neighborhood Watch, you are creating a communication network that can alert neighbors to suspicious activities and individuals in the area. It can also alert neighbors to a visitor in the neighborhood who has a reason to be in the community. The skinny guy with the purple and orange mohawk, multiple piercings and strange tattoos that you have never seen before, may just be somebody suspicious and up to no good, or it could

be your neighbor's second cousin from San Francisco. Block Watches can help you figure out what is going on.

Block Watches can also serve as tools to help organize community events in your neighborhood such as block parties, neighborhood trash clean ups, graffiti paint outs and light surveys, just to name a few activities.

If you are interested in starting a Block Watch in your neighborhood you can contact your Neighborhood Precinct Crime Prevention Coordinator and request assistance in getting one set up.

North Precinct: Terrie Johnston - 206-684-7711

Southeast and Southwest Precincts: Mark Solomon - 206-386-9766

East and West Precincts: Fran Tello - 206-684-4730.

Kelly McKinney (206-323-7084) and Allan Davis (206-323-7094) are Community Education Coordinators for Seattle Neighborhood Group.

## Immigrant

Continued from Page 1

Affairs will provide oversight of the taskforce's work.

That includes promoting civic engagement among immigrant communities and combating the disenfranchisement that can occur when voting rights aren't adequately protected.

Also announced was a pilot project for a Refugee Women Civic Leadership Institute. The program will focus on engaging female refugees in the civic process.

The taskforce and institute are two of a number of efforts aimed at creating a more equitable place for immigrants and

refugees in the city of Seattle.

This summer, the city announced new policies designed to help young immigrants prove residency for the purposes of eligibility for the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival, which offers a reprieve from deportation and an opportunity to work for some unauthorized immigrants who entered the United States as children.

The Seattle Police Department (SPD) is also ramping up its efforts at outreach to immigrant and refugee communities as part of the SPD's 20/20 reform plan. Officers will be equipped with language resource cards to aid in communication with non- or limited-English speakers.

# Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal

Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 2013

Drop off medications at any Police Station 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

dispose

### 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).

Please join Mayor Mike McGinn and the City of Seattle at Seattle Financial Planning Day

## Seattle Financial Planning Day

Here is where your money questions can get answered.

Free one-on-one personalized financial advice.

There will be free workshops on budgeting, credit reports, debt collection, and health care reform.

This is a great opportunity to begin planning for your financial future. At Seattle Financial Planning Day you can get a free, private consultation on financial issues that matter to you. There will be experts available to you from the Financial Planning Association® and highly qualified CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professionals. In addition, there will be workshops on a variety of financial topics throughout the day. Feel free to stay as little or as long as you'd like.

**Topics**  
budgeting  
credit and debt  
investing  
retirement  
taxes  
homeownership  
foreclosure  
health insurance  
insurance  
employee benefits  
public benefits  
education savings  
small business  
and more!

**Saturday, October 12, 2013**  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

**Garfield Community Center**  
2323 East Cherry Street Seattle, WA

This facility is ADA accessible

It's all free. Bring a friend!

Register online or by phone:  
[www.FinancialPlanningDays.org/Seattle](http://www.FinancialPlanningDays.org/Seattle)  
Call 1-877-861-7826  
Walk-ins welcome!

Please recycle me

## What is cultural competence?

By SUSAN IRWIN  
Special to *The Voice*

Just how do we perceive, relate to and interact with people from other cultures and different backgrounds? Does our own perception influence the way we interact with and experience others? Are we aware of our biases and limitations when it comes to engaging others in a culturally competent way?

Seattle Housing residents explored these questions and more in great detail during a Cultural Competence Workshop Sept. 19 at Jefferson Terrace.

The workshop, presented by Seattle Housing's Resident Leadership Development Team, was led by Dr. Caprice Hollins, a faculty member at The Seattle School of Theology & Psychology.

Dr. Hollins led this wonderful event in a sensitive and loving way. Having come from a diverse background herself, she has the advantage of empathic understanding toward others that few of us can duplicate.

We who are living in Seattle Housing buildings interact with many different cultures, and yet I doubt many of us know how to relate to other tenants of differing races, languages, abilities, sexual preferences and many other factions of our communities. We all have biases and stereotypes about our neighbors and when these are unconscious, we perpetuate damaging stereotypes.

She introduced four ways to consider how we perceive what we think:

1. Unconscious Incompetence — We are unaware that there are differences not being addressed. Kind of like sleepwalking, thinking your culture is the only one that exists. We perpetuate stereotypes that disrespect whole groups of people who deserve to be treated equally. We walk around blindfolded and unaware of the rich diversity of other cultures.

2. Conscious Incompetence — OK, we are becoming aware that other cultures exist. We start to see the different abilities and traits others have but we still don't know how to treat others of different ages, races, genders, religions, socioeconomic backgrounds.

3. Conscious Competence — We are becoming more sensitive toward different groups of people, but we still have to think about how to treat them. Awareness increases and as our knowledge base grows we develop and practice skills that equalize the differences until we see other attributes as more similar than different from our own.

4. Unconscious competence — This is the desired outcome where we are natural and comfortable living and relating to many different types of people and cultures. "They" have become "we" and we live in harmony.

Dr. Hollins gave a great workshop that taught us valuable insight into ourselves. Her compassion for others and understanding of the rich diversity we enjoy in this country was portrayed with empathy and kindness.

## Scammers targeting City Light customers with bogus threats of service cutoffs

Seattle City Light is warning its customers to protect themselves against con artists who are using false threats of disconnecting electrical service in attempts to steal money.

Customers reported at least 15 scam attempts to City Light in one recent week, and other utilities in the Pacific Northwest have reported similar activity. In Seattle, the scammers appear to be targeting Asian small businesses.

The con works like this: A person claiming to work for the utility calls a customer and claims the account is overdue. The caller then threatens to cut off electricity service unless payment is made immediately.

One new twist in this old scam has the con artists seeking payment by pre-paid debit cards, which might not have the same fraud-detection features as a credit card.

"Awareness is the best defense against con artists," Customer Service Director Kelly Enright said. "An immediate de-

mand for payment is a red flag for fraud. Anyone who gets a call like this should get contact information then hang up and call the utility and police."

Seattle City Light customer service representatives are available at 206-684-3000 to advise customers of their account status and answer any questions they might have.

Anyone who believes they have been contacted by a scam artist should report the incident to Seattle Police at 206-625-5011.

Seattle City Light will not shut off a customer's electricity for one late payment. Before a shut off is ordered, Seattle City Light will send the customer at least two written notifications.

Additionally, City Light has programs available for customers who are having trouble paying their electric bills, including a low-income rate assistance program where qualifying customers can save up to 60 percent. Information is available at (206) 684-3417.

orcise the spirits of the dead. It has been suggested by historians that the original timing of All Saints' Day was meant to Christianize what was a pagan holiday.

About a century later, the observance of All Saints' Day, or All Hallows, was moved to Nov. 1 as part of the three days of "Hallowmas." The timing is again telling, as the new observance of All Hallows fell roughly during the observance of Samhain and similar fall festivals. Many of the Gaelic and Celtic people who observed these rites of the harvest had been introduced to Christianity just centuries, perhaps even decades, before. There is no consensus among historians on whether the adoption of All Hallows on Nov. 1 was meant to undermine (or even to honor) the festival of Samhain. However, early

## Starbucks Foundation recognizes Neighborhood House's youth leadership efforts with \$30,000 grant



PHOTO BY LAURA EARNEST

Neighborhood House was recognized by Starbucks as a recipient of a 2013 Starbucks Youth Leadership Grant during a presentation on the Starbucks Stage at Bumbershoot Sunday, Sept. 1. Above, Andrea Buckmeier (left) of Starbucks presents Neighborhood House Youth Empowered with Leadership Strengths Coordinator Clarke Hill with an oversized check representing the grant amount of \$30,000. The funds from the Starbucks Foundation were used to support Neighborhood House's Youth Leadership programming in the High Point neighborhood.

## Free citizenship classes offered by Neighborhood House

Neighborhood House offers FREE Citizenship classes that run 8-week sessions throughout the year. The classes last 2–3 hours per meeting, with two sessions per week.

Eligible clients are legal, permanent, low-income residents of the United States. Enrollment is open and ongoing. We study American history, naturalization questions, and all parts of the citizenship exam. Classes are offered in Kent, White Center and High Point in West Seattle. We offer practice in writing, reading, and mock interviews. Case managers offer free help with N-400 applications, fee waivers, and medical waivers.

The new quarter begins in October, so enroll now!

Documents required for enrollment: Green Card, Social Security Card, Drivers License, DSHS letter and/or low income-verification.

### Kent — Birch Creek Family Center

13111 SE 274th St, Kent, WA 98030, 253-277-1667

Languages spoken on site: Spanish, French, Somali, Vietnamese, Burmese, Russian, Ukrainian

Instructor: Rechelle Schimke, reches

@nhwa.org, 206-446-1097

Beginning level classes, 1–4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays

Advanced level classes, 4:30–6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesday

### White Center — Wiley Center at Greenbridge

9800 Eighth Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98106, 206-461-4554

Languages spoken on site: Spanish, French, Somali, Vietnamese, Burmese, Russian, Ukrainian, Khmer

Instructor: Rechelle Schimke, reches

@nhwa.org, 206-446-1097

Beginning level classes: 2–5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays

Advanced level classes: noon–2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays

### West Seattle — High Point Center

6400 Sylvan Way SW, Seattle, WA 98126, 206-588-4900

Languages spoken on site: Spanish, French, Somali, Vietnamese, Burmese, Russian, Ukrainian

Instructor: Rechelle Schimke, reches

@nhwa.org, 206-446-1097

Beginning level classes: 1:30–4:30 p.m. Thursdays

## Halloween

Continued from Page 1

verts to the new religion. At the same time, the traditions of the Gaels of Ireland and Scotland began to have influence on new, Christian customs.

### All Saints' Day and the origins of Halloween

First celebrated in 609 or 610 CE, All Saints' Day marks the tradition of honoring the saints and martyrs of the Catholic Church. It was first observed not on Oct. 31 but on May 13, with the consecration of the Roman Pantheon to St. Mary and the martyrs. Significantly, that date corresponds to the Roman pagan festival of Lemuria, during which rites were performed to ex-

medieval Irish churches chose to observe the feast of All Saints on April 20 to avoid conflict with the festival of Samhain.

With the observance of All Hallows on Nov. 1, the day prior became known as All Hallows' Eve. On that evening, Christians believed — not unlike their Gaelic counterparts — that the barrier between the physical and spiritual realms would thin, allowing the dead to find passage between realms. To avoid recognition by the dead, the living disguised themselves by wearing masks.

The day following All Hallows is also associated with the dead. All Souls' Day on Nov. 2 is a day of remembrance and prayer for the deceased. In North America today, it is most closely associated with the Day of the Dead in Mexico, which spans

Nov. 1 and 2.

When the first colonists from Europe began to settle in North America in the 17th and 18th centuries, many left the traditions of Halloween behind. It wasn't until the 19th-century migration of Irish and Scottish immigrants — many of whom could trace their ancestry to the Gaelic pagans from millennia past — that the tradition of Halloween began to take root in North America. Today it is one of the most popularly celebrated secular holidays, drawing millions of revelers each year.

So this Oct. 31, if you're dressing up for a Halloween party, sitting down to a scary movie or just staying in to pass out candy to the neighborhood ghosts and goblins, take a moment to remember the pagans and saints who made it possible.



## Renewing Yesler's Promise

### Seattle Housing breaks ground on redevelopment

By TYLER ROUSH  
The Voice editor

**YT** Turning to “the next chapter” in the rich history of Yesler Terrace, Seattle Housing Authority broke ground on the Yesler Terrace redevelopment during a ceremony Thursday, Sept. 5 at the site of the 1105 East Fir construction project.

“Renewing Yesler’s Promise” gathered Seattle Housing staff, local civic and business leaders and residents of Yesler Terrace to celebrate the first step in the redevelopment of the low-income public-housing community in Seattle’s First Hill neighborhood. Following years of planning, Seattle Housing has commenced with a project that will add up to 5,000 new housing units and more than 1 million square-feet of office and retail space to the 30-acre parcel of

land tucked in alongside downtown Seattle, the International District and Harborview Medical Center.

“Today, as we break the ground in the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace, we begin the process of renewing Yesler’s promise,” Seattle Housing Executive Director Andrew

Please see “Yesler” on Page 4



PHOTOS BY TYLER ROUSH

Seattle Housing officials and civic and business leaders (above) break ground at the 1105 East Fir construction site. Seattle Housing Executive Director Andrew Lofton (left) greets Seattle City Council President Sally Clark prior to the groundbreaking ceremony.

## Preparing for the Affordable Care Act

By TYLER ROUSH  
The Voice editor

The major provision of the Affordable Care Act, popularly known as “Obama Care,” takes effect Oct. 1, and Seattle Housing Authority wants to ensure its residents are fully educated about the new law.

Washington Health Plan Finder, the on-line health insurance marketplace, launches Oct. 1 and allows consumers to shop for medical insurance from among a number of different providers. As part of the ACA, everyone will be required to purchase and carry health insurance. Fortunately, subsidies are available for income-eligible individuals and families.

If you already have health insurance (whether on your own, through an employer or through Medicare or Medicaid), you’re covered and won’t be required to purchase more. However, everyone should visit the new marketplace to compare plans and see if they’ll be able to save money or upgrade to a better plan. To learn more about health insurance plans and to enroll, visit [www.wahealthplanfinder.org](http://www.wahealthplanfinder.org).

### Learn more about the ACA

To compare plans and purchase health insurance, visit [www.wahealthplanfinder.org](http://www.wahealthplanfinder.org). Enrollment begins Oct. 1, with coverage taking effect Jan. 1, 2014. The enrollment period ends March 31, 2014.

Public Health – Seattle & King County offers resources and support at [www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/personal/coverage](http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/personal/coverage).

Neighborcare Health is assisting individuals and families throughout the enrollment process. For more information, attend one of the enrollment events listed in the article or visit [www.neighborcare.org](http://www.neighborcare.org).

[wahealthplanfinder.org](http://wahealthplanfinder.org).

To prepare for the launch of Washington Health Plan Finder, Seattle Housing Author-

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## Signs of growth in Seattle Housing’s proposed 2014 budget

By TYLER ROUSH  
The Voice editor

Seattle Housing staff presented its proposed 2014 budget during a public hearing Monday, Sept. 16.

While hopes for increases in federal funding remain dim and the economy continues its slow upward crawl out of recession, there are reasons for optimism in the housing authority’s proposed 2014 budget.

The 2014 Seattle Housing Proposed Budget is at \$212.5 million, which includes an operating budget of \$70.3 million, Housing Assistance Payments of \$85.7 million, Capital Budget of \$16.8 million and Redevelopment Budget of \$39.7 million.

To balance the budget, the housing authority will need to reduce approximately \$2 million to maintain existing service levels. There’s some good news in that figure — after facing budget gaps of \$10.3 million and \$4.5 million respectively in 2012 and 2013, the 2014 budget is much closer to the mark. And the budget report notes that the \$2 million reduction will be made without resorting to staff layoffs or service cuts.

There’s more good news for agency staffing. For the first time since 2010, the housing authority will add staff next year, with a net increase of 7.68 full-time employees (FTEs) being added to the rolls in 2014. That increases Seattle Housing’s total staffing capacity to 492.9.

That’s a significant milestone for an agency that has had to cut 18 percent of its staff since the 2011 Budget Control Act, the agreement that combined an increase to the U.S. debt ceiling with corresponding federal spending reductions and, ultimately, the sequestration cuts of 2013.

Despite frequent and often messy cuts at the federal level, Seattle Housing has made no reductions to its housing capacity.

Through difficult cuts in the 2011, 2012 and 2013 budgets, the housing authority has left itself well-positioned to respond to changes in the fiscal climate

without reducing the number of people it serves, according to the Seattle Housing 2014 budget summary. While spending cuts have impacted residents through reductions in Property Assistant hours and such services as window washing and grounds maintenance, the agency’s housing capacity has remained the same.

However, the report notes that budget cuts have compelled the agency to moderate its housing goals, from continually expanding housing capacity to maintaining the same level of service each year. That means people waiting for housing or vouchers are experiencing longer wait times.

While no new Housing Choice Vouchers have been issued to those who joined the waitlist earlier this year, the agency notes that it plans to begin issuing new vouchers in 2014.

There are other reasons to expect a modest increase in housing capacity, according to the housing authority’s budget report. With completed renovations at Leschi House, the agency will bring 35 new housing units for seniors into its portfolio. It also expects to add 35 vouchers in the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program and 181 new vouchers for Yesler replacement units.

The Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will provide its recommendation for the 2014 budget at its meeting Oct. 14.

## Dream Big scholars celebrated at luncheon



PHOTO BY BRETT HOUGHTON

Amanda Alvarado (left) and Rahel Gaguro (right), with retired Seattle Housing Executive Director Tom Tierney, were recipients this year of Tom Tierney Dream Big! Scholarships. Alvarado, a graduate of Cleveland High School, is in her second year at South Seattle Community College. Gaguro, who graduated from Roosevelt High School, is a freshman at Seattle Pacific University.

### Content guide

Don’t see your neighborhood section? Consult the guide below to find the logos that correspond to your community.

-  **High Point Herald**
-  **NewHolly Notes**
-  **Rainier Vista News**
-  **Yesler Happenings**

# Shining a light on the job search with resource event at RV

*United Way Day of Caring volunteers and HR professionals provide one-on-one job training, mock interviews and more at employment workshop*

BY TYLER ROUSH  
The Voice editor

**RV** In a second-floor room of the Rainier Vista Center, a roundtable of jobseekers is participating in a Q&A session with two professional recruiters.

What makes this day special isn't just that the men and women here are receiving valuable insight into the job search, from interview and communication skills to building a perfect résumé to knowing the right (and wrong) way to ask about the starting wage. It's that the recruiters are volunteers, visiting Rainier Vista as part of the United Way Day of Caring on Friday, Sept. 20.

Ray Blakeney and Susan Long-Walsh are among 12 employees of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation participating in a day of direct service working with Neighborhood House employment clients.

Long-Walsh is answering a question about what sets successful job applicants apart from other candidates.

Both Blakeney and Long-Walsh agree that skills are only part of the equation.

"We don't talk to people unless they have the skills," Long-Walsh says. "So what we really want to find out is how you are as a person."

"Skills are important, but what differentiates people are those other qualities."

Those other qualities include attitude, communication style and passion for the work.

"Is this person interested in the company, in the product, and in the work you're doing?" she says. "If there's no commitment to the work you're doing, you can find someone else."

With the roundtable going on upstairs, Neighborhood House Employment Super-



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

*In the Rainier Vista Technology Center, volunteers assisted jobseekers with writing cover letters and updating their résumés, as well as how to search and apply for jobs online.*

visor Cindy Holland is downstairs greeting jobseekers as they wait their turn for a mock interview. Holland and other Neighborhood House employment staff organized this resource event as a way to offer direct support to Neighborhood House clients through the United Way Day of Caring.

Each year, Neighborhood House partners with a number of generous companies and organizations as part of the United Way Day of Caring. All of their work is exceptional — what makes this project unique is that it's the first time a Day of Caring project has provided direct service to the low-income individuals and families that the agency serves.

Ashley Greenway, the volunteer group leader and a recruiting coordinator with the Gates Foundation, said that her team was all drawn in by the opportunity to work closely with jobseekers.

"Everyone who is here specifically chose this project because they want to work directly with community members," Gre-



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

*Ray Blakeney and Susan Long-Walsh, recruiters with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, conduct an employment roundtable conversation with jobseekers during the United Way Day of Caring at the Rainier Vista Center Sept. 20. The two were among 12 human resources professionals participating in the event.*

enway says. "The people here believe these are valuable skills, and think this is the best way to give back."

The 12 employees of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation work in recruiting and human resources — hiring and jobseeker skills are their profession. For the people who visited the employment workshop, that meant having access to advice and support from a team of experts.

Shirley Calkins-Jenkins says she didn't even know the extent of the workshop when she visited. But soon she was being advised by an HR professional on how to update and improve her résumé and cover letter, participating in a mock interview, and sitting in on a Q&A forum with senior recruiters.

"I think this is a wonderful program," Calkins-Jenkins says. "I know there are a lot of people who can benefit from it."

She said it was a great opportunity to help

her restart her job search.

"It's great to be here in this environment and get my feet wet again," Calkins-Jenkins says.

For Long-Walsh, participating in the resource event was an opportunity to share her expertise with those who stand to benefit.

"Everyone needs employment, and everyone needs some support to find it," Long-Walsh said.

The day of service is a chance to give back to the community, and also a reminder of the support she's had along the way.

"I always remember that I was once new to a job," she said.

The thought brings to mind the words of her mother, and of the obligations that we all have to help each other.

"Nobody is better than anybody else," Long-Walsh said. "Better off, but not better."



## BRIDGING THE GAP... RESOURCE FAIR






Join us for a resource fair, connecting you to the services you need!

**Saturday, October 19, 2013**

**Time: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**  
**Place: Rainier Community Center**  
**4600 38th Ave. S**  
**Seattle, WA 98118**

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## How would YOU deal with an emergency or disaster?

Okay, we're not sure how many folks have had to deal with a fire, medical emergency, flood, or earthquake recently, so we have a chance for you to learn how to do so — and believe us, there's a lot of important information you can learn and pass on to your friends, neighbors and family members (and we think you should!)

That being the case, you're invited to join us on Wednesday, Oct. 30 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Center Park (2121 26th Ave S) where staff from the Seattle Fire Department, Seattle Office of Emergency Management, the American Red Cross and folks from the Seattle Housing Authority Residents Preparing (SHARP) team will be presenting lots of information and helping everyone learn how to prepare for—and survive—an emergency or disaster.

If you want more information, please contact Marcia Johnson at 206-239-1530 (email: [mmjohnson@seattlehousing.org](mailto:mmjohnson@seattlehousing.org)) or Ellen Ziontz at 206-239-1625 (email: [eziontz@seattlehousing.org](mailto:eziontz@seattlehousing.org)). Although Center Park is on several major bus routes, we can provide transportation services for people who need it. Please contact either of the two people noted above for more information.

### 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.

If you'd like to submit an article, or if you have a question about anything you've read in this publication, please contact Editor Tyler Roush at 206-461-8430, ext. 227 or by e-mail at [tylerr@nhwa.org](mailto:tylerr@nhwa.org).

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

## Story Time at Yesler encourages summer reading, education retention

BY VOICE STAFF

Some of the youngest members of the Yesler community got a boost in their summer reading, thanks to the Yesler Terrace Story Time at the Yesler Community Center.

Saadia Hamid, Seattle Housing education engagement specialist, coordinated the program in partnership with the Seattle Public Library, Seattle Parks and Recreation and Seattle University, organized the summer reading program to benefit the youth of Yesler.

Each Wednesday, children's librarian Deborah Sandler visited the Yesler Community Center to read books to as many as 50 young people. The summer reading program helps aid in education retention during the months away from school. In addition to reading, youngsters sang songs,

played games and participated in educational activities.

The summer session concluded with a party for students and their parents on Wednesday, Aug. 28. If your child missed the summer session, don't worry — another Yesler Story Time begins Oct. 9. The seven-week session will meet Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. at the Yesler Community Center.



PHOTOS BY TYLER ROUSH

Seattle Public Library (SPL) Children's Librarian Deborah Sandler (above, at right) engages Yesler youth during a summer reading session at the Yesler Community Center. Seattle Housing and other service providers partnered on the project to encourage education retention among Yesler Terrace youth (above and at left).

## Youth turn the lens on redevelopment in documentary project

BY MARTHA TESEMA  
Special to *The Voice*

As summer drew to a close, high school students returned to fill the halls and locker rooms with chatter about their summer adventures. Some may have been bored from lounging in the Seattle sun, while others worked odd jobs.

And then there were the select few who made documentaries.

For those 12 teens, a chunk of summer vacation was spent working on the Yesler Terrace Youth Media Project.

In the second summer of partnerships with Multimedia Resources and Training Institute (MMRTI), Seattle University and Yesler Community Center's RecTech, these students explored the impact of the redevelopment going on in their neighborhood.

Over the next 10 – 15 years, Yesler Terrace will be the site of dramatic changes. The historic public housing area was built in the 1940s. It is located on First Hill, spanning 30 acres, according to the Seattle Public Housing Authority.

This neighborhood will ultimately be transformed into a mixed-income area. In the mean time, there are a lot of questions about the impact this will have on the 1,200 residents who will have to relocate due to the construction.

That's where the films came into play.

After submitting applications and going through an interview process, 13 teens were selected to begin exploring different ways film and photography can be used to document the stories behind the redevelopment.

With the help of five instructors, they received hands-on education from people working in the fields they were uncovering — everything from Parks and Recreation, City

of Seattle officials and freelance journalists.

Seattle University's Associate professor of Fine Arts Claire Garoutte was one of three adults mentoring the students throughout their paid-internship with the community center. Garoutte partnered with Asfaha Lemlem, the RecTech Lead, and Assaye Abunie of MMRTI to create the summer internship.

"We met each other almost three years ago," Garoutte explained. "This is our second summer, and we're already planning and thinking about next summer and the summer to come because we'd like to do this for 15 years — the entire duration of the redevelopment."

The goal of the program is to engage the kids in their neighborhood and help them understand just what is going on around them by using these multimedia skills. Ultimately, an archive of the short documentary films and still photographs will grow as the residents move out and back into Yesler Terrace throughout the years.

Mohamed Mohamed, a sophomore student of Garfield High School, and his group delved into the effect the redevelopment would have on small businesses in the area.

"We had two interviews with Ethiopian restaurants on 12th Avenue, and asked them how they think they are going to be affected, and whether or not they already have."

Mohamed, 15, lives in Yesler Terrace along with his three sisters. He is excited about his family's move taking place during Phase Three of the project, which is projected to take place in a few years.

"I kind of like town homes, so yeah, I'm happy. It's been a long time, I think (Yesler Terrace) really needs to be updated."

Other short documentaries included an examination of communication between residents and Seattle Hous-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MMRTI

Members of the Yesler Terrace Youth Media Project are pictured with Seattle Deputy Mayor Darryl Smith (center) during filming of a documentary about the Yesler Terrace redevelopment.

ing Authority, impact on the Yesler Community Center Childcare, exploration of the abandoned homes, residents concerns and more.

"This year they went deeper, they did better, they expanded," said Asfaha Lemlem. All of which paid off in creating contact with a direct influence on their community.

"They're listening," Garoutte said. "Everyone is collaborating with these kids towards the success of their projects. I think everyone is recognizing where we are in terms of them being stakeholders in this whole thing and I think that shows that this project has value."

"I hope the kids notice that they understand how much value this has."



### Smoke-Free? Or not?

The Housing Authority's "Smoke Free" policy started in February of 2012.

- Are our communities "smoke free" yet?
- What's the Housing Authority done to enforce the policy?
- What's been done to help smokers quit?
- Can Seattle Housing enforce a smoke-free policy?

Find out how the policy is working, share your community's issues and work with activist residents on possible solutions at the

#### Resident Action Council Forum

Wednesday, October 9 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Light lunch served at 1 pm.

Jefferson Terrace Community Room, 800 Jefferson, next to Harborview Hospital. We have free bus tickets for transit riders and we reimburse carpool driver's mileage. Have more questions or need an interpreter? Phone 206-322-1297.

## Health

Continued from Page 1

ity is partnering with Public Health – Seattle & King County and Neighborcare Health to assist its residents in navigating the new system and enrolling for health insurance when necessary.

Seattle Housing Executive Director Andrew Lofton sent a letter to households explaining the new ACA health insurance marketplace.

In addition, Neighborcare Health employees will host a series of assistance events in Seattle Housing communities during the month of October. The locations and sched-

uled meetings times include:

- Seattle Housing Authority Central Office (first floor), 190 Queen Anne Ave. N  
Noon – 2 p.m. Oct. 7, 14 and 21
- Yesler Terrace, Epstein Building (first floor), 905 Spruce St.  
3 – 5 p.m. Oct. 9, 16 and 23
- NewHolly South Seattle Community College Satellite Campus (second floor), 7058 32nd Ave. S  
3 – 5 p.m. Oct. 9, 16 and 23
- Neighborhood House Rainier Vista Center (second floor), 4410 29th Ave. S  
3 – 5 p.m. Oct. 7, 14 and 21

### Department of Health seeks survey participants

Washington State Department of Health invites residents of High Point to take part in an important survey about chemicals in your home. This survey will help the Department of Health learn about exposures to pesticides and chemicals in plastics. For more information, or to sign up to take part in the survey, call toll-free at 1-877-494-3137, visit [www.doh.wa.gov/biomonitoring](http://www.doh.wa.gov/biomonitoring) or call Ann Butler at 360-236-4253.



Please recycle me





PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Halima Jaarso and her daughter were among the residents of Yesler Terrace who attended the groundbreaking ceremony Sept. 5.

## Yesler

Continued from Page 1

Lofton said to the assembled crowd.

For those living in Yesler Terrace, redevelopment will mean change — the challenge and opportunity of relocation, and also the promise of returning to live in new, revitalized housing. The redevelopment plan will replace all of the 561 low-income housing units in Yesler Terrace, which today are more than 70 years old and in need of replacement. New units for low- and moderate-income households will also be created during the course of the project, which will take shape over years.

Lofton spoke directly to the residents of Yesler in closing his remarks, making reference to the citizen review process that informed the trajectory of redevelopment.

“I pledge to you that we will keep faith with you, and the vision that you’ve helped to create for your future, and for future generations,” he said.

While looking to the future, Lofton also remarked on the community’s past. Yesler’s status as the first-ever racially integrated public housing community in the United States gives it not only an important place in the history of Seattle, but in the story of civil rights in this country. Lofton made special note of the historic significance of the neighborhood.

“A diverse, vibrant, close-knit community was born, a community that paved the way for racially integrated communities throughout our nation,” he said.

Lofton’s remarks also recalled some of the Yesler community’s most famous residents, a group that ranges from guitarist Jimi Hendrix to Gary Locke, the first Chinese-American to hold the office of Governor in U.S. history.

“It is a wonderful community in many ways,” Lofton said. “But 70 years is a long time. And now, it is time to bring new, healthy housing to Yesler — housing that accommodates those with disabilities, housing that meets the needs of our residents today.”

Joining Lofton in offering their best wishes for the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace were Nora Gibson, chair of the Seattle Housing Board of Commissioners; Congressman Adam Smith; Seattle Deputy Mayor Darryl Smith; Seattle City Council President Sally Clark; M.A. Leonard, vice president of Enterprise Community Partners; Chuck Weinstock, vice president, JPMorgan Chase; Lee Newgent of the



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Seattle Housing Board Chair Nora Gibson spoke of the future for Yesler Terrace during the groundbreaking ceremony.

Seattle Building & Construction Trades Council; and Jake McKinstry of Spectrum Development Solutions.

After a short program, shovels broke the earth, signifying the first step in the redevelopment of the neighborhood.

The new property at 1105 East Fir will include a six-story residential building and nine two-story townhouses. All of the 103 units will serve low-income individuals and families; 83 units will be reserved for households earning up to 30 percent of Area Median Income (AMI), and 20 units will be reserved for households earning 60 percent of AMI.

The project, which is funded by the City of Seattle, Enterprise, JPMorgan Chase, HUD and Seattle Housing Authority, has an estimated completion date in the first quarter of 2015.

Construction at 1105 East Fir is one piece of the Phase 1 of Yesler Terrace redevelopment. Other projects in the first phase include the renovation of the Yesler Steam Plant, which will house a Head Start preschool, youth tutoring and other social services; the renovation of the Baldwin Apartments, a 15-unit apartment building serving households with incomes up to 30 percent of AMI; Anthem on 12th, a six-story mixed-use building, which will combine ground-floor retail space and 120 residential units, with 20 percent of those reserved for households earning up to 50 percent of AMI; and the redevelopment of Horiuchi Park into a 30-plot community garden, built and managed by the P-Patch Trust.

Completion of Phase 1 is projected for 2015, with the renovated Yesler Steam Plant estimated to open in the first quarter of 2014 and the other projects to follow.



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

A crowd of more than 100 people assembled to witness the Yesler Terrace groundbreaking Sept. 5. Though heavy rain was in the forecast, the skies held up.

Visit Us Monday through Friday: 8:30am - 5pm

**Building Amenities Include:**

- Community room with kitchen
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- Resident activity

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Retirement Housing Foundation

## Esperanza Apartments

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**Minimum Requirements for Leasing:**

- The head of household applicant must be 62+ or 55 with a mobility disability to qualify
- The applicant must make a minimum income of \$1,082 per month and not exceed a maximum income of \$36,960 per year OR own a Section 8 Voucher

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**Apartment Information:**

- Rent - \$721 per month (all utilities included: water, sewer, garbage, electricity). **Section 8 Vouchers are welcome!**
- Security deposit— \$721 (can be taken in increments/ payments—last option)
- One bedroom units with full kitchen and bathroom
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- Section 8 vouchers welcomed!