



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



The Voice

October
2014
*Articles translated
into six languages*

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

SHA executives address residents' concerns about proposed rent policy changes

BY NANCY GARDNER
The Voice Editor

In an effort to better inform Seattle Housing Authority residents of proposed rent changes, officials recently held five community meetings, which were mostly at capacity. The Authority has also used feedback given by those who attended on how the program should be modified and will soon develop criteria for a hardship policy.

Andrew Lofton, executive director of SHA, said no rent increases would begin before 2016, however, due to funding cuts by the federal government, the Authority has had to develop plans on how to deal with these government budget cuts in the coming years.

The proposal, Stepping Forward, is

SHA's way of dealing with the budget deficit.

Under the proposed rent policy, SHA would establish fixed rent levels, or steps, that would be based on apartment size and length of time a resident remains in public housing or holds a voucher. Lofton explained that there would be no time limits for public housing or holding a voucher and that rents would remain significantly below market. The plan would only apply to workable households, or those with at least one person between 24 and 61 who does not have a disability that prevents them from working. Households with no workable adults would continue to pay rent based on their income.

Lofton noted that with more than 9,000 households on its waiting list to obtain public housing, efforts must be made to address

the needs and assist those already in public housing as well as those who often wait up to four years to find somewhere to live.

According to SHA, there are about 4,600 workable households in Seattle public housing that would be affected by "Stepping Forward," which would take four years to fully implement if adopted. All workable residents would go through a workforce assessment and would receive more training and education to help them achieve higher-paying jobs. Lofton said the end goal is to enable residents to achieve economic self-sufficiency and help shorten the time people spend waiting to get into public housing.

Please see 'SHA' on Page 2



General election Tuesday, Nov. 4 — register to vote now

The 2014 general election is Tuesday, Nov. 4, but time is running out to register and be eligible to vote.

For most voters, the registration deadline in King County is Monday, Oct. 6. Registration for new voters only can be done in-person through Monday, Oct. 27.

For more information including how and where to register, visit 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. 4. Ballots must be postmarked by that date to be counted.

Neighborhood House AmeriCorps team kicks off year of service throughout King County

BY MADELAINE PYATT AND CHRISTOPHER WHITING
Special to The Voice

Neighborhood House has always been grateful for the service of its volunteers. This September, the third Washington Service Corps Neighborhood House AmeriCorps team joined the organization for a year of service.

Founded in 1994, AmeriCorps celebrated its 20th anniversary this September. In its first two decades, AmeriCorps gradually expanded its service into additional communities throughout the United States. To date, more than 900,000 members nationwide have served 1.2 billion hours. The AmeriCorps program focuses on direct service to the community and emphasizes the opportunity for service-related training.

Neighborhood House AmeriCorps is comprised of three programs serving seven different communities. Early Childhood Education (ECE) members work in preschools in collaboration with Head Start instructors at four Seattle Housing Authority locations: High Point, Rainier Vista, NewHolly and Yesler Terrace.

Members in the Youth Tutoring Program serve elementary, middle and high school students at the King County Housing Authority Burndale Homes, Firwood Circle and Seola Gardens Community Centers. And two members coordinate the Youth Empowered with Leadership Strengths (YELS) program based at Neighborhood House's High Point Center.

While Neighborhood House AmeriCorps members work across several communities and serve in distinct roles, we still identify as a common unit. Throughout the service year, there will be opportunities to come together as a full team for training exercises and team-bonding activities. Each of the 16 Members contributes unique strengths to Neighborhood House.

Amran Dolal is a first generation American and one of four team members living at High Point. A mother of six, Amran believes in the necessity of the Head Start program in her community.

Please see "Americorps" on Page 6



PHOTO BY TERA OGLESBY

The Neighborhood House team of AmeriCorps members pose near the state capitol to celebrate 20 years of AmeriCorps service in the state of Washington. They received their assignments and will be working in a variety of functions to support low-income, immigrant and refugee children and youth in school and college readiness.

Neighborhood House
Jesse Epstein Building
905 Spruce Street
Seattle, WA 98104

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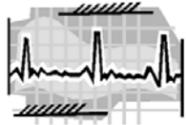
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Health Notes



A column devoted to your well-being

New Community Health Workers aim to reach out to Yesler Terrace residents

By Neighborcare Health

Neighborcare Health, in partnership with the Seattle Housing Authority, has hired four Yesler Terrace residents who will serve as Community Health Workers (CHWs) for the Yesler Terrace community.

The CHWs will work with Yesler Terrace residents to help them achieve their health and wellness goals. They can connect residents with health resources and help them navigate the complex health care system. They can also help residents find a primary care provider and health insurance, provide in-home visits and support around nutrition, safety and healthy lifestyles. The CHW's at Yesler Terrace will also work with the school-based health center at Bailey Gatzert.

Neighborcare Health's CHWs will be in the community at the Yesler Terrace Community Center and visiting door-to-door. If you have an idea about a health program or activity you would like to see, please let them know. Questions, thoughts, or comments can also be sent to Nuha Elkugia, community programs manager at Neighborcare Health, 206-595-1884 or NuhaE@neighborcare.org.

Meet the Yesler Terrace CHW's



Asha Abdi

Asha's Profile

Personal Motto:

"Making mistakes is better than faking perfection"

Why did you want to be a Community Health Worker? I'm

an open person and I love helping people!

How long have you lived in Yesler Terrace? 10 years

What languages do you speak? Somali and English



Alisa Farah

Alisa's Profile

Personal Motto:

"Throw me to the wolves and I will return leading the pack."

Why did you want to be a Community Health Worker? I

love helping my community with getting better health and growing as a community.

How long have you lived in Yesler Terrace? 16 years

What languages do you speak? Somali and English



Kim Do

Kim's Profile

Personal Motto:

"Never give up!"

Why did you want to be a Community Health Worker? I needed

a job where I could work with people and help them with their health.

How long have you lived in Yesler Terrace? Three years

What languages do you speak? Vietnamese



Senait Gebregiorgis

Senait's Profile

Personal Motto:

"Easy come, easy go."

Why did you want to be a Community Health Worker?

I believe that everyone deserves quality health care, regardless of socioeconomic status, which is why I am thrilled to be part of team that will assist individuals reach their health care goals, whatever they may be.

How long have you lived in Yesler Terrace? Forever

What languages do you speak? Tigrinya



Nuha Elkugia

Nuha's Profile

Nuha Elkugia, is the new Community Programs Manager with Neighborcare Health. She is very excited to be working in the Yesler Terrace Community.

Nuha graduated with her Master's in Public Health from the University of Washington's Community Oriented Public Health Practice program.

Originally from Libya, she can speak Arabic and a bit of Spanish. In her free time she enjoys trying to cook food from around the world and playing basketball.

Be Safe

Stay safe during Daylight Saving Time

By KYLIE HELMUTH
Seattle Neighborhood Group

Daylight Saving Time is just around the corner, and arrives Sunday, Nov. 2. Remember to set your clocks back an hour before going to sleep that night.

As the amount of daylight will shorten, now is a good time to pay attention to lights around you. Missing lights on Seattle Housing Authority property should be reported to the management office in your community or building.

If you see burned-out or broken street lights, please report them to Seattle City Light. You will need the name of the street that the problem light would be shining on if it were working. It is also necessary to get the address nearest to the pole so City Light staff can locate the correct pole. Please include a description of the problem. Include your name and phone number in case Seattle City Light has questions.

The City has a goal of repairing a light within 10 business days after being reported. Please use caution if you are nearby a malfunctioning light that may have an electrical charge. A technician will come



out to properly and safely repair the light. **There are a few different methods of reporting:**

1. You can call 206-684-7056.
2. You can send an email to street.light@seattle.gov.
3. You can go to the Streetlight Trouble Report Form page (see link below) and fill out an electronic form.
4. The newest method is done with the "Find it, Fix it" phone app. On the smart phone app, you are able to submit the location, photo, concern, date, and your contact information.

You can also check out their website at www.seattle.gov/light/streetlight.

Thanks for your concern and taking part in making Seattle a safe community.

Kylie Helmuth (kylie@sngi.org, 206-323-9666) is a project coordinator at Seattle Neighborhood Group. Please feel free to contact Kylie for crime prevention information or help with your safety and security concerns.



PHOTO BY NANCY GARDNER

Supporters and members of The Tenants Union of Washington State rallied outside Yesler Terrace Community Center Sept. 17. Protesters spoke out against Seattle Housing Authority's proposed rent policy, Stepping Forward. Several hundred people gathered for the rally and many attended the community meeting organized by SHA that evening to explain the policy. Under the proposed structure, rent would be based on length of time in public housing and number of bedrooms rather than income.

SHA

Continued from Page 1

But some residents say they're concerned that the policy will be extra tough on single parents, immigrants and refugees who may not be fluent in English, and those who are handicapped but are not officially deemed disabled.

Helen Gilbert, a member of the group Radical Women, believes single mothers, whose poverty rate in Seattle is reportedly more than 37 percent, will be impacted the most.

"This is a misguided and cruel policy," said Gilbert. "The recession has not ended, and I think you're living in a fantasy world if you believe all residents will be able to get better jobs and work their way up."

Lofton said, "We recognize there are people who have undiagnosed disabilities

and we hope to identify those individuals. We plan to institute a hardship policy for people who for one reason or another, are not fully work-able."

Gordon Gow, a public housing resident of many years said the proposal really concerns him.

"I think this new structure would discourage me from working more," he said. "I already have a disability but don't know how long I'll be classified that way. After that, what will happen?" he asked.

Lofton added that rents would always be below the market rate, but would increase steadily over time for households with at least one working member.

SHA's board of seven commissioners, who are appointed by the mayor, will make the final decision on rent policy changes.

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.

2014 City and state general election issues

Voters asked to consider education, transportation and gun safety measures

BY NANCY GARDNER
The Voice Editor

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4, and five statewide measures will appear on the ballot in Washington.

Seattle issues

Proposition Numbers 1A and 1B concern early learning programs and providers of those services for children. **Proposition 1A** (Initiative 107) would establish a \$15 minimum wage for childcare workers, seek to reduce childcare costs to 10 percent or less of family income; prohibit violent felons from providing professional childcare; and require enhanced training and certification through a training institute.

Alternatively, the Seattle City Council and Mayor Ed Murray have proposed

Proposition 1B, which would fund the four-year initial phase of a city early learning program with the goal of developing a widely-available, affordable, licensed, and voluntary preschool option. The Ordinance requires support, training and certification for teachers. The program uses research-based strategies, includes evaluation of results, and provides tuition support. This proposition authorizes regular property taxes of approximately 11 cents per \$1,000 assessed value over four years.

If approved by a simple majority of voters, **Seattle Citizen Petition No. 1** would create a citywide transportation authority to plan, construct, operate and maintain public monorail transportation facilities. Initial funding for planning, design, engineering and environmental review of the measure

would be raised through a \$5 fee on vehicles subject to relicensing tab fees registered within the city.

Seattleites will also be asked to help support Metro Transit through **Proposition No. 1**. If approved, this proposition would fund preservation of transit service on existing routes primarily serving Seattle that are slated to be cut beginning in 2015. A portion of the funds collected would support regional transit service and improved access for low-income transit riders. This proposition would authorize an additional annual vehicle license fee of \$60 per registered vehicle with a \$20 rebate for low-income individuals and authorize a 0.1% sales and use tax. Both the fee and the tax would expire by Dec. 31, 2020.

Statewide initiatives

One of the statewide ballot initiatives, **594**, proposes universal background checks for firearms purchases. Prospective buyers currently have to pass background checks to purchase from licensed firearm dealers under federal law.

The other initiative, **591**, would prohibit government agencies from confiscating guns or other firearms from citizens without due process, or from requiring background checks on firearm purchasers unless a uniform national standard is required.

Voter's pamphlets will be mailed by mid-October, according to the King County elections Website. For complete coverage of the initiatives visit www.kingcounty.gov/elections.

First Hill Welcomes new P-patch

Latest community garden established at Horiuchi Park



PHOTO BY RICH MACDONALD

Workers have begun converting Horiuchi Park, located on Boren Ave. between E. Fir and E. Spruce Streets, into a community garden for Yesler Terrace residents.

BY NANCY GARDNER
The Voice Editor

First Hill's Yesler Terrace residents will have a new space for growing organic food, flowers, fruits and herbs thanks to the conversion of Horiuchi Park into a P-patch. The new P-patch, located on Boren Ave. between Spruce and Fir Streets is named after the late C. Paul Horiuchi, one of Seattle's renowned artists. He is best known for the creation of the 60-foot long, curved glass wall, Seattle Mural, created in 1962, for the World's Fair at Seattle Center.

This latest addition is the 90th P-patch community garden operated by Seattle Department of Neighborhoods P-Patch Community Gardening Program. Some 6,800 gardeners work throughout these gardens in the city and donated more than 28,000 pounds of produce to area food banks in 2013. A grant to the Seattle Housing Authority and help from the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy have funded construction of the 29, one hundred-foot plots located in the P-patch.

Work parties will continue through mid-October, when construction is expected to be finished and plots will be ready for fall planting. Seattle Housing Authority residents who attend work parties and help complete the project will earn hours and be

eligible to secure a plot. The cost to keep a plot in Horiuchi P-patch is free for the first year for those who help construct it. Beginning in 2016, the plot fee will be \$40 per year and for those who can't afford it, financial assistance is available.

Horiuchi has been honored throughout the design process and construction of the community garden through artistic elements and historical context of his work. Residents from First Hill and Yesler Terrace met regularly over the past two years to help plan and provide input into the construction process of the P-Patch.

Covering almost a third of an acre, the site provides views of Mount Rainier and the Rainier Valley. Upcoming work parties will be held at the site from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Oct. 4, 11 and 18. Volunteers will be needed to help add soil, build compost bins and install a tool shed. Others are needed to bring food and beverages to the work parties, lead work parties and make phone calls to other gardeners.

P-patches were named after the Picardo family, whose land in the Wedgwood neighborhood would eventually become the first community garden in Seattle. The City of Seattle later bought the Picardo farmland and, in 1973, when the city's P-patch program was established, the 'P' was used to honor the family.

Mayor Murray announces increased funds for more police and human services

2015-16 budget calls for \$3.3 million for new officers and \$1.5 million for programs to help end homelessness

BY NANCY GARDNER
The Voice Editor

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray recently presented the 2015-16 Seattle Police Department budget that will allow for new investments in public safety, including a civilian Chief Operating Officer and a civilian Chief Information Officer for improved operations and systems management.

"Public safety is our number one priority, and my budget for the police department reflects these basic budgeting principles by investing in best management practices, better use of data and more effective use of resources to get better outcomes," Murray said.

Using the newly-implemented CompStat, crime-tracking system used nationwide by law enforcement, the COO and CIO will help analyze crime data and predict future crime 'hot spots,' and work to reduce criminal activities. CompStat was used by New York City in the 1990s and reportedly helped reduce crime by 60 percent.

Working with Seattle Police Chief Kathy O'Toole, Murray pledges to better connect neighborhoods throughout the city, and increase the presence and visibility of police officers. O'Toole said that establishing and building community trust will remain a top priority for the police department well into 2015.

"I pledged during the campaign that we would add one hundred fully trained officers by the end of my four-year term, and my budget proposal puts us on a stable path to get there," he added.

And to address Seattle's homeless population, Murray said his budget includes funds for human services, including expanding the city's rapid rehousing program and creating more space at homeless shelters by moving long-term occupants into permanent housing. He said particular focus will be on reducing the number of estimated 700 homeless veterans living in the city by funding rapid placement into housing, rental assistance and employment support.



PHOTO BY NANCY GARDNER

Mayor Ed Murray's 2015-2016 budget includes investments in public safety such as increased crime-tracking in neighborhoods and funding for homeless families and veterans.

Please Recycle



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



Preparing the garden for fall

BY TROY SMITH
Special to *The Voice*

Hello again everyone! This is Troy with your fall gardening report. This has been an exceptionally good year for gardening here in Seattle. We've had a number of hot days and warm nights that helped yield record numbers of tomato, eggplant, and zucchini. But all good things must come to end, and so it is with summer coming to a close. Now is the time to begin preparing for and choosing what you want to do with your garden in the fall and what to do to prepare for next spring.

I plan to use my garden over the fall and winter months by pulling up my zucchini and have planted beets in their place. My tomatoes are also nearly finished for the year, and I will also be pulling them out. Any remaining tomatoes on the vine that have started ripening will be put in a brown paper bag and left to ripen on my kitchen counter. The green ones will be picked to make fried green tomatoes.

Once I've removed the tomatoes, I will dig up the soil and plant turnips in their place. Turnips are very hardy and can handle snow and very cold temperatures.

What to plant during the winter months



PHOTO BY TROY SMITH

Now is the time to pull out summer vegetables like tomatoes and zucchini that are winding down. Consider planting hardy vegetables like beets and turnips in their place.

If you do not plan on using your garden this winter, there are things that you still need to do to prepare it for next spring. First, the soil will need nutrients to replenish what the plants have used to grow this summer. You can add a good organic fertilizer that will breathe life into your garden next year.

Rosemary, mint and other hardy plants can be left to overwinter.

If you are like me and have a raised bed, I intend to get some fresh soil and add it

along with the fertilizer. I will also make a mental note of where I planted my tomatoes this year so that I don't plant them in the same place next year. Any mold or disease that has come in contact with tomatoes can affect next year's crop.

Finally, I have started laying out plans for next year's garden and have considered building up some hills that are necessary to grow watermelon, cantaloupe, and pumpkins. And remember to compost your garden leftovers!

Troy's Fried Green Tomatoes

Ingredients:

- 4-5 good sized green tomatoes
- 1 Cup flour
- 1 Cup fine cornmeal
- Egg wash (1 egg, 1/2 c. milk, and a little water all blended well)
- Oil to cover the tomatoes

Directions:

1. Mix flour and cornmeal together on plate or in bowl.
2. Slice the tomatoes about 1/4 -1/2 inch thick.
3. Coat the tomatoes with a little oil.
4. Dip tomatoes in the egg wash and roll on the flour and cornmeal mixture until well coated.
5. Cook on the stove on medium high heat or fry in an electric skillet on 350 degrees until golden brown. Flip them over in order to brown the other side.

Place on a plate with a couple of paper towels to absorb excess oil. Salt and pepper to taste makes a delicious and convenient way to get the most use out of your garden with little to no waste. Happy eating and have a wonderful fall.

BRIDGING THE GAP...

RESOURCE FAIR

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

Services Featuring:

- ⇒ Education & Job Training
- ⇒ Employment
- ⇒ Homeownership
- ⇒ Financial Services
- ⇒ Health Services
- ⇒ Door Prizes and much more!

Children are welcome!

Saturday, October 18, 2014

Time: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Place: Rainier Community Center
4600 38th Ave. S
Seattle, WA 98118

For more information
Tel: (206) 588 4318 Fax: (206) 588 4901
Email: Ashenafi.Woldegebriel@seattlehousing.org



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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.



Money Matters The advantages of filing taxes

Editor's note:

The region's first Financial Empowerment Center, (FEC) operated by Neighborhood House at Rainier Vista, opened in April and can help with financial counseling and affordable banking. The main center is located at 4431 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S., and is open Monday to Friday. There are six other FEC satellite centers throughout the city. For locations or more information, call 206-923-6555 or email FEC@nhwa.org.

BY JASON CLOPPER AND EDISON DE IMPALA
Financial Empowerment Center

Many folks think because they did not work much or make much money they do not need to file their taxes. While it may be true that they may not need to file their taxes, it could be to their advantage to do so.

For example, if you worked even a little bit in a given year you may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit that can put hundreds or even thousands of dollars in your pocket. The Earned Income Tax

Credit provides a tax credit to working low income individuals and families. Many folks think there is no reason to file taxes if they only made a little bit of money, however they might be missing out on tax credits like these.

If you have children there are even more tax credits available to you such as the Child Tax Credit or Dependent Care Credit. Going to school? There are credits out there to help both college students and those taking courses to improve their job skills. The IRS lets you claim a refund for up to three years after the tax return was due. So if you did not file or think you missed something, there may still be time.

Once you receive your tax refund, what should you do with it? If you're expecting a tax refund this coming year, is time to start developing a good plan for your money. Edison, a counselor at the Financial Empowerment Center, has these suggestions:

1. Savings: start or increase your savings or emergency fund—without it, any emergency can send you on the debt spiral to financial disaster. Ideally we should have a fund with at least 6 months' worth of savings.

2. Pay off high-interest debt: start your debt elimination program paying off any high interest loans first: payday loans, debt consolidation, auto, credit cards, and etc.

3. Saving for a down payment on a house, or funding an IDA for this purpose.

4. What about something that you really need? Buying a reliable car or fixing the one that you have, dental work, etc.

5. Make home improvements, or refinance your mortgage using your tax refund to pay for closing costs.

6. Start building your college savings: contribute to a 529 account; you'll be able to use the money tax-free for college bills.

7. Start your own business: do you have a venture that you want to start? Or take you current business to the next level.

8. Have Fun: Take a little bit of this money and used it for something fun -or save it for your next vacations.

If you need help preparing your taxes you can schedule an appointment at the Financial Empowerment Center at nhwa.fullslate.com or give us a call at 206-923-6555. You can also schedule an appointment with one of our financial counselors to hear some great options on what to do with your money.



seattlecenter

Free Seattle Center Cultural and Wellness Events during October and November

Below are a few upcoming events at Seattle Center that honor the rich diversity of culture here in the Pacific Northwest:

October 5: CroatiaFest

October 12: Seattle Children's Festival

October 18-19: TurkFest

October 25-26: HealthFest

November 1-2: Dia de Muertos: A Mexican Celebration to Remember Our Departed

November 8: Hmong New Year Celebration.

For details and to see other events, visit www.seattlecenter.com/events or call customer service at (206) 684-7200.



neighborcare health

Wondering how the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) will affect you? We can help!

Make an appointment today!

You and your family could be eligible for Apple Health/Medicaid at no cost to you. To learn more, call 206-548-3013 to schedule an appointment with a Neighborcare Health Eligibility Specialist in your neighborhood.

Please bring the following to your appointment:

ALL:	A copy of last year's tax return and/or one month of pay stubs
ALL:	An email address (if available)
US CITIZENS:	Social Security numbers for all family members
IMMIGRANTS:	"Green card" and passport (if available)
US CITIZENS BORN ABROAD:	Naturalization Certificate.

WHO is newly eligible for Apple Health?

- Any U.S. citizen or eligible resident who earns less than 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) (approximately \$16,100 for one person) is eligible for Apple Health/Medicaid and can enroll anytime.
- Individuals/families who earn between 138-400 percent of the FPL may be eligible for tax credits to pay for their health insurance during open enrollment periods each year through Washington Healthplanfinder, a new online marketplace (www.wahealthplanfinder.org). Open enrollment for 2015 begins November 15, 2014.



WHY should I apply?

- All insurance plans on Washington Healthplanfinder must cover 10 essential health benefits such as doctor visits, hospitalizations, maternity care, emergency room care, prescriptions and others.
- Insurance plans cannot deny health coverage if someone is sick or has a pre-existing condition.
- If you are not enrolled, you can be fined for every family member who does not have health insurance.
- If you need to see your Neighborcare Health or other provider, you may not have to pay out-of-pocket for the services received.

WHEN does coverage start?

- If you are eligible for Apple Health/Medicaid, you can sign up anytime during the year. Apple Health coverage begins the month of enrollment and runs for 12 months.
- Enrollment for Qualified Health Plans for individuals and families above 138 percent FPL through Washington Healthplanfinder begins November 15, 2014 for coverage starting in January 2015.

WHAT do I need to do?

Call 206-548-3013 to schedule an appointment with a Neighborcare Health Eligibility Specialist in your neighborhood. All of our Eligibility Specialists are certified in-person assisters. We have helped more than 10,000 individuals learn about their ACA (Obamacare) options and successfully enroll for coverage. Please call today. We are happy to meet with you.



neighborcare health

MEDICAL & DENTAL SITES

- 45th Street Medical & Dental Clinic**
1629 N 45th St, Seattle, WA 98103 | 206-633-3350
- 45th Street Homeless Youth Clinic**
1629 N 45th St, Seattle, WA 98103 | 206-633-7650
- Ballard Homeless Clinic — Nyer Urness House**
1753 NW 56th St, #200, Seattle, WA 98107 | 206-782-5939
- Central Area Dental Clinic**
2101 E Yesler Way, Seattle, WA 98122 | 206-461-7801
- Georgetown Dental Clinic**
6200 13th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98108 | 206-461-6943
- Greenwood Medical Clinic**
415 N 85th St, Seattle, WA 98103 | 206-782-8660
- High Point Medical & Dental Clinic**
6020 35th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98126 | 206-461-6950
- Lake City Medical Clinic**
12721 30th Ave NE, #101, Seattle, WA 98125 | 206-417-0326
- McDermott Place Medical Clinic**
12736 33rd Ave NE, #200, Seattle, WA 98125 | 206-367-0150
- Pike Market Medical Clinic**
1930 Post Alley, Seattle, WA 98101 | 206-728-4143
- Rainier Beach Medical & Dental Clinic**
9245 Rainier Ave S, Seattle, WA 98118 | 206-722-8444
- Rainier Park Medical Clinic**
4400 37th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98118 | 206-461-6957
- St. Vincent de Paul — Aurora (Open Fall 2014)**
13555 Aurora Ave N, Seattle, WA 98133 | 206-548-7600

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FREE TAX PREPARATION

At the Financial Empowerment Center

The Financial Empowerment Center, in partnership with United Way of King County, is offering tax preparation services outside of the tax season starting August 27th, 2014. Clients will need to schedule an appointment in order to be seen.

WHEN: Starting August 27th, 2014 on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
We Serve Clients Services will be available from late April to December. From January to April 15 clients will be referred to a United Way of King County Free Tax Campaign location.

WHERE: Financial Empowerment Center based in the Rainier Vista neighborhood at:
We're Located 4431 Martin Luther King Jr Way S, Seattle, WA

SERVICES: • Answering basic tax questions
Provided • Preparing individual tax returns

ELIGIBILITY: • Adjusted Gross Income less than \$52,000
Requirements • Must not have sold stock or have other capital gains or losses
• Must not have any rental property
• Must not have losses from operating a small business (We can prepare tax returns for those who have sole proprietor or small business income provided that they do not have expenses over \$10,000)

If you are unsure whether or not a client is eligible, please contact Jason at JasonC@nhwa.org.

LIMITATIONS: We cannot help those who want to dispute or contest an IRS letter or finding. Please refer them to the IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service or UW Tax Clinic.
We cannot prepare partnership, S or C corporation tax returns.
We cannot prepare state tax returns.
We cannot help with Washington B & O tax.

What to BRING: • Photo ID
• Social Security Card for them, their spouse, and any dependents
• Income documents and tax forms: W-2s, 1099s, etc.*
• If possible, a copy of the last tax return they filed

**If a client does not have access to them, they can get them from the IRS webpage (www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-Transcript) or from an IRS office (www.irs.gov/uac/Contact-My-Local-Office-in-Washington)*

For Appointments:

Call (206) 923-6555 or go to <http://NHWA.FullSlate.com>



Americorps

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She has seen the Head Start program positively impact her family and is excited to begin her work in Early Childhood Education at the High Point location.

"Neighborhood House has helped my family and I want to give my time back to them," Dolal says. "We are immigrants and Neighborhood House has helped us since we came to the United States." She hopes to use her time with Neighborhood House to launch her career as a social worker and plans to return to school after her year with AmeriCorps.

Other Members see their time with AmeriCorps as an opportunity to continue their work in education and social justice. Jo Kassel, a Connecticut native, spent her year prior to AmeriCorps service teaching English in Vietnam. She recalls the ways in which she was continuously inspired by the Vietnamese children and teens she taught, each with their own unique dreams and aspirations.

As she makes the transition from teaching English abroad to working in the preschool at High Point, Kassel says, "I am most excited about learning from the community. Neighborhood House's staff,

volunteers, and surrounding community members have a richness of knowledge, experiences, cultures, and perspectives that I cannot wait to share."

Three members re-joined the team after a previous year of service in AmeriCorps programs. Rico Abadesco is beginning his second year as a Youth Tutor with Neighborhood House. As the only second-year member who previously served with Neighborhood House, he has been a leader to his new teammates as we begin our year of service. He is an inspiring and energetic presence at Neighborhood House.

In addition to developing new skill sets, Neighborhood House AmeriCorps members will receive a \$5,645 education award upon completion of their service. This award can be used toward further studies or paying off existing student loans. All members are excited to become a part of the Neighborhood House team and look forward to learning with each community this year!

Maddie Pyatt and Chris Whiting are Neighborhood House YELS AmeriCorps member serving at High Point. Throughout the year, The Voice will periodically feature projects and services that Neighborhood House AmeriCorps volunteers are engaged.



Risk Control and Safety Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Seattle Housing Authority to operate and maintain its buildings, equipment and grounds in a manner that promotes the safety of residents, staff and visitors; to protect the Authority's physical property from damage and to maintain its useful life; and, to minimize injuries, losses and the cost of injuries and losses. The Authority will continue to take a leadership role in promoting safety and preventing or controlling risks. Safety is the responsibility of everyone—staff, residents and visitors alike.

The Housing Authority's Risk Control program uses two main techniques to achieve the policy's objectives; risk financing and risk control. Risk financing is the process of analyzing and identifying the types and level of losses Seattle Housing Authority can absorb through its operational budget, then determining which other losses must be handled through insurance or contractual risk transfer. Loss control is the implementation of procedures and programs which aid in the prevention of accidents. The Authority's safety programs - including regular inspection of buildings and equipment, training targeted at safe practices for employees and residents, and careful analysis of incident or accident data to focus training and corrective actions - are the principal tools for preventing and reducing accidents and thus for enhancing loss control.

Risk control and safety are the responsibility of all levels of the Seattle Housing Authority, starting with top management and extending to each individual employee. The intent of the Risk Control and Safety Policy is to ensure safe practices and to protect people and property from injury or damage. This is an ongoing operational priority.

This policy statement shall be publicized annually to residents and employees through regular publications for these audiences and through the Seattle Housing Authority's website.

Adopted by the Seattle Housing Authority Board of Commissioners on the 21st day of May, 2012; expiring May 2017.

Tom Tierney
Tom Tierney, Executive Director

Rich Needham
Rich Needham, Safety Administrator

Barb Berg
Barb Berg, Risk Control Manager

OUR COMMUNITIES

STORIES FROM OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

A perennial passion for growing gardenias



PHOTO BY NANCY GARDNER

*Glenn Slemmer, a former cancer researcher and current resident of Green Lake Plaza, surveys just some of the hundreds of gardenias he has been growing in his apartment for the past 20 years. He supplies the Indoor Sun Shoppe in Fremont with many species of the sub-tropical plant, including *Gardenia jasminoides*, *Gardenia fortuniana*, and *Gardenia radicans*.*

BY NANCY GARDNER
The Voice Editor

In 1965 Glenn Slemmer's girlfriend gave him a gardenia plant as a gift that she'd bought at the grocery store. Over the next 40 years, his girlfriend went her own way, but the plant stayed with him, blooming every spring and summer and producing a heavenly scent.

His fascination with flora and fauna began when he was just a toddler when he

began breeding tropical fish. In later years, he learned how to hybridize different species of snakes.

But it's no surprise that Slemmer, who worked for twenty-five years as a researcher studying breast cancer at the University of Washington and University of British Columbia, has had many scientific hobbies. A UW graduate, he majored in biology so he could continue his plant and animal studies.

While working at the Cancer Research Centre at UBC, he was also the staff her-

petologist, where he worked with the corn snake, native to the eastern coast of the United States. He was able to produce a litany of colored corn snakes through selective breeding.

When he retired from academic research, he returned to the constant object of his affection and obsession: the gardenia.

He says it's the challenge of working with a plant that is typically hard to grow in the Northwest climate that he enjoys the most. Its demands for light, humidity and heat just aren't available here. But by furnishing his apartment with tinfoil and extra lighting to help radiate extra heat and light, he has managed to replicate nature, giving way to an abundance of gardenias.

That's about 300 seedlings and another 300 cuttings that he has grown from seed and hand-pollinated, all in various states of development.

But what does he do with all of them? Species that get too tall he simply prunes or "bonzai's" down to a manageable size.

He routinely supplies the Indoor Sun Shoppe, in Fremont, with gardenias, and in return, receives pots and soil to grow more.

"Glenn has been hybridizing gardenias and supplying us with unusual varieties for the past decade," said Shaun Murphy, the store's manager. "He does a remarkable job of growing them, and we all know they're not easy to grow and sustain."

Slemmer, who's 75 years old, eventually lost the original plant gifted to him, but only because he lost his home and had to live on the streets of Seattle for eight years.

During that period, he kept reading up on gardenias by way of library resources, and picked out several varieties he wanted to begin growing again once he had stability.



PHOTO BY NANCY GARDNER

Gardenia fortuniana typically blooms mid-spring through mid-summer and produces a breathtaking scent. It thrives in temperatures between 65 and 75 degrees F and features large, double-blossoms.

In 1995, he called up a nursery to request his favorite gardenia species, and two years later, he had both the plants and a room with a south-facing view, perfect for growing and hybridizing gardenias.

"I've always lived in places where I've had a lab in my home," said Slemmer. "And I've been curious my whole life to explore science and do things that no one else has done before."

His involvement with the Resident Action Committee (RAC) and other research keeps him busy, and he admits if he had more time and space, he could grow so many more gardenias.

United Way Day of Caring fulfills namesake

Volunteers step up to provide job training assistance and plenty of elbow grease

BY NANCY GARDNER
The Voice Editor

  This year's annual United Way Day of Caring on Sept. 19 was full of fun and lots of hard work, too. Volunteers from Microsoft and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation engaged some of the communities served by Neighborhood House in a host of projects.

Each year, Neighborhood House partners with a number of generous companies and organizations as part of the United Way Day of Caring.

At Neighborhood House locations in High Point, Rainier Vista and Wiley Center at Greenbridge, volunteers showed the true power of caring.

Two groups from Microsoft took on large cleaning and gardening projects at High Point and Rainier Vista locations.

Employees from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation helped lead an all-day employment skill-building workshop at the Wiley Center at Greenbridge.

Job seekers like Crystal Berry had a chance to sharpen her interviewing skills and receive feedback on how to enhance her cover letter and resume.

"I'm very grateful that there are organizations like Neighborhood House who will help us improve our chances of getting hired," Berry said.



Crystal Berry attends a mock interview and gets advice on cover letter and resume writing from volunteers from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Day of Caring volunteers consistently make positive impacts in the lives of so many individuals and families.

This year's tasks involved cleaning and sprucing up the interior and exterior of High Point and Rainier Vista, where volunteers cleaned a bamboo fence, above right.

Near right, Krishna Kishore, an employee at Microsoft, gets into the spirit of caring by weeding the garden area at High Point.

Several dozen volunteers helped out at Neighborhood House locations in High Point, Rainier Vista and Wiley Center at Greenbridge.

