



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



Neighborhood House

The Voice

July 2014
Articles translated into six languages

The newspaper of Neighborhood House — visit our website at www.voicenewspaper.org

Legalized pot won't change SHA's no-smoking policy

BY NANCY GARDNER
The Voice Editor

Since 2012, Seattle Housing Authority has prohibited smoking inside its properties, and within 25 feet of building entrances. That won't change come mid-July, when Washingtonians will be able to purchase and smoke marijuana for medical and recreational uses, said Cindy Srihibhadh, a property management administrator for SHA.

But, she added, "SHA has an Americans with Disability Act Accommodation policy that would address a resident's request for prescribed medical marijuana use. The resident would need to communicate their request to their management staff so the accommodation request can be considered."

Initiative 502, approved by Washington voters in November 2012, allows for the legal possession and sale of marijuana. It is estimated that Washington state could raise nearly \$2 billion in new revenue in the next five years from state-licensed marijuana stores, anticipated to open this summer.

Seattle Housing Authority adopted and implemented a No Smoking Policy in February 2012 that prohibits smoking inside apartment units and within 25 feet of building entrances. This is consistent with Washington State law and public health best practices. Members of the community,

including visitors, are required to follow Seattle Housing policies. Essentially, Initiative 502 will allow residents to smoke pot on private property, out of view (and thus whiff) of the general public. Public Housing is not private property, and therefore residents must adhere to its no-smoking policies.

Since Dec. 6, 2012, adults 21 and over have been legally allowed to possess an ounce of marijuana, although it cannot be legally bought or grown quite yet. While Seattle police officers have the authority to issue \$27 tickets for consuming pot in public, officials say warnings will be given before issuing fines.

Srihibhadh explained that while cigarette smoking in one's unit is a lease violation, she said that the agency prefers not to immediately proceed with lease enforcement. Instead they prefer to educate residents, then issue verbal or written warnings before sending an eviction notice.

The agency's No Smoking Policy, SHA-50 (B1), article 8 states: "Any area designated for smoking shall be adequately posted 'smoking area.' However, the designated smoking area does not apply to the smoking of marijuana products, because under Washington state's Marijuana Legalization law (Initiative 502), it is illegal to smoke marijuana in public.

Marijuana will soon be legally sold throughout our state, though smoking it won't be allowed on SHA properties. But, under its ADA accommodation policy, SHA will consider formal requests from residents who are prescribed pot for medical uses.



PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Construction begins on 10th Ave S Hillclimb



PHOTO BY NANCY GARDNER

Helping to break ground on the Hillclimb, l-to-r: Jack Peters, HUD; Tam Nguyen, Friends of Little Saigon; Andrew Lofton, Seattle Housing Authority, Seattle City Council Member Sally J. Clark; Phyllis Campbell, Chairman, Pacific Northwest, JPMorgan Chase & Co., City Council Member Tom Rasmussen; Deputy Mayor Hyeok Kim.

Minimum wage to increase to \$15 per hour in Seattle

BY NANCY GARDNER
The Voice Editor

Seattle city leaders finally agreed that Mayor Ed Murray's proposal to increase the minimum wage to \$15 per hour will help narrow the income disparity gap and help rebuild the middle class.

Shortly before signing legislation to increase the minimum wage, the mayor said, "The economic policy of the last 34 years has failed, it has decimated the middle class and it has created the largest income inequality gap in our history.

"Seattle is trying something else. And we are doing it the Seattle way, through collaboration with our great community of businesses large and small — this city's leaders in innovation, job creators and civic partners."

A committee appointed by Murray that included representatives from labor, business and non-profits reached an agreement that was passed by the Seattle City Council on June 2. It will provide Seattle workers with the highest minimum wage in the country. Workers employed within city limits won't see their salaries increase until April 2015, and the amount and date of their wage increases depends on the size of the business they work for and how their employer calculates wages based on a combination of factors such as straight

hourly income only, considers income also from health care contributions and salaries that include tips.

Here's how Murray's complex wage-increase plan will work:

Small employers (those with fewer than 500 employees) will reach a \$15 an hour minimum wage in seven years. A guaranteed minimum compensation of \$15 an hour must be met within the first five years, and can be calculated by combining employer-paid health care contributions, tips received and employer-paid wages. Large employers (businesses with 500 or more employees, either in Seattle or based elsewhere) will be required to pay workers \$15 per hour in three years. Wages of employees who receive health care benefits will reach \$15 per hour in four years.

Murray's plan has been faced with opposition from anti-tax activist Tim Eyman and a group of small business owners known as Forward Seattle who each hope to amend the wage increase.

In his closing remarks, Murray paraphrased a favorite quote from former United States President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who served during the Great Depression: "The country demands bold, persistent experimentation. It is common sense to take a method and try it: If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something."

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Health Notes

A column devoted to your well-being

SHA outreach ends for columnist

By JEFFREY GERHARDSTEIN
Special to The Voice

There are a lot of office jobs in the world. The service coordinator position at Full Life isn't one of them. It is a nomadic social work job.

Many years ago, I met a fellow who was struggling in housing. Let's call him Tom. This resident was in his 40s but looked well beyond his years. I don't think he had shaved in some time. If you glanced his way, you swear you could see a big dark cloud over his head.

Tom had fallen behind on his bills, his apartment had beer cans and piles of stuff everywhere. He was facing eviction.

Tom suffered from a severe form of mental illness. He had become a recluse and lived with much anxiety. You could say his nerves were crippling him. He wore an angry scowl and was highly suspicious of everyone. He had little appetite, was severely underweight and had untreated major medical problems. After persistent attempts to reach Tom, (he had disconnected the phone), he surprised me. He cautiously accepted help when I reached out to him in person.

Working together, we accomplished some things. The organization I worked for, Full Life, coordinated with his management office so that we could combine efforts. The rent got paid and some much-needed housekeeping got done.

After some persuasion and discussion, Tom agreed to go see his doctor and return to mental health services. His appetite returned. It turned out he had stopped taking medications a while ago, stopped getting counseling and felt neglected by the system.

"Jeffrey," he said, "You are the first social worker in a long time who cared enough to come out and see me."

Our program offered to take him out to lunch to celebrate his success. Tom's wanted to go to Von's Roasthouse downtown. He wanted to taste their melt-in-your-mouth prime rib. I will never forget his excitement and anticipation for that day, the way he cleaned up and dressed up. Tom felt proud.

Later that year, I received a hand-written letter from his sister. Tom's health had deteriorated and he died suddenly. His sister wrote that her brother was happier those last few months of his life than at any time in recent years. She said the program's outreach lifted his spirits, helped keep his housing and most of all, made him trust again in the goodness of others. I was incredibly touched by that letter. What I will remember is how Tom actually cleaned his plate that day we went out to Von's Roasthouse. And how, together, we got to celebrate his hard-fought progress in style.

Editor's note: According to Barbara Garrett, director of Solstice Behavioral Health, Jeffrey Gerhardstein, a service coordinator and columnist for The Voice, was recently laid off along with two of his colleagues as a result of a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant ending, and with no opportunity for renewal. Garrett said Timothy Stephens and Rachel Wyda, also service coordinators, will continue to provide services to residents in need.

He will be missed by The Voice and its readers.

Letter to the Editor: Please bring back Russian!

Dear Nancy,

We – my wife and I – receive The Voice newspaper. In years past, its Translation section has always included articles not only in Chinese and Vietnamese, but also in Russian. Now the Russian translation is gone. Why did this happen? In addition to us, there are also other people who are interested in this. We would like to ask you to resume publishing Russian translations.

Respectfully,

Semion, Klara, Liza, Boris and others

Editor's Response:

The Voice constantly strives to include translated articles in languages that are most read and spoken by residents throughout the Seattle Housing Authority communities.

Based on figures obtained from SHA, the top six non-English languages reported by SHA households include the following: Somali, Vietnamese, Tigrinya, Cantonese, Amharic and Spanish.

Reportedly, Russian and Cambodian are roughly equal in popularity, fall below the top six languages.

Based on feedback from readers and updated SHA data, we hope to resume our Russian translations in the future.

Do you feel strongly about which languages The Voice needs to keep? If so, contact Nancy Gardner, editor.

The Voice

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The Voice, the newspaper of Neighborhood House, is published monthly with the support of Seattle 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 or Seattle Housing Authority. We welcome articles and tips from the community and reserve the right to edit all submissions. The Voice is published online at www.nhwa.org and at www.seattlehousing.org.

Compost this: Recycling demystified

By EBERLEY WEDLAKE
Special to The Voice

What happens to your food scraps, like vegetable peelings or leftovers? An increasing number of residents are giving them second – and third and fourth – lives by using Seattle Housing Authority's new curbside composting program. People know the program by the small green or larger brown containers in their waste areas, which are now available at most properties (coming to all in 2015).

Once food scraps are in the container, IPS Solid Waste trucks collect them, mix them with yard waste and transport them to Cedar Grove, a composting facility outside of Seattle. There they will take an 80-day journey through the facility's various sifters, grinders, and aeration piles. Eventually, the end product comes to look nothing like its ingredients: what's leftover is a nutrient-rich soil amenity resembling dark-colored earth called compost. Compost is used to enrich the soil of local parks and gardens, meaning that people's food scraps are often recycled right back into food!

Not only do food scraps create a valuable product, but keeping them out of the garbage carries enormous value in itself. Contrary to urban legend, food does not biodegrade harmlessly in the landfill; instead, it produces methane gas that contributes to climate change and is 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. The more food diverted out of the garbage, the better the environmental impact.

Positive impacts are already being made by High Point residents, who decreased the

average amount of garbage they send to the landfill by 25 percent since 2012. Similarly, residents of high rise and Seattle Senior Housing Program buildings reduced their average annual garbage by 180 tons (or 9 percent) after starting composting. All of these reductions carry monetary savings, since disposing of garbage is more expensive than composting and recycling.

Before people start food waste composting, they are often concerned about fruit flies or smell. To address these issues, many residents keep a small container with a lid on their counter or under their sink; they collect food scraps in it, then empty it out and wash it out regularly. Others collect food scraps in paper or compostable bags (such as BioBag and EcoSafe available at Safeway, Walgreens, Costco and other locations. Note: compostable bags may look like regular plastic; but unlike plastic bags, they are made out of corn and break down in compost).

What's better than composting? Preventing food from becoming waste in the first place! Throughout the United States, one third of all food produced for human consumption and worth \$48.3 billion is thrown away. People who freeze leftovers, make a list before going to the store, and keep food in visible places in the refrigerator may find that they waste less food. Overall, preventing food waste – and composting what cannot be saved – are actions we can take every day to ensure a healthier community and planet.

Wedlake is a recycling and waste-reduction coordinator for Seattle Housing Authority.



Seattle residents' food and yard waste is collected and then trucked to Cedar Grove, a local facility with processors in Maple Valley and Everett. There it sifted, ground, heated and aerated during an 80-day process, eventually becoming compost, a nutrient-rich soil amenity for local parks and gardens. Some of this end-product is used to grow new food crops, making the cycle of food to waste to food complete.

What goes where? A guide to composting

Wondering what can go in your bin? Three simple categories provide a guide:

- 1. Food:** All food can go in, whether it's raw, cooked or rotten (even dairy, coffee grounds, meat and bones are accepted).
- 2. Food-soiled paper:** All paper and cardboard products, such as napkins, paper bags, newspaper and pizza boxes can go in, but no plastic-coated paper products (such as hot beverage cups or shiny paper plates) are allowed.
- 3. Yard waste:** Flowers, leaves, grass clippings and branches less than 4'x4"-long are allowed.

Seattle Housing authority residents weigh in on 2014-2015 budget

By **SHELLY YAPP**
Special to The Voice

Seattle Housing Authority recently conducted three community budget meetings with the Resident Action Council (RAC), the Joint Policy Advisory Committee (JPAC), and the Seattle Senior Housing Program (SSHP). Eighty-one residents participated in an interactive budget allocation process using mock money, or Voting with Dollars. Questionnaires were also sent to community residents.

Voting with Dollars was a budget exercise designed to elicit priorities from participants for allocation of funds to different service and program categories. The results of this exercise will be available the first week of September.

Highlights of Voting with Dollars Results:

A total of 81 residence participated in the three community budget meetings: 23 residents from RAC; 36 from JPAC and 22 from SSHP.

Each participant allocated \$10,000 in 'SHA Budget Dollars' to indicate priorities among five service/program categories:

Support Services to Tenants: Education and training; job placement referrals; childcare referrals; on site case managers/social workers; and community activities.

Upkeep of our Building and Grounds: Building repairs and maintenance; landscaping and grounds; janitorial services in common areas; and pest control.

Building and Neighborhood Safety and Security: Police or private security services; security lighting; entry security systems – cameras, card key entry; community lock watches.

Building Management and Facilities: Building staffing; responsiveness to service requests; ADA accessibility; safety and repair of common facilities; emergency preparedness; and computer labs and/or wi-fi.

Major Capital Repairs: Roof replacement; windows replacements; elevator upgrade or replacement; walkways/parking

lot repairs; building painting, gutter repairs/replacements; appliance replacements..

Residents had the opportunity to add their own priority service categories. All categories were recorded and many garnered vocal support from other residents:

- Create informal opportunities for more and better communications among residents and SHA staff to enhance knowledge of and respect for each other.
- Increase pest control inspections and services, particularly for bedbugs, with semi-annual inspections and treatment.
- Better address the issues of tenants with deteriorating mental health through case management services, admissions determinations, and referrals to alternative housing.
- More emphasis, education, and programs for residents on resource conservation and environmental sustainability in their communities.

The top priority vote-getter in Voting with Dollars:

For the RAC residents, top priority was Supportive Services to Tenants.

For JPAC residents, the top priority was Upkeep of Buildings and Grounds.

For SSHP residents, top priority was Major Capital Repairs.

The 81 residents attending the three community budget meetings and participating in Voting with Dollars ranked the five services in this priority order:

- #1 Major Capital Repairs
- #2 Upkeep of buildings and Grounds
- #3 Building Management and Facilities
- #4 Supportive Services to Tenants
- #5 Building and Neighborhood Safety and Security

Thanks to everyone who participated. Seattle Housing Authority will report back to the community in the fall on survey results and responses.

Shelly Yapp is Seattle Housing Authority's chief financial officer.



Senator Patty Murray awards SHA senior property manager Fitsum Abraha the Golden Tennis Shoe Award. Abraha, who grew up in and now manages Yesler Terrace property, received the honors for his extraordinary contributions to the community.

Photo by Seattle Housing Authority

Yesler Terrace manager receives national recognition for service

By **SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Fitsum Abraha, senior property manager at Seattle Housing Authority's Yesler Terrace, received a Golden Tennis Shoe award from U.S. Sen. Patty Murray in May. Given annually by the senator "to honor ordinary citizens who do extraordinary things to improve their communities," this year's awards went to three who "put others first — and ask nothing in return."

Abraha, who came to the U.S. from Sudan at age 10 grew up at Yesler Terrace. As a youth, he tutored elementary school students in his neighborhood, was a life guard, a leader in a local parks program and served as a work-study student at the Yesler Terrace computer lab, while earning a degree in Business Administration from the University of Washington.

Touched by Abraha's choice to return to his community after college graduation when he had many other options, Sen. Murray said, "While so many people are focused on the next rung on their career ladder, he wanted to offer a hand to those coming up behind him. So Fitsum went back to Yesler Terrace and has become an incredible role model and an example for everyone who lives there."

The Golden Tennis Shoe award gets its name from a remark made to Murray early in her community efforts. A lawmaker suggested she couldn't make a difference because she was just a "mom in tennis shoes." Murray took that as a challenge and embarked on a long career in public service.

Over 1,700 people gathered at the Washington State Convention Center to watch this year's awards ceremony.

SHA Community Builder Joy Bryngelson makes a move

By **SHA STAFF**

The concept of community building, or supporting and encouraging area residents to become civically active, is far from new to Joy Bryngelson.

Before making her way to Yesler Terrace in April, she headed up the Community Building Office at NewHolly, where she worked since 1999. Bryngelson said she started the Seattle Housing Authority Community Building Initiative 15 years ago with the residents of NewHolly who were figuring out how they wanted to evolve from a low-income neighborhood to a community that included neighbors of all incomes, languages, ages, and abilities.

"I was lucky to work with community leaders to support them in designing a community organizing style that they wanted to use, she said. "And now that their projects, community groups, and neighborhood leadership style is working well, I'm excited to join the Yesler community."

The agency's seven Community Builders help encourage and support residents who get involved in their communities and in the policy discussions that affect them.

Bryngelson said her first priorities are to meet and interact with residents.

"I want to find out what ideas and plans for community organizing they'd like to



Joy Bryngelson

work on for their newly expanding neighborhood, she said.

Community Builder Phillippia Goldsmith has filled Bryngelson's former position at NewHolly, and Brett Houghton is now supporting residents at Lake City Court, formerly assigned to Goldsmith.

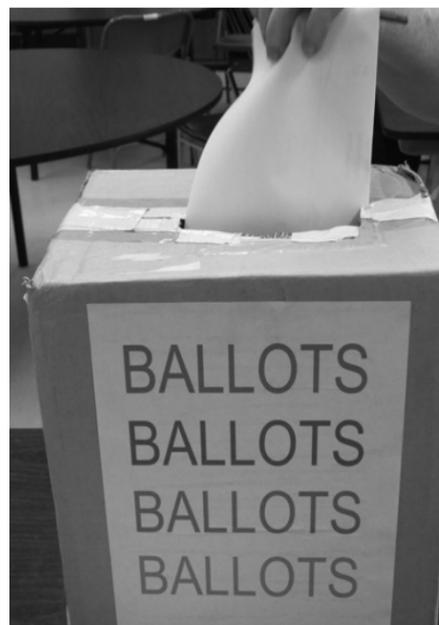
2014-2015 Resident Action Council Board Members elected

By **NANCY GARDNER**
The Voice Editor

The Resident Action Council held its annual meeting and after the ballots were tallied, the following officers were elected: Kristin O'Donnell, president; Troy Smith, vice president; Anitra Freeman, secretary; and Lydia Shepherd, treasurer.

Susan Irwin was elected ombudsman and the following at-large members were elected to serve the 2014-2015 term: Debra Bays, Betty Ewing, Lois Gruber, Jude Morris, Robert Mull, Boe Odissey, J.R. Rodriguez, Julie Sahlberg, Glenn Slemmer, Zhixiang Ye.

The RAC is a city-wide organization of public housing residents who work together to improve our communities. All residents of SHA's Low Income Public Housing may attend. On hiatus during July, the next monthly meeting will be held Aug. 13 at 1 p.m. at Jefferson Terrace.



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

Phase one of Leschi House remodel nears completion

Two-part facelift adds new 35-unit wing and complete overhaul of original building

BY DAVE WELLINGS
Seattle Housing Authority

The expansion and remodel project of Leschi House, located in the International District's Little Saigon neighborhood, will be more than half complete in late July, with the addition of 35 new units. Leschi House, originally built in 1988 is set to become Seattle Housing Authority's newest Senior Housing Building. It is currently undergoing a complete remodel that includes the addition of a new wing with 35 brand new apartments.

The remodeled building will feature quieter apartments thanks to new windows and insulation, a new waterproof exterior, a second elevator, new landscaping, new carpeting and flooring, additional laundry facilities and storage rooms, and new energy-efficient lighting and appliances. Four wheelchair-accessible units will be available, as will a number of apartments facing Elliot Bay, downtown Seattle and Mount Rainier.

Residents who have currently been temporarily displaced within the building due to construction say the inconvenience of the construction project is a small price to pay for what will become more modern, enjoyable apartments.

Dang Quach and his wife, who've lived



Courtesy GGLO Architects

at Leschi House for 14 years, say they most enjoy the close proximity to bus routes and Asian supermarkets. Quach, who is 80 years old, said other conveniences, like easily-accessible nearby hospitals, make Leschi House an ideal location.

The project is being done in two phases. The first phase, the addition of 35 units, will be complete in July. Once this phase is finished, residents of Leschi House will move into the new wing and remodeling work will begin on the original building. About half of the building's residents will move permanently to the new wing, while the other half will return to their original

apartments once construction is finished.

Leschi House has always been in high demand and has a long wait list. Some of the additional apartments will go to applicants on this list, and some will be made available to rent with little or no wait. This is because the renovation is being made possible by Low Income Housing Tax Credits and the building is becoming a mixed-income development.

"This city is in need of affordable housing for seniors, and the addition of 35 apartments is an exciting development for us," said Bruce Garberding, a senior property manager. "We're pleased to be able to cre-

ate movement on our wait list and within a vibrant, mixed-income community with affordable apartments available for people with very low incomes as well as those with more moderate incomes.

"We will also be able to lease to Housing Choice Voucher holders, which opens our building up to a group we have not previously been able to serve."

Those interested in leasing at Leschi House should call 206-615-3369.

Year-round crime safety tips from the experts

BY NANCY GARDNER
The Voice Editor

Gun violence has become the topic of conversation in Seattle, with several recent incidents hitting too close to home for some residents living in our area. On May 22, police arrested a man for the suspected killing of a homeless man whose body was found in a shopping cart in South Seattle's Othello Park. A man was shot in the head by an unknown assailant June 8 in the International District. And on June 5, Seattle made national headlines when a suspect opened fire on Seattle Pacific University's campus, killing a student and injuring several others.

To help quell residents' fears about gun violence in our area, civic leaders are tackling the topic through meetings with the public and with the help of city council members.

In advance of her official appointment as police chief of the Seattle Police Department, Kathleen O'Toole has addressed crime in conjunction with Mayor Ed Murray during several neighborhood group discussions, including one at NewHolly, where residents were given a chance to ask questions about

public safety and neighborhood crime.

"Public safety is our paramount duty and we must move forward together with a unified approach," Murray said recently. "As elected representatives for the people of Seattle, we have a collective interest and urgency to translate vision into action for all of our residents."

Seattle Police Department Officer John Skommessa, who patrols the Yesler Terrace area, said that one of the most helpful things people can do to be safe is to keep their heads up and pay attention to what's going on around them.

"Criminals don't want to be identified, so if they see you looking around they know you might notice them and be able to give a description that helps them get caught," Skommessa said. "Criminals often target those who appear to be unaware of their surroundings because when the attack is unexpected there is less chance a person will fight back and even less of a chance the victim will be able to identify the person who attacked them."

Ways to increase personal safety, according to Seattle Police

- Always lock your car doors and do not leave anything in your car that you can't live without. If you must leave valuables in the car, lock them in the trunk, and try to put them in the trunk before you arrive at your destination, so that potential thieves don't see you securing your items and then walking away from them.
- Don't leave your car running while it's unattended. Whether you're just warming your car up on a chilly morning or running into the store to grab a cup of coffee and a newspaper.
- Always lock your doors and close your windows, and use the deadbolt if you have one. Even if you're leaving your house or apartment just for a minute, make it as difficult as possible for a would-be criminal to gain access. "Locked doors force the bad guy to make some noise kicking the door in or breaking a window," said Skommessa. "Most criminals want to get in quickly and quietly, take what they want, and get out quickly to avoid being seen or captured. Locks won't keep someone out who is determined to get in and steal things, but criminals go for the easiest targets."
- Don't leave food cooking and unattended. Invariably, delays happen, and people can lose track of time. Before you know it, your food gets overcooked, or catches on fire.
- Be prepared to call 911. It's free from pay phones and won't cost air minutes on cell phones. When calling 911, give the best possible, most detailed description of what is happening.
- If English is not your first language, don't worry—you should still call 911. Callers just need to tell the 911 operator the name of the language you speak, such as Somali, Cantonese or Vietnamese, and the operator will get an interpreter on the line, usually within a minute or two.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL MAGGS / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

About The Voice

The Voice is a monthly newspaper published by Neighborhood House with financial support from Seattle Housing Authority. The Voice is developed and edited by Neighborhood House with help from Seattle Housing residents and staff. It strives to provide a forum for objective news and information of interest to low-income people and those living in Seattle Housing 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 Nancy Gardner at 206-461-8430, ext. 227 or by e-mail at nancyg@nhwa.org.

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

Neighborhood House, Seattle Parks making recreation more accessible, affordable

BY JULIE SEVERSON
Special to The Voice

Throughout 2014, Neighborhood House's Be Active Together (BAT) staff have been hard at work helping Yesler and High Point Community Centers to offer needed services at more affordable prices in a friendly environment.

In this pilot partnership with Seattle Parks and Recreation, BAT employees are working on location at both community centers. Alongside parks' employees, staff are striving to eliminate existing barriers to parks' services with the overarching goals of increasing low-income residents' activity level and reducing health disparities in our neighborhoods. As summer progresses, bilingual outreach associates will be spreading the word about newly-subsidized programs targeting our communities' diverse recreational needs.

As this project continues, Neighborhood House is perpetually reminded how important a robust, well-funded Parks and Recreation system is to our clients and families. A parks system that provides programs and services designed to engage the public allows residents who have few other parks and recreation alternatives the means to cultivate active, healthy and civically engaged lifestyles. The Seattle Park District, a measure that will appear on the

Aug. 5 ballot, is a great way to accomplish these goals. By restoring much of the funding lost during the recent recession, the Park District lays a path toward improving the accessibility, affordability, and accountability of the Parks and Recreation Department. "It presents the chance to dismantle barriers such as reduced community center hours and limited bilingual customer service, and add new scholarship opportunities, culturally appropriate offerings and programs that meet the needs of our region's diverse residents," says BAT project manager, Julie Severson.

The Seattle Park District would create an ongoing revenue stream dedicated solely to maintaining, operating and developing a quality parks and recreation system in Seattle. As a long-term funding mechanism, the Park District would free-up the city from periodically constructing and voting on future levies—such as the 2008 levy set to expire at the end of this year. If voters pass the Park District measure, Proposition 1, this August, it will replace the 2008 levy, which taxed a \$400,000 home \$76 per year, with a taxing district that assesses the same home \$148 annually. This \$48 million package will, over time, address Parks' \$267 million backlog, and move our region forward by restoring valuable services, facilities, and programming. Once established, the Park District will be



PHOTO BY JULIE SEVERSON

Fartun Farah, Be Active Together's bilingual outreach associate, explains to Seattle Mayor Ed Murray the need for more educational programming for kids and youth at the Yesler Community Center.

governed by the City Council—not unlike the current municipal relationship.

Severson is a healthcare policy analyst for Neighborhood House.

Rainier Vista neighbors converge for inaugural Green Fair

BY JUSTIN HELLIER
Special to The Voice

RV More than 200 neighbors and friends came together June 14 to share delicious food and conversations and get connected to each other at Rainier Vista's first Green Fair. Staffers from Lettuce Link helped young people plant seeds to take home and representatives promoting Fresh Bucks, a program that allows folks on food stamps to have their money matched at farmers' markets, were on hand as well.

Staff and volunteers from Solid Ground's Cooking Matters program prepared delicious food while teaching new recipes to attendees. And volunteers from Seattle Tilth helped educate the community about composting and recycling.

But the biggest draw was five goats munching on grass around the park's beautiful old oak tree.

"Our goal was to make the park into a farm for a day," said Lisa Uemoto, Rainier Vista community builder and one of the event organizers. "What better way to do that than with livestock? One of the most exciting moments happened when a goat jumped over the fence and wandered around the park. Thankfully, one neighbor who grew up raising goats grabbed the beast by the horns and helped get it back inside the fence."

The Green Fair was put on by the Year of Pride in Rainier Vista, a community project funded by the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. A team of 11 Rainier Vista youth and eight adults helped organize and coordinate the event, and will continue to provide fun, community-building activities in the park throughout the summer. If you would like to get involved, contact Justin Hellier at justin.hellier@gmail.com

NewHolly celebrates Somali Youth Cultural Night

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

NH Over 300 people gathered on June 6 for the Somali Youth Cultural Night celebration. The event was organized by the Somali Family Safety Task Force and sponsored in part by grants from the NewHolly Community Building Mini Grant Fund and the Department of Neighborhoods Small Sparks program.

Attendees enjoyed traditional Somali storytelling, poetry, crafts, performances and food. Farhiya Mohamed, director of the event, said plans are underway to offer similar events in the community this fall.

For more information or to get involved in future projects like this at NewHolly, please contact Phillippia Goldsmith at 206-723-1725 or pgoldsmith@seattlehousing.org

Health care enrollment assistance offered

July
• All locations will also have English assistance available any of the dates/times listed below

2014

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---------|-----------|---|--------|
| 30 New Holly, 12:30-5 • Somali High Point, 1-5 • Spanish | 1 | 2 | 3 Yesler Terrace / Epstein, 11-1 • All languages (via language line) | 4 |
| 7 Rainier Vista, 1-5 • Somali Greenbridge, 1-5 • Spanish | 8 | 9 | 10 Yesler Terrace / Epstein, 11-1 • All languages (via language line) | 11 |
| 14 New Holly, 12:30-5 • Somali High Point, 1-5 • Spanish | 15 | 16 | 17 Yesler Terrace / Epstein, 11-1 • All languages (via language line) | 18 |
| 21 Rainier Vista, 1-5 • Somali Greenbridge, 1-5 • Spanish | 22 | 23 | 24 Yesler Terrace / Epstein, 11-1 • All languages (via language line) | 25 |
| 28 New Holly, 12:30-5 • Somali High Point, 1-5 • Spanish | 29 | 30 | 31 Yesler Terrace / Epstein, 11-1 All languages (via language line) | |

In-person assistance available for those needing to sign up for health insurance coverage

BY NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE STAFF

While the Affordable Care Act open enrollment period ended in March, help is available for those needing assistance in signing up for mandatory health coverage.

In-person assistance is available for people who need help finding health insurance coverage either via Washington Apple Health (WAH), or Medicaid, or a Qualified Health Plan (QHP), if one is eligible for a special enrollment period due to a major change in one's life, such as marriage or di-

voice. Neighborhood House, in partnership with Neighborcare Health, offers in-person assistance for health care enrollment at its locations in High Point, NewHolly, Rainier Vista and Yesler Terrace.

Unless you meet one of the ACA's few exceptions, everyone needs to be enrolled in health coverage, effective April 1, 2014.

Many people still have not obtained this legally mandated coverage, and will be required to pay fines on their income taxes in April 2015 (backdated for 2014 coverage).

Next year, the fine for not having cov-

erage will increase and continue to rise thereafter.

If you don't yet have health insurance and need to enroll, consult the calendar above for more information about enrollment assistance in your neighborhood (multilingual support is available).

For more information about ACA enrollment in Washington State, visit www.wa-healthplanfinder.org or call 206-548-3013.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Healthy Cooking and Nutrition Classes for Seniors and Caregivers!

FREE

Tuesdays from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

July 22 - August 26

Neighborhood House - High Point
 6400 Sylvan Way SW
 Bus #: 128 & 21
 Office: 206-588-4900

Simple

- Learn basic cooking skills
- Learn how to prepare quick and delicious meals

Healthy

- Led by registered dietitians
- Learn how to choose foods for various health conditions such as diabetes and heart disease

Affordable

- Recipe ingredients are very affordable
- Every class includes a Mix & Match recipe that lets you choose which ingredients to use

Free Food!

- Sample two recipes we make in class each week!
- Raffle! You could win 1 of the 10 grocery bags we hand out at every class full of the ingredients to make one of the recipes!

Presented by Chicken Soup Brigade and generously funded through a grant from AARP Foundation and in collaboration with Neighborhood House.

For more information, call (206) 957-1649 or email pots&plans@csbrigade.org
 Jenny Ap (206)372-8511 or jennya@nhwa.org



SEATTLE FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER

FREE professional one-on-one financial counseling
 is now available at Financial Empowerment Center sites in the greater Seattle area.

You can get help to:

Prepare your taxes

Establish credit or improve your credit score

Manage or decrease your debt

Save for a goal or prepare for a financial emergency

Have a safe affordable bank account

Apply for health & other public benefits

FEC Locations

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Solid Ground 1531 N 45th Seattle, WA 98103</p> | <p>NSC Opportunity Center for Employment & Education 3500 College Wy N, OCE & E Bldg, 1st Floor Seattle, WA 98103</p> | <p>YWCA Opportunity Place 2224 3rd Ave Seattle, WA 98121</p> |
| <p>Main Location - Rainier Vista 4431 Martin Luther King, Jr. Wy S Seattle, WA 98108</p> | <p>South Seattle College Main Campus and Georgetown Campus</p> | <p>Wiley Center at Greenbridge 9800 8th Ave SW Seattle, WA 98106</p> |
| | | <p>Rainier Worksource 2531 Rainier Avenue South Seattle, WA 98144-5328</p> |

To request an appointment with an FEC Counselor:
 Call the FEC: (206) 923-6555
 Email the FEC: infoFEC@nhwa.org



Mystery Garden Contest: Where was this picture taken?



Do you know where this photo was taken? Here's a clue: It's somewhere in one of Seattle Housing Authority's properties.

If you can identify the location and are one of the first two readers to contact The Voice's editor, Nancy Gardner, with the correct description, you'll win a free bag of produce courtesy of the Seattle P-Patch Market Garden.

Call or email Nancy with your guesses, (206) 461-8430, ext. 227 or nancyg@nhwa.org. Winners will be announced in the August issue.



OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURE
SEATTLE

The City of Seattle's CityArtist Projects program provides funding for Seattle-based individual artists to develop and present their work. The program, operated by the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, focuses on different disciplines in alternating years. Awards for 2015 will be granted to artists working in dance, music and theater (including scriptwriting) arts.

The deadline to apply for funding for 2015 is July 16.

More than half of the artists funded are first-time recipients. A peer-review panel evaluates proposals based on criteria such as artistic merit, public access or impact and innovation. Find out more at www.culturegrants-wa.org or contact Irene Gomez, project manager, (206) 684-7310 or irene.gomez@seattle.gov.



marijuana

IT IMPAIRS DRIVING

Spread the Facts

Visit: www.teens.drugabuse.gov

In the United States, marijuana is the most commonly identified illegal drug in fatal crashes (14% of driver FIVAs). Aids developed in partnership with Jefferson, Grant, Deschutes and Crook Counties of Oregon.

Washington Recovery Help Line

24 Hour Help for Substance Abuse, Problem Gambling & Mental Health

1.866.789.1511 (206.461.3219 int)
www.waRecoveryHelpLine.org



Transforming lives





OUR COMMUNITIES

STORIES FROM OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Communities celebrate Juneteenth holiday in style



This year's Juneteenth festivities at Yesler Terrace and High Point did not disappoint the many people who came out to share in the fun. The holiday is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. Also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, on June 19, 1865, slavery was abolished in Texas and soon after throughout the United States. To celebrate, Yesler Terrace residents were treated to Asian and East African food, and entertainment, including a group of Vietnamese Dancers, above, left. Above, center, Filsan holds her nine-month old niece, while the two take in the sounds of disk jockey George Yasutake and other performers. Community groups gave out brochures and information as residents mingled about Yesler Terrace Community Center. Photos by Nancy Gardner

High Point honors youth athletic achievement

BY DEBORAH VANDEMAR
Special to The Voice

HP The sun was shining on the proud residents of High Point as they gathered in the Amphitheater in Commons Park June 8 to honor high school graduates of 2014 who have excelled in sports.

West Seattle High School Head Basketball Coach Jeffrey Fazio coached several of the students who were recognized. And Seattle Housing Authority Executive Director Andrew Lofton spoke about athletics as a means to an end; not the end itself. He described how his own athletic abilities helped get him into college, but his education propelled him into his current career which is dedicated to supporting the long term success of low income families.

During the party that followed, former UW basketball star and WSHS Basketball Coach Daniel Watts shared jibes and words of encouragement with the grads.

DeAndre Love grew up in High Point. He recalled remembering how it was before it was rebuilt and appreciated the changes and the positive impact that it has had on his family. He attended West Seattle High School and played three years of varsity basketball. Love plans to study business and communications at Eastern Arizona College with a full scholarship to play basketball.

Ruslan Burduzha, a native of Delridge, also attended WSHS where he played two years of varsity basketball. He plans to pursue business management at Wenatchee Valley College where he also received a scholarship for basketball.

Sideique Newkirk, also of High Point, chose to attend Ballard High School so that he could play football with the Beavers. His decision paid off. He won a full scholarship to a college in Arizona.

High Point native Ulysses Little has a distinguished soccer career at Lindbergh High School in Renton.

The High Point Neighborhood Association has many friends and neighbors who worked hard to make the event a success, including Shemetta Younger, Mary Williams and Tanya Wiley.

Yesler artist carves, sculpts new figures for Harborview exhibition

BY NANCY GARDNER
The Voice Editor

YT A new exhibition featuring the work of Yesler Terrace resident Charles Parrish will be held at the Harborview Cafeteria Atrium through Aug. 29.

Parrish, who has been sculpting and creating figures out of marble, granite, sandstone and basalt, has lived in Yesler Terrace and has been active in the local arts scene for 27 years. The Virginia native said he caught the art bug back in high school, when he took shop classes, and has been drawing and hammering ever since.

His latest collection of busts, pictured at right, are made from modelling clay and plaster of Paris, and each take about a day or two to complete, once he studies pictures and sketches of his subjects. He chooses to create models of icons and historical figures who have inspired him the most, he said.

"I get inspiration from people who have made an impact in history, and I learn as I research each of them," Parrish said. "I'm not just doing these for myself, but for the public, too, so that they can learn about historical figures of great importance."

Some of the busts on display include larger-than-life figures including basketball great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Ludwig van Beethoven, the Queen Mother, Leonardo da Vinci and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Peggy Weiss, the art program manager for UW Medicine and Harborview Medical Center said she has followed Parrish's work for many years and believes his sculpture is very powerful and unique.

"Seeing these icons assembled rather randomly permits the viewer to engage with their stories in a deeper way," said Weiss. "The artist powerfully interprets the strengths and struggles of his subjects, encouraging us to reflect on notions of courage, grace, humanity and genius."



PHOTO BY NANCY GARDNER

Some of the busts created by Charles Parrish that are on display at Harborview, above. The artist also does sketches of musicians, including Kanye West, below. Below, right, the artist works with marble using a hammer and chisel.

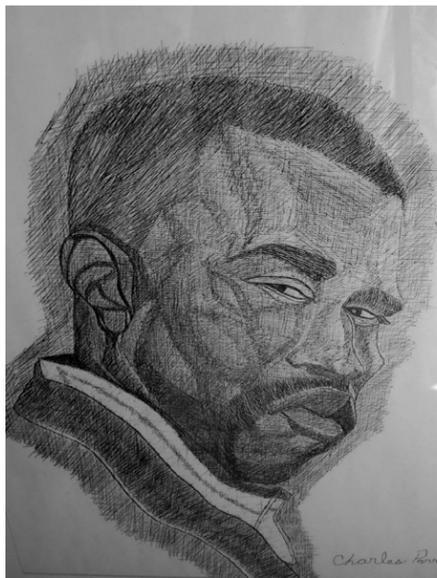


PHOTO BY NANCY GARDNER



PHOTO BY CLAIRE GAROUTTE