



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



The Voice

December 2015
Articles translated into six languages

The newspaper of Neighborhood House — visit our website at www.voice.seattlehousing.net

First Hill's Streetcar debut still TBD Testing and final preparations are underway

By JONATHAN LUONG
The Voice intern

Seattleites recently approved Proposition 1, a nine-year plan that calls for \$930 million raised through property taxes that will fund transportation and maintenance projects.

Dubbed the 'Move Seattle' plan by Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, funds collected are expected to help create new bike lanes and other transit renovations. Some people, however, have taken issue with the fact that the Department of Transportation (DOT) will begin other projects while the First Hill Streetcar is still facing delays and is considerably behind schedule.

Promises made by Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) director Scott Kubly to have the First Hill Streetcar running by the end of the summer are now



PHOTO BY NANCY GARDNER

a distant memory as test runs continue. Norm Mah, a spokesperson for the DOT, recently admitted that there was no planned start date.

While this may be disappointing to some, major progress has been made on the trains since the summer.

Please see "Streetcar" on Page 6

One of six streetcars that will service residents from Capitol Hill to Pioneer Square. The cars are supplied by Inekon, the Czech company that built streetcars used along South Lake Union since 2007.

Elections 2015 roundup

By VOICE STAFF

As of press time, the following election results were calculated. Certification Nov. 24 would yield final results.

At-large positions (Numbers 8 and 9) are elected to two-year terms while the seven district councilmembers serve four-year terms.

City Council District No. 1
Shannon Braddock: 49.60%
Lisa Herbold: 49.74%

City Council District No. 2
Bruce Harrell: 50.83%*
Tammy Morales: 48.93%

City Council District No. 3
Kshama Sawant: 55.947%*
Pamela Banks: 44.78%

City Council District No. 4
Rob Johnson: 51.29%*
Michael Maddux: 48.23%

City Council District No. 5
Debora Juarez: 64.32%*
Sandy Brown: 35.14%

City Council District No. 6
Mike O'Brien: 61.29%*
Catherine Weatbrook: 38.42%

City Council District No. 7
Sally Bagshaw: 80.89%*
Deborah Zech-Artis: 18.36%

City Council District No. 8
Tim Burgess: 54.56%*
Jon Grant: 44.87%

City Council District No. 9
Lorena González: 78.05%*
Bill Bradburd: 21.44%

Seattle Proposition 1
Property-tax increase to fund various transportation and infrastructure improvements:
Yes: 58.66% No: 41.34%

King County Proposition 1
Property-tax levy to fund various prevention and early-intervention programs that support the health and well-being of children:
Yes: 56.22% No: 43.78%

*expected winner

Please see "Elections" on Page 2

Yesler youth club seeks support from NSF

Fusing the gap between knowledge and power is helping enrich youths' lives

By MEREDITH WENGER
Special to The Voice

Editor's note: Since 2011, The Big-Brained Superheroes Club at Yesler Community Center has been working to provide the support needed for Big-Brained Superheroes to develop and apply twelve real-world superpowers—such as kindness, leadership, and critical thinking. Club leader Meredith Wenger recently travelled to the other Washington to garner support from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Here's her report.

How do we best empower our kids—by putting them through programs or by giving them a place to play? Participants in last month's National Science Foundation Maker Summit in Washington, D.C., generally seemed to agree: yes.

Yes, programs can help kids develop specific skills and knowledge. But let's also give kids a place where they have the inspiration, resources, and support they need to take charge of their own learning and apply and expand their skills and knowledge in ways unique to them. Or, as Karen Wilkinson from The Tinkering



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEREDITH WENGER

Kids ages three and older meet after school Mondays and Wednesdays at Yesler Terrace Community Center to be part of The Big-Brained Superheroes Club. Aside from LEGO structures and magnetic sculptures, they make 3D art of all kinds, and draw, color and paint. With help from area donations, the BBS crew has made all sorts of creations out of surplus hardware cloth, wooden stakes, used pie and muffin tins, and random bits of electronics. Additional collaborations between the BBS and NSF are being explored.

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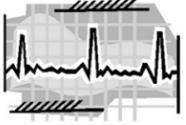
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Health Notes



A column devoted to your well-being

Open enrollment continues through Jan. 31, 2016

By NEIGHBORCARE HEALTH

Washington Healthplanfinder, (<http://www.wahbexchange.org/>), the state's insurance exchange, is holding its third annual open enrollment since the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obamacare, was introduced. The enrollment period for selecting private insurance plans runs through Jan. 31, 2016, for coverage that begins Jan. 1.

This year, Washington Healthplanfinder is offering 136 Qualified Health Plans (QHP) from 12 different insurance companies – an increase in options from previous years. This should offer consumers more competitive plans and provider network choices. Since 2013, 152,000 residents have enrolled in a QHP, many of whom qualified for monthly premium discounts because of lower income levels.

Since our state began participating in the ACA, the rate of uninsured Washingtonians has dropped by about 40 percent. However, about 600,000 residents in the state remain uninsured. This year anyone without health insurance will be fined a fee of \$695 per adult and \$347.50 per child or 2.5% of annual income, whichever is more. If you're not enrolled yet, now is your chance!

Also new this year – anyone who enrolls in a plan through Washington Healthplanfinder will pay the insurance company directly for their chosen plan. This is designed to prevent payment problems that many

people encountered in the past.

Residents of Washington who qualify for Medicaid can also continue to use Washington Healthplanfinder to enroll. Medicaid-eligible individuals can enroll in health insurance through the Washington Healthplanfinder year-round. To date, 560,000 newly-eligible residents have enrolled in our state's medicaid plan, called Washington Apple Health, which is managed by the Washington State Health Care Authority.

Qualified residents who make less than \$16,000 per year, equivalent to 138% of the federal poverty level, are eligible for Washington Apple Health. It covers a wide variety of medical care including primary care, mental health and some dental and vision services.

There are certified Navigators at all of the Neighborcare Health clinics to help individuals apply for insurance on the Washington Healthplanfinder. To schedule an appointment or find a Neighborcare Health Navigator close to you call (206)548-3013.

Neighborcare Health is the largest provider of primary medical and dental care in Seattle for low-income and uninsured families and individuals, serving our community for more than 40 years. More information is available at www.neighborcare.org.

Be Safe

Tips for staying safe during the holidays

By JOE TRENKENSCHUH
Seattle Neighborhood Group

The holidays are the busiest time of the year, as we often hear—and it's best to take precautions against dangers far and near. Seattle Neighborhood Group has the inside story on how to stay safe this holiday season, and wants to share our tips with you.

Statistics show that crime usually increases during and after the holiday season, but that is no reason to be the next victim.

We all love decorating our homes. Some of us choose to display pine trees that hover over the glittery wrapped packages. However, SNG recommends not placing your tree near windows that face the street or high traffic areas. This creates opportunity for a potential criminal to smash the window and grab those precious gifts you worked so hard for.

If you celebrate a holiday that involves the exchange of gifts, make sure to flatten and recycle gifts boxes as burglars who prowl alleys look for big-ticket items and what they don't see, they won't go after.

Other popular holiday decorations that can be hazardous include those irresistible cinnamon-scented candles. Always blow out candles before leaving the house or going to bed. Those who celebrate Hanukkah and Kwanzaa with candle-lighting activities should also be vigilant.

One of my favorite home defense gadgets to deploy while I'm out and about (not only during the holiday season, but year 'round),



is a timer device. Burglars prey on darkened homes and businesses. If they think somebody is home, they are less likely to take the risk of being caught. A simple light timed to go on can cut your chances of being a target.

When out shopping, stay alert to your surroundings and always be careful with your purse or wallet. It is best to keep your purse strapped across your body, and your wallet in a front pocket. If a stranger approaches you, be prepared for any method of distraction and make an effort to distance yourself from the person and situation immediately.

Many con-artists work in groups of two or three in order to distract victims. They can be quick and skilled, so it is necessary to be alert not only in department stores but also other places such as ATMs and gas stations.

Whenever alcohol is involved, you should plan your commute accordingly by selecting a designated driver or knowing your public transportation route ahead of the revelries.

Wishing you and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday season!

Joe Trenkenschuh (joe@sngi.org, 206-323-7094) is a project coordinator at Seattle Neighborhood Group. Feel free to contact him for crime prevention tips or help with your safety and security concerns.

Fall recipe: delicious and nutritious fruit and nut side dish

This scrumptious side dish, courtesy of WebMD, is a great way to load up on three food groups at once while gaining vitamins and fiber, not fat. Featuring a combo of fall's standard fare – cranberries, pecans and Brussels sprouts – it may just make converts out of Brussels sprouts naysayers!



Cranberry Brussels Sprouts With Pecans

Makes 6 servings

Ingredients

2 lbs Brussels sprouts, trimmed and halved
1 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
¼ cup finely minced shallots
2 Tbsp maple syrup
1 cup fresh cranberries
¼ cup balsamic vinegar
2 oz pecan halves, toasted
¼ tsp sea salt
freshly ground black pepper to taste

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400°F. Spray a rimmed baking sheet pan with cooking spray.

2. In a large bowl, combine Brussels sprouts with olive oil; toss. Place sprouts on baking sheet and roast 15-20 minutes.

3. Remove sheet from oven. Sprinkle shallots, maple syrup, and cranberries over sprouts and return to oven for an additional 10 minutes or until sprouts are golden brown and cranberries are soft.

4. Transfer the mixture to a serving bowl. Add vinegar, pecans, salt, and pepper, and toss to combine. Serve immediately.

Per serving: 186 calories, 6 g protein, 23 g carbohydrate, 10 g fat (1 g saturated fat), 7 g fiber, 10 g sugar, 138 mg sodium. Calories from fat: 43%

TALENTS OF THE NEWHOLLY NEIGHBORHOOD

a winter arts & crafts bazaar!

Henna | Desserts | Arts & Crafts | Jewelry & More!

NewHolly Gathering Hall
7054 32nd Ave S, Seattle, WA
Saturday, December 12th 10am-3pm

Contact Gail-Marie Vielle (206)293-7416 for a table! Contact Phillippia Goldsmith to volunteer (206)723-1725

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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.

Elections

Continued from Page 1

Initiative Measure No. 1366

2/3 vote required for tax hikes:
Yes: 38.68% No: 61.32%

Initiative Measure 122

Public funding for election campaigns:
Yes: 63.11% No: 36.89%

Initiative Measure 1401

Trafficking of animal species threatened with extinction:
Yes: 77.16% No: 22.84%

Ballard House election results

The Ballard House Community Council held its regular election Nov. 4 and about 30 percent of residents turned out to elect the following:

President: Linde Knighton
Vice-President: Geoff Highfield
Secretary: Cathy Giacomarra
Treasurer: Otis Harris
At-Large Representatives: Jean Anderson and Frank Osmar

Denny Terrace residents give thanks



PHOTO BY ASMERET HABTE

About 25 Denny Terrace residents enjoyed the annual holiday and recognition celebration Nov. 13. SHA Property Manager Laura Van Houten bid residents adieu and was thanked for her years of leadership and community activism.

SHA helps residents prepare for emergencies

In late October, thirty-seven residents from 16 Seattle Housing Authority high-rises and senior buildings gathered at Center Park to learn how to be prepared for an emergency and what to do after one occurs.

The workshop featured Fire Prevention Bingo, an “Are you Ready” contest, and activities designed to help residents know how to handle disaster situations such as power outages, floods, fires and earthquakes.

Attendees received a variety of resources to help them through emergencies, such as whistles, light sticks, flashlights, first aid



kits, medication containers, small blankets and assorted comfort items.

This fifth annual Emergency Preparedness Workshop was sponsored by the SHARP Committee (Seattle Housing Authority Residents Preparing), a group comprised of seven residents and staff from SHA, the Seattle Fire Department and the Office of Emergency Management.

Denny Terrace computer lab re-opens, adds space



Left to right, David Norris, Jim Charles and Chris Frogner test out the new computer lab at Denny Terrace. The lab was relocated to a larger space on the first floor. At right, Buckley the basset hound, otherwise known as the unofficial mascot of Denny Terrace, thinks the new lab is doggone fabulous, according to his owner, David Norris.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID NORRIS



Fresh Bucks program a boon for area shoppers

BY ANGIE WOOD
Fresh Bucks Coordinator

It's noon on a blustery fall Sunday when Aki Kame arrives at the Capitol Hill farmers market.

Since moving to Seattle last spring, she has been using SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), often referred to as EBT or food stamps, and Fresh Bucks, to shop at this farmers market, located on Broadway Ave and E. Pine Street.

“It’s pretty convenient and easy, and now that it’s part of what I do,” Kame says.

She visits the market here most Sundays and buys about 20 dollars’ worth of produce, which lasts the entire week. Because she’s enrolled in the Fresh Bucks program, which is administered by the City of Seattle, \$20 worth of high-quality produce only costs her \$10 in food stamp benefits.

The program provides bonus dollars in the form of paper coupons, called Fresh Bucks, to EBT shoppers, as a 1-for-1 match for the EBT dollars spent, up to \$10 each visit.

“This is the kind of food I prefer when I can afford it,” Kame says, looking around the stalls piled with vegetables and fruit. “I couldn’t really afford it right now on what I make, so Fresh Bucks is what brings me here. It makes the difference.”

When she lived in Japan, much of the food automatically came straight from farmers, was fresh, and grown without harmful chemicals, she says.

“But here in the U.S., you often have to know where to go for this kind of food and learn about ways to make it more affordable on a limited budget.”

Farmers markets can provide great values all year round. This basket of produce was purchased for \$20 and includes the following: giant collard greens, three ears of corn, three mild green chillies, a small kabocha squash, two apples, a tomato, tomatillos, an asian pear, a bosc pear, and a head of broccoli.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FRESH BUCKS



Earning Fresh Bucks by shopping at neighborhood farmers’ markets is one way low-income shoppers are stretching their dollars to get more of the produce they need.

Says Kame, “I find more ingredients here that work for Japanese cooking than I would find at the grocery store.”

Today’s purchases include spinach, a kabocha squash, or Japanese pumpkin, Asian pears, salad greens, and bread.

For shoppers who may not have specific recipes in mind as Kame does, growers can be excellent sources for cooking ideas

and tips, says Patrick Law, manager of the Capitol Hill farmers market. He says farmers are usually happy to talk about how to prepare things at home.

And Kame agrees.

“All of the farmers are so great when you use Fresh Bucks,” she says. “They say ‘Cool, thanks’ and it’s not like what happens at the store where some people make you feel weird about using EBT.”

All of the money EBT shoppers spend at farmers markets—what they spend from their own food stamp benefits, as well as

the Fresh Bucks matching dollars—goes directly to the local farmers who grow the food. This means low-income shoppers can afford to get excellent, healthful food to feed their families while supporting their local economy and community.

Kame plans to continue coming to the market weekly throughout the winter. Capitol Hill is one of Seattle’s five farmers markets that remain open year-round. The others are Ballard, West Seattle, University District and Pike Place. All area winter farmers markets accept Fresh Bucks except Pike Place Market, where EBT shoppers can sign up for a special card for additional discounts that work much like Fresh Bucks.

“This is a great time of year to visit a market because there is a bounty of autumn crops as well as great deals on the end of summer crops,” says Law.

It might even be an opportunity to get a rainy-day bonus.

“When farmers see you out here with them on rainy days, they sometimes even throw in an extra piece of produce.”

For more information about Fresh Bucks at local farmers markets, visit <http://www.FreshBucks.org>.

ORCA LIFT card can save riders 50 percent

Special registration event for ORCA Lift cards at Rainier Vista Dec. 4

By LENA SCOTT

Outreach Specialist, Catholic Community Services



ORCA LIFT is King County Metro's reduced-fare transit program for low-income riders. You may qualify to save about 50 percent on buses, light rail, streetcars and the water taxi on the following systems: King County Metro, Link light rail, the Seattle Streetcar, King County Water Taxi and Kitsap Transit.

Changes in local mass transit have been happening faster and faster. Just this year we have seen route revisions, fare increases, and the First Hill Streetcar finally in the testing phase. The Seattle area is unquestionably growing rapidly, and mass transit is becoming a more important way for people to get around. One of the most innovative changes to happen is the ORCA LIFT King County Metro is the second transit system in the country to offer reduced-fare passes for those with lower incomes (San Francisco was the first).

Eligibility for the ORCA LIFT program is determined by income and family size. The good news is, if you are a recipient of any of the following, you will automatically qualify:

- EBT Food Assistance
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Apple Health/Medicaid

If your income is less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level you qualify. Most residents of subsidized housing will meet these criteria. Visit <http://metro.kingcounty.gov/programs-projects/orca-lift/> to get exact income guidelines.

How much can you save by getting an ORCA LIFT pass? Regular bus fare is \$2.75 per trip during peak travel times (peak hours are weekdays between 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.), or \$99 for a monthly pass. ORCA LIFT users will pay only \$1.50 per trip or \$54 for a monthly pass. Riders can save \$540 a year by using the ORCA LIFT pass instead of paying full fare. And the cards are valid for up to two years, even if your income increases.

Eight local agencies are contracted to distribute ORCA LIFT cards: Public Health-Seattle & King County, Catholic Community Services, Compass Housing Alliance, El Centro de la Raza, Global to Local, WithinReach, Multi-Service Center and YWCA. For specific locations and hours of operation, call 206-553-3000 or 800-756-5437.

Those wishing to sign up for the ORCA Lift card may do so Friday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. until noon and between 1 and 3 p.m. at Seattle Housing Authority's Rainier Vista Office, located at 4570 Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

If you are 65 or older or have a disability you can apply for a Regional Reduced Fare Permit, which offers even greater savings than the ORCA LIFT program. For details and to request an application, visit <http://metro.kingcounty.gov> or call 206-553-3000.

To apply for the ORCA LIFT card, you must do so in person to a registration site and bring the following with you:

- Photo ID
- EBT or Apple Health Card or TANF award letter (or DSHS client ID or Social Security number so the representative can verify your eligibility)
- Copy of your last 30 days of pay stubs
- Employment Security Department verification (if no income), the representative can supply a request form for this

If you are unable to provide the above documents, call Metro to find out which alternative verifications will work. Registration takes about 15 minutes and you will be given your new Orca Lift card on the spot.

Lena Scott is an outreach and education coordinator for Catholic Community Services and a native of Seattle.

Community Notes

Landmark Housing law passed

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray congratulated City Council for passing the Grand Bargain that will support the construction of thousands of new affordable homes in neighborhoods across Seattle through a mandatory contribution to affordable housing on new commercial construction and multi-family residential developments:

"Affordable housing advocates and the development community came together this year to craft an unprecedented agreement to build new affordable homes across Seattle," said Murray. "The Council has acted swiftly and decisively to adopt this recommendation to make Seattle a more livable city. A special thanks to Councilmember Mike O'Brien, whose leadership was instrumental in reaching this milestone."

With this vote today, Seattle neighborhoods will become more sustainable, socially inclusive and economically diverse. For the first time, private developers will build or contribute to affordable housing with every new apartment building or office building. More families and individuals will be able to afford to live in walkable communities close to transit or near where they work. We are a big step closer to our goal that everyone who works in Seattle can afford to live in Seattle."

2016-17 WSOS college scholarship applications available Jan. 4, 2016

Applications for Washington State Opportunity Scholarships (WSOS), which support low- and middle-income students pursuing eligible high-demand majors in science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) or healthcare will be available online beginning Jan. 4, 2016.

Applicants must be a Washington state resident and must have earned a high school diploma or GED from a state high school or institution by June 2016.

For full eligibility requirements and to apply, visit www.collegesuccess-foundation.org/wa/student-guide. The deadline to apply is March 7, 2016.

TheDream.US Scholarship accepting applications until Feb. 15, 2016

TheDream.US scholarship helps immigrant youth and is available to high school seniors or high school graduates with demonstrated financial need. Funds will help cover tuition and fees for those seeking associates or bachelor's degrees. Find out more at www.thedream.us/scholars/.

Superheroes

Continued from Page 1

Studio in San Francisco's Exploratorium museum said, a place where "the big idea is their idea."

In arts and recreation, play is often valued and supported. But traditionally, science and engineering have been highly structured and programmed for all but the privileged few whose family and friends have had the resources needed to independently feed a budding interest.

A couple of us in The Big-Brained Superheroes Club, an after-school program for ages three and up at Yesler Community Center, visited Washington, D.C. for the NSF Maker Summit to take part in the process of changing this dynamic. Like many participants who came to this event from universities, libraries, museums, and various institutions throughout the nation (including the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy), we see potential in, what's often called, the Maker Movement to help us fuse the gap between having the knowledge needed to understand our world and having the power to remake it.

Fusing this gap between knowledge and power may sound great, but how do we do it? Appropriately, very little discussion

at the Maker Summit was devoted to the technology and tools developed and used in typical labs. The more relevant issues revolved around people and processes. How can we make more learner-driven spaces? How do we make our communities of learners/makers more equitable and diverse? How do we measure progress? So many questions with so many possible answers.

In the Big Brains, we think the answers lie not in our technologies but in ourselves. The code has, in many ways, already been cracked. How do we make more learner-driven spaces? We prioritize developing creativity, leadership, and critical thinking (three of what we, in the Brains, call "superpowers") over developing software, robots, and hoverboards. How do we make our communities of learners and makers more equitable and diverse? How do we measure progress? We ask questions and pay attention to the answers.

These solutions may sound simplistic, but that's only because the big question—the fundamental question—is currently more pressing: how do we significantly broaden support for making and tinkering in our community? For this, we should probably take lessons from other fields that value play. How many art programs, for example, measure their value by how well their participants learn to use color? And how many recreation programs make

promises about funneling kids into the NBA or NFL? We tend to value art and recreation spaces and programs most when we've experienced their benefits directly.

Art and recreation should always be part of our daily lives. As should making and tinkering—or, as we call it, recreational nerdiness.

"Nerding it up" has less to do with raising or lowering the bar and more to do with deepening the bench. If we want to empower our kids, we simply can't accept a world in which only a privileged few have support and resources to experiment, tinker, and build. We desperately need a kinder, nerdier, more imaginative world, so let's make it together.

Meredith Wenger has been applying her master's degree in human-centered design and engineering to diverse educational and social causes for over ten years. She has been developing The Big-Brained Superheroes Club with youth at Yesler Community Center on a voluntary basis since 2011.

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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. 2051 or by e-mail at nancyg@nhwa.org.

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



Money Matters

Are your finances in order? What to do before year's end

Editor's note:

The region's first Financial Empowerment Center (FEC), operated by Neighborhood House at Rainier Vista, opened in April 2014 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 through Friday. There are five other FEC satellite centers throughout the city. For locations or more information, call 206-923-6555 or email FEC@nhwa.org.

By KATE KANIARU
Financial Counselor

Managing your finances is a hands-on affair that must be tended to on a regular basis, especially at year-end. The thrill of holiday shopping and gift-giving can sometimes make it difficult to stick to your budget and savings plans, or even leave you buried in more debt.

According to the American Research Group, the average holiday spending per person in 2014 was \$816. One survey showed that about 37 percent of Americans use credit cards to finance their holiday shopping.

The holiday season can also be a great time to assess your financial situation, review your budget, set goals for the New Year, and even work on achieving some of your financial goals. Here are some steps you can take to help ensure your finances are in order.

Contribute the maximum to retirement accounts

Company-sponsored retirement plans like 401(k) and 403(b) are great tax-deferred investment vehicles, which employers often match in contributions. Putting in the

maximum amount of money allowed helps you save for your retirement, as well as lower your taxable income. You can make contributions for 2015 until April 15, 2016.

Take the required minimum distributions

If you are 70 1/2 years old, you must start making regular minimum distributions from your traditional IRA to avoid IRS penalties. When you make withdrawals, consider withholding tax from the payment to avoid the hassle of making quarterly estimated tax payments. However, if you have a Roth IRA you are not required to withdraw money from the accounts (A Roth IRA is a retirement plan under U.S. law that is generally not taxed, provided certain conditions are met).

Check your flexible spending accounts

Flexible spending accounts benefits that many companies offer to let employees contribute part of their income into a special account, which can then be used to pay child care or medical expenses. The account helps you to avoid both income and Social Security taxes. However, if you don't use it all by the end of the year, you forfeit the excess.

Check your flex account and if you still have money, consider making a trip to the drug store, dentist or optician to use up the funds before Dec. 31.

Adjust your tax withholding

The majority of Americans are addicted to refunds. Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine estimates 75 percent of taxpayers get an average refund of about \$3,000 - that's \$250 per month of interest-free money you've given to the IRS. It's money that already belongs to you, so why not calculate your withholding taxes correctly so that you're not waiting for Uncle Sam to return your money?

If you normally get a big refund, you

can file a revised Form W-4 with your employer. The more allowances you claim on the W-4, the less tax will be withheld. If you've gotten married, divorced or had kids, then you should also be updating your withholding amount with your employer's human resources department.

Spend wisely

While it's hard to refrain from holiday spending, you can make payments that you'll benefit from. For instance, by making an extra mortgage payment (13 instead of 12 per year), experts estimate that you could shorten a 30-year mortgage to about 26 years, saving thousands in interest.

You can also make a charitable donation that is tax-deductible or purchase items related to your profession for which you can claim deductions.

It's important to set financial and personal goals, no matter how small or insignificant they may initially seem.

A financial counselor can help you set goals and address other areas of your financial health.



Drop-in help for vets Dec. 10

The Seattle Public Library will offer drop-in help for military veterans who are experiencing homelessness or living on low incomes from 11:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Dec. 10. at the Central Library, 1000 Fourth Ave., Level 5, Charles Simonyi Mixing Chamber.

A veteran specialist from Supportive Services for Veteran Families will be available to connect people who have been in the military and are experiencing homelessness or living on very low incomes with services to help them find and keep housing. Phone 206-386-4636 for more information.

Operation: WelcomeOneHome
An end to Veteran homelessness in King County by December 31, 2015

<p>VETERANS</p> <p>If you are homeless MAKE THE CALL NOW 877-904-8387</p>	<p>NEIGHBORS</p> <p>Join us on Facebook f Operation: WelcomeOneHome and Twitter WelcomeOneHome</p>	<p>LANDLORDS</p> <p>Become a WelcomeOneHome Hero 206-336-4616 http://onehomekc.org</p>
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King County

What you're saying: The Voice asks readers...

Do you plan to use the First Hill Streetcar when it's up and running in the New Year?



Name: Rahel

Where do you live? Yesler Terrace

Do you plan to use the new First Hill Streetcar?

"No. I pretty much walk everywhere right now, and I don't know if the new streetcars are really that essential because Metro has pretty good service, and route 60 already goes by Seattle Central College, where I'm studying. I feel like the funding should have been put toward something else."



Name: Dean

Where do you live? Jefferson Terrace

Do you plan to use the new First Hill Streetcar?

"Yes, I'll use it for shopping, and to go places like Northgate and the University District. I think it's going to also be popular with Seattle University students, as it will go right along Broadway. The colors on the streetcars that I've seen being tested really stand out, but I wonder if the bell sounds they make are loud enough for people to hear."



Name: Eric

Where do you live? Mercer Island

Do you plan to use the new First Hill Streetcar?

"No. I won't take it because it doesn't go anywhere, unless you're a college student. I can easily get from my home to where I work in the International District already without it. I don't think there's a need for it and it seems like a whole lot of money was spent on it, when it seems more like a fashion statement more than anything else."

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

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Streetcar

Continued from Page 1

Though supplier Inekon Trams, based in the Czech Republic, was struggling to deliver all trains by the end of the summer, the DOT had finished testing on five cars by early November. These required tests ensure the train's safety features, like proper acceleration and braking are up to par.

Testing, testing and more testing

Cars that have passed these tests go through a series of additional post-performance tests involving 300 miles of service along the intended routes and navigate with regular traffic. Should any other issues arise during any of the trial runs, the test cycle restarts and continues until the cars are able to go through all testing without any problems.

As of *The Voice's* deadline, SDOT was still awaiting a sixth car's completion of static and functional testing. Operators for the streetcars are also currently undergoing training. Though the countless tests and up-front cost of the project may seem pricey, officials say the overall maintenance costs are cheaper than that of a Metro bus.

The First Hill Streetcars are a part of the city's urban mobility option funded by Sound Transit. A 2008 regional ballot measure increased sales taxes in order to expand the streetcars, and construction began in early 2012.

Projected economic benefits

The streetcars, which are operated by Metro but owned by SDOT, are expected to provide multiple benefits. The line will help connect the Capitol Hill, First Hill, Yesler Terrace, Chinatown, and Pioneer Square neighborhoods. These areas will also presumably see an increase in economic activity with the influx of passengers.

"We've been waiting on the arrival of the trains for a very long time," said Wei Zhang, a small business owner on Jackson Street. "I was expecting them to bring more customers, but no luck so far."

Accessibility increased

It's expected that tourists and the handicapped might also prefer the streetcars over buses. The streetcar features low floors and high platforms for a minimal gap between platform and streetcar, and will also feature wheelchair ramps that automatically deploy upon the press of a blue button from inside or outside of the car.

Audio and digital display announcements at stops will help impaired riders, and bikes will be allowed in a middle section of the cars.

The route also allows for quick travel to area destinations popular among college students and healthcare workers, like Union Station, Harborview Medical Center, Swedish Medical Center, Seattle University, and Seattle Central College.

"I live in Beacon Hill, but every day I leave class I have to take a bus and transfer, which takes forever," said Kimberly Tran, a 20-year-old SCC student. "If we had the streetcar instead, that would take me to Chinatown a lot quicker, where I can transfer easier."

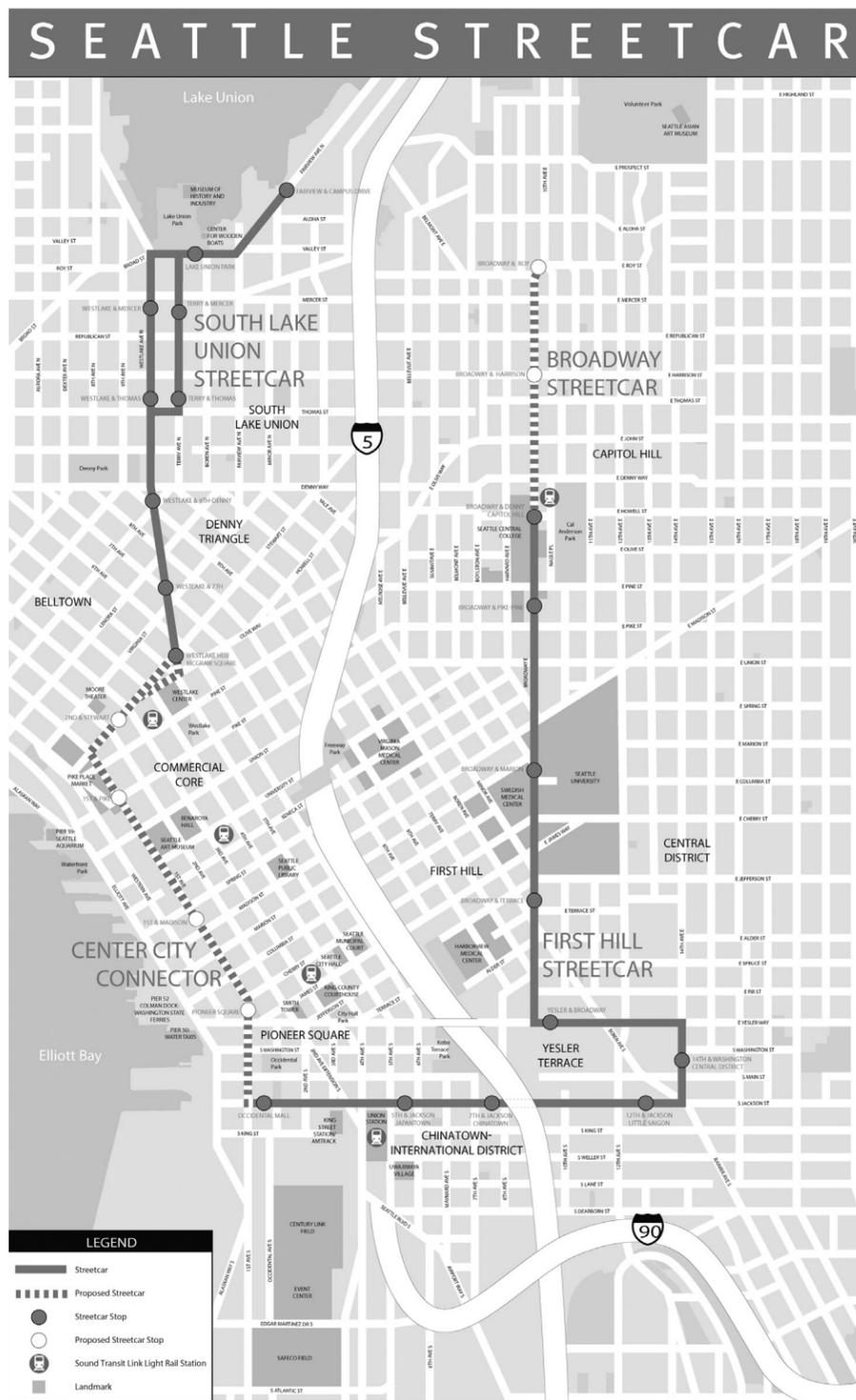
Debut week to include free rides

The South Lake Union line, which runs from Lake Union Park to Westlake Center, began service in December of 2007. Since then, the SLU line has remained the only operational line as delays have pushed back the First Hill line's debut.

Though an official opening date has not been set, SDOT officials are convinced the end is near. The grand opening of the line will include a week of free rides. The route is expected to run 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sundays.

Tran, who has been patiently awaiting the streetcar's start, is cautiously optimistic despite its many delays.

"I know the city has a lot on its hands," said Tran, "but I'm confident it will be here soon."



NewHolly community gathers for climate change discussion

Got Green's Climate Justice Committee hosts town hall on global warming impacts on low-income residents

By LYNN SEREDA
Section 8 resident

NH Hodan Hassan used to think of images of things like polar bears when she heard the phrase, 'climate change,' and wondered how it related to her life and the communities she is a part of. That all changed earlier this year when she joined the Climate Justice Committee a collaboration between Puget Sound Sage and Got Green, two local minority-led non-profits.

On Nov. 12, the Committee held a Community Town Hall at NewHolly Gathering Hall to further the conversation about what climate change means for Seattle's low-income community, especially those who are people of color or are immigrants.

Hassan is Got Green's climate justice organizer, and says the purpose of the Committee is to create a group of racially diverse young leaders who want to challenge systems of oppression.

This summer, Got Green surveyed 150 people in South Seattle on what climate change meant to them. Hassan says based on her involvement with the group, she

believes "climate change is central and important to our community and not something perceived as a remote phenomenon, like polar ice caps melting."

Adds Hassan, "Low-income communities are the most directly impacted communities by climate change, even though they consume the fewest resources as a whole and profit the least from the extraction of resources such as oil and fossil fuels from the earth. This is not just a global issue but a local one."

And by all measures, the Town Hall meeting, which drew over 100 people, indicates the importance of and interest in gentrification and climate issues with area residents.

Town Hall guest speakers discussed how global warming changes will impact marginalized communities. Panelist Sarra Tekola, whose father emigrated from Ethiopia, said the famine there is creating similar conditions now in Syria.

The 21-year-old environmental activist believes rising sea levels will eventually engulf islands in the Pacific Ocean and displace indigenous communities.

"Climate change is a poverty multiplier," she said.

While poor communities are bearing the brunt of climate change, Tekola noted that mainstream environmental movements do not give them the space for their concerns to be heard.

"They are told that they are not experts; they are not invited to the table."

Tekola, who has studied environmental science at the University of Washington, will be attending the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in early December.

Seattle University Sociology Professor Gary Perry spoke about the Black Lives Matter movement and said he believes racism is at the center of the climate change issue.

"Black spaces and black bodies are vanishing from the U.S. urban landscape and there is an intentional and systemic erosion and destruction of our communities," he said.

Perry cited natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina that resulted in mass displacement of African-Americans from



PHOTO BY DANTE GARCIA, GOT GREEN

Sarra Tekola discusses the impacts of climate change on low-income and minority communities.

New Orleans and served as an excuse for the demolition of much of the city's public housing.

The Climate Justice Project's next steps will be to analyze and use their survey to further local grass roots organizing steps.

To read more about how Got Green is impacting our community, visit <http://www.gotgreenseattle.org>.

TRANSLATIONS

TRANSLATED ARTICLES FROM THE VOICE

Bancos de comida y otros recursos familiares para las Navidades/ By Leahla Contreras

Hacer el presupuesto para las comidas y fiestas de las Navidades puede ser difícil, y mucha gente quisiera saber dónde encontrar un poco de ayuda durante estos tiempos de mayor necesidad. Un recurso valioso y disponible para los residentes del estado se llama 2-1-1. El recurso de la comunidad 2-1-1 en línea de King County (King County 2-1-1 Community Resource Online – conocido por las letras CRO) es una de las bases de datos más actualizadas y exhaustivas de los recursos humanos y servicios de salud en el condado de King.

La lista que sigue nombra los bancos de comida más grandes en nuestra área. Una lista completa se puede encontrar en la página www.211kingcounty.org.

Beacon Avenue Food Bank: Ubicado en 6230 Beacon Ave. S., Bethany Church of Christ, Seattle. Aporta comida a cualquiera que tenga necesidad. Teléfono: 206-722-5101.

Northwest Harvest: Ubicado en 711 Cherry Street, Seattle. Aporta comida a cualquiera que tenga necesidad. Teléfono: 206-625-0755.

University District Food Bank: Ubicado en 1413 NE 50th St., University Christian Church, Seattle. Mantiene un banco de alimentos para residentes del noreste de Seattle. Teléfono: 206-523-7060.

West Seattle Food Bank: Ubicado en 3419 SW Morgan St., Seattle. Mantiene un banco de alimentos para residentes de West Seattle. Teléfono: 206-932-9023.

White Center Food Bank: Ubicado en 10829 8th Ave. SW, Seattle. Mantiene un banco de alimentos para residentes de White Center y unos de West Seattle y Burien en ciertos códigos postales. Teléfono: 206-762-2848.

Highline Area Food Bank: Ubicado en 18300 4th Ave. S. Manhattan Community Center, Seattle. Mantiene un banco de alimentos de auto-servicio para los residentes del área de Highline. Teléfono: 206-433-9900.

Hopelink – Shoreline: Ubicado en 15809 Westminster Way N., Shoreline. Mantiene un banco de alimentos para residentes de Shoreline y Lake Forest Park. Teléfono: 206-440-7300.

Продуктовые банки и другие праздничные ресурсы/ By Irina Vodonos

В сезон зимних праздников людям с ограниченным доходом бывает непросто найти средства на то, чтобы устроить праздничный стол. В эти дни, когда многие особенно остро нуждаются, важно знать, куда можно обратиться за помощью. Для жителей штата Вашингтон существует полезный ресурс под названием 2-1-1. Общественный интернет-ресурс округа Кинг 2-1-1 является одной из самых полных и регулярно обновляемых баз данных по услугам социально-медицинского обеспечения в нашем регионе.

Ниже приводится список крупнейших местных продуктовых банков. Полный список можно найти в интернете по адресу www.211kingcounty.org.

Продуктовый банк на Бикон-Авеню. Находится по адресу 6230 Бикон-авеню Саут в Сиэтле, в здании христианской церкви Бетани. Предоставляет помощь всем нуждающимся. Телефон 206-722-5101.

Норт-вест Харвест. Находится по адресу 711 Черри-стрит в Сиэтле. Предоставляет помощь всем нуждающимся. Телефон 206-625-0755.

Продуктовый банк Университетского квартала. Находится по адресу 1413 Норт-ист 50-ая стрит в Сиэтле, в здании

Университетской христианской церкви. Предоставляет продукты жителям северо-восточного Сиэтла. Телефон 206-523-7060.

Продуктовый банк западного Сиэтла. Находится по адресу 3419 Саут-вест Морган-стрит в Сиэтле. Предоставляет продукты жителям западного Сиэтла. Телефон 206-932-9023.

Продуктовый банк Уайт-центра. Находится по адресу 10829 Восьмая авеню саут-вест в Сиэтле. Предоставляет продукты жителям Уайт-центра и некоторых районов западного Сиэтла и Бюриена, в зависимости от почтового индекса. Телефон 206-762-2848.

Продуктовый банк Хайлайна. Находится по адресу 18300 Четвертая авеню саут в Бюриене, в здании Манхэттенского общественного центра. Предоставляет продукты жителям района Хайлайн. Продукты можно выбирать самостоятельно. Телефон 206-433-9900.

Хоуплинк - Шорлайн. Находится по адресу 15809 Вестминстер-уэй норт, в Шорлайне. Предоставляет продукты жителям Шорлайна и Лэйк Форест Парк. Телефон 206-440-7300.

ኣብ ግዜ በዓላት መግብን ካልእ ሓገዛትን ዝህቡ ትካላት/By Habte Negash

ኣብ ግዜ በዓላት መግቢ ኮነ ካልእ ነቲ በዓል ዜድሊ ነገራትን ንምዕዳግ ሕጽረት ንገዙብ ከጋጥም ስለዝኸለል፣ ሓገዝ ኣበይ ክርከብ ከምዝኸለል ምፍላጥ ኣድላዩ እዩ። እምበኣር ነበርቲ ዋሽንግቶን ስተይት ዝኾኑ ኩላቶም ኣብ 2-1-1. ብምድዋል ኣብ ኪንግ ካውንቲ ዝርከብ ንጥዕና ኮነ ንግጥም-ዊ ኣገልግሎት ዝምልከት ሓበሬታ ክረኽቡ ይኸእሉ እዮም።

ከምኡውን ዝርዝር ናቶም ሓገዝ ናይ መግቢ ኪገብሩ ዚኸእሉ ትካላት (food banks) ኣብ ታሕቲ ቀሪቡ ኣሉ፤ ብተወሳኺ ድማ ዝርዝር ሓበሬታ ንምርካብ ኣብ www.211kingcounty.org ተመልከቱ።

ቢክን ኣቮንጽፍ ፉድ ባንክ (Beacon Avenue Food Bank): ኣድራሻ- 6230 Beacon Ave. S. Bethany Church of Christ, Seattle. ንዝደሊ ኩሉ መግቢ ይዕድል። ቁጽሪ ተሌፎን- 206-722-5101.

ኖርዝዌስት ሃርቨስት (Northwest Harvest) ኣድራሻ- 711 Cherry Street, Seattle. ንዝደሊ ኩሉ መግቢ ይዕድል። ቁጽሪ ተሌፎን - 206-625-0755።

ዩኒቨርሲቲ ዲስትሪክት ፉድ ባንክ (University District Food Bank): ኣድራሻ 1413 NE 50th

St., University Christian Church, Seattle. ኣብ ኖርዝ ኢስት ስፑትል ንዝርከቡ ነበርቲ መግቢ ይቐርቡ። ቁጽሪ ተሌፎን 206-523-7060።

ዌስት ስፑትል ፉድ ባንክ (West Seattle Food Bank): ኣድራሻ 3419 SW Morgan St., Seattle. ኣብ ዌስት ስፑትል ንዝርከቡ ነበርቲ መግቢ ይቐርቡ። ቁጽሪ ተሌፎን 206-932-9023።

ዋይት ሰንተር ፉድ ባንክ (White Center Food Bank): ኣድራሻ 10829 8th Ave. SW, Seattle. ኣብ ዋይት ሰንተር፣ ገለ ክፋላት ወስት ስፑትልን ቡርየንን ንዝርከቡ ነበርቲ መግቢ ይዕድል። ቁጽሪ ተሌፎን 206-762-2848።

ካይን ሃይላይን ፉድ ባንክ (Highline Area Food Bank): ኣድራሻ 18300 4th Ave. S. Manhattan Community Center, Seattle. ኣብ ካይን ሃይላይን ንዝርከቡ ነበርቲ መግቢ ይቐርቡ። ቁጽሪ ተሌፎን 206-433-9900።

ሮፕሊንክ – ሻይላይን (Hopelink – Shoreline): ኣድራሻ 15809 Westminister Way N., Shoreline. ኣብ ሮፕሊንክ ከምኡውን ኣብ ለይክ ፎረስት ፓርክ ንዝርከቡ ነበርቲ መግቢ ይቐርቡ። ቁጽሪ ተሌፎን 206-440-7300።

ለበዓላት የምግብ ባንኮችና የሚገኙባቸው ቦታዎች/By Assaye Abunie

ለምግብ በጅት ማውጣትና በዓላት ሲመጣ ለማክበር መዘጋጀት በጣም አስቸጋሪ ስለሆነ የት ቦታ ሂዶ እርዳታ የሚያገኙበትን ቦታ ማውቅ ለማንኛውም ሰው አስፈላጊ ነው። የእስቴት ነዋሪዎች ከሆኑ በጣም ተቃራኒ የሆኑ ምንጮችን ለማወቅ 2-1-1 በመደወል ያገኛሉ። የኪንግ ካውንቲ 2-1-1 የኮሚኒቲ ሪሶርስ ድህረገፅ (CRC) በጣም ወቅታዊና የታወቀ በኪንግ ካውንቲ ውስጥ ብዙ የጤናና የህዝብ አገልግሎት ይሰጣል።

ከዚህ ቀጥሎ የሚገኙት በጣም የታወቁ የምግብ ባንኮች ናቸው። በተጨማሪ ዝርዝር መረጃ ድህረገፁን ይመልከቱ። www.211kingcounty.org.

Beacon Avenue Food Bank: ኣድራሻው at 6230 Beacon Ave. S., Bethany Church of Christ, Seattle. ለማንኛውም ሰው የምግብ እርዳታ ይሰጣል። የስልክ ቁጥሩ፡ 206-722-5101.

Northwest Harvest: ኣድራሻው 711 Cherry Street, Seattle ለማንኛውም ሰው እርዳታ ይሰጣል። የስልክ ቁጥሩ፡ 206-625-0755.

University District Food Bank: ኣድራሻው 1413 NE 50th St., University Christian Church, Seattle. ለሲ.ፑትል በስሜን ምስራቅ ለሚኖሩ ምግብ

የማክፋፈልና የማቀነባበር ስራ ይሰራል. የስልክ ቁጥሩ፡ 206-523-7060.

West Seattle Food Bank: ኣድራሻው 3419 SW Morgan St., Seattle. ለሲ.ፑትል በስሜን ምዕራብ ለሚኖሩ ምግብ የማክፋፈልና የማቀነባበር ስራ ይሰራል. የስልክ ቁጥሩ፡ 206-932-9023.

White Center Food Bank: ኣድራሻው 10829 8th Ave. SW, Seattle. ለጓደኛ ሰንተር ፣ በሞራብ ሲ.ፑትል ለሞኖሩና በቢሩየን ኣካባቢ ለሚኖሩ ለዚፕ ኮዱ ብቁ ለሆኑ ምግብ ይሰጣል. የስልክ ቁጥሩ፡ 206-762-2848.

Highline Area Food Bank: ኣድራሻው 18300 4th Ave. S. Manhattan Community Center, Seattle. በሃይላይን ኣካባቢ ነዋሪዎች ውስን የሆኑ የምግብ ኣይነቶችን ያከናውናል. የስልክ ቁጥሩ፡ 206-433-9900.

Hopelink – Shoreline: ኣድራሻው 15809 Westminister Way N., Shoreline. ለሮፕሊንክና በሌክ ፎረስት ለሚኖሩ ነዋሪዎች ምግብ የማክፋፈል ስራ ያከናውናል። የስልክ ቁጥሩ፡ 206-440-7300.

NHỮNG ĐIỂM PHÁT THỰC PHẨM (Food banks) VÀ CÁC NGUỒN TRỢ GIÚP/ By Long Luu

Tính toán tiền nong cho các bữa ăn vào các cuộc vui trong các ngày lễ có thể khó khăn, và mọi người đều cần biết phải đi đâu để được giúp đỡ trong lúc mình cần. Nguồn trợ giúp giá trị cũng dành sẵn cho cư dân cư ngụ trong tiểu bang, hãy gọi cho số 2-1-1. Đường dây 2-1-1 trong quận King cung cấp thông tin về nguồn trợ giúp – là một hệ thống sung túc với (thông tin) mới nhất cho các dịch vụ sức khỏe và dịch vụ xã hội.

Sau đây là danh sách các điểm phát thực phẩm (food banks) chính trong khu vực. Để có thông tin đầy đủ, hãy vào trang mạng www.211kingcounty.org

Beacon Avenue Food Bank: ở số 6230 đường Beacon Ave. S, ngay nhà thờ Bethany Church of Christ, Seattle. Phát thực phẩm cho những ai cần. Số điện thoại 206-722-5101

Northwest Harvest: ở số 711 Cherry Street, Seattle. Phát thực phẩm cho những ai cần. Số điện thoại 206-625-0755

University District Food Bank: tại số

1413 NE 50th Street, trong khu vực nhà thờ University Christian Church, Seattle. Phát thực phẩm cho cư dân ở vùng đông bắc Seattle. Số điện thoại 206-523-7060

West Seattle Food Bank: tại số 3419 SW Morgan St, Seattle. Phát thực phẩm cho cư dân ở West Seattle. Số điện thoại 206-932-9023

White Center Food Bank: tại số 10829 đường 8th Ave SW Seattle. Phát thực phẩm cho những cư dân thuộc các khu bưu chính –zipcodes ở West Seattle và Burien. Số điện thoại 206-762-2848

Highline Area Food Bank: tại số 18300 đường 4th Ave S, trong trung tâm Manhattan Community Center, Seattle. Cư dân vùng Highline có thể đến tự chọn lấy thực phẩm. Số điện thoại 206-433-9900

Hopelink-Shoreline: tại số 15809 đường Westminister Way N, Shoreline. Phát thực phẩm cho cư dân khu vực Shoreline và Lake Forest Park. Số điện thoại 206-440-7300

Goobah kydka cuntada xiliga feestada (Food banks)/By Mahamoud Gaayte

Qoondaynta cuntada xiliga fasaxa iyo feestada wexey noqonkartaa mid adag, qof kastaana waxa uu ubaahanyahay inuu ogaado xagee ka heli karaa caawimaad cunto xiligaas. Waxaanu idiin haynaa qaabkii aad u heli lahaydeen caawimaad, deganayaasha gobolka iyo degmadaba oo looyaqaan 2-1-1 (community resource online) oo loosoo gaabiyo (CRO).

Waxaa hoos ku xusan meelaha aad ka heligataan goobaha kydaka cuntada. Waxaad ka daalacn kartaan www.211kingcounty.org.

Beacon Avenue Food Bank: oo ku taal 6230 Beacon Ave S, kaniisadda Bethany of Christ, Seattle. Waxaa tegi kara qof kasta oo cunta u baahan. Tel: 206-772-5101.

Northwest Harvest: oo kutaal 711 Cherry St, Seattle. Tell: 206-625-0755.

University District Foodbank: oo ku taal 1413 NE 50th St. University Christian Church, Seattle. Oo gaarsiineysa cunta

karsan deganayaasha waqooyiga Seattle. Tel: 206-523-7060

WestSeattle foodBank : oo ku taal 3419 SW Morgan St., Seattle. Waxaad ka heli kartaan Cunta karsan galbeedka Seattle. Tel: 206-932-9023.

White Center FoodBank: ku taal 10829 8th Ave SW, Seattle. Wexey u adeegeysaa degaanayasha Whitecenter, qaar kamid ah deganayaasha galbeedka Seattleiyo Burien iyada oo la raacayo Zipcod. Tel: 206-762-2848.

Highline Area FoodBank: ku taal 18300 4th Ave S. Manhattan Community Center, Seattle. U adeegeysa deganayaasha Highline. Tel: 206-433-9900.

Hopelink-Shorline: ku taal 15809 Westminister Wy N. Shoreline., u adeegeysa Shorline iyo Forest Park deganayaasheeda. Tel: 206-440-7300.

OUR COMMUNITIES

STORIES FROM OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Holiday food resources available for those in need

BY VOICE STAFF

Budgeting for meals and celebrations around the holidays can be difficult, and everyone needs to know where to go to find some help during this time of need. The King County 2-1-1 Community Resource Online (CRO) is one of the most up-to-date and comprehensive databases of health and human services in King County.

If you find you need help assembling a holiday dinner, consider visiting a local food bank.

It's important to note that many food banks serve residents only within a limited geographic radius or within certain ZIP codes. If you are unsure, please call ahead to make sure you're eligible. The following is a list of holiday meals and gifts. For a comprehensive list or more information about holiday resources, call 1-800-621-4636 or 206-461-3200, or visit www.211kingcounty.org.

Holiday lunches and dinners

Blessed Sacrament Church Food Bank
Located at 5050 8th Ave. NE, Seattle. Offers Christmas meal to anyone in need; Dec. 20. Phone 206-547-3020.

Chief Seattle Club
Located at 410 2nd Ave. Extension S., Seattle. Provides a Christmas meal for club members or American Indians and Alaska Natives only; Dec. 25. Phone 206-292-6214.

Mount Zion Baptist Church
Located at 1634 19th Ave., Seattle. Provides a lunch, holiday celebration and toy giveaway for children ages 12 and younger while supplies last. Lunch is Dec. 19 and is open to all those in need; first come, first served. Phone 206-322-6500.

Kent Seventh Day Adventist Church
Located at 25213 116th Ave. SE, Kent. Provides a traditional Christmas meal for anyone in need, Dec. 23. Phone 253-852-3883.

Salvation Army - William Booth Center
Located at 811 Maynard Ave. S., Seattle. Offers a Christmas Day meal for anyone in need, Dec. 25. Phone 206-621-0145.

Phinney Neighborhood Association
Located at 5515 Phinney Ave. N, Seattle. Offers a special holiday meal before the holiday, serving traditional holiday foods., Dec. 23. Phone 206-783-2244.

ROOTS Young Adult Homeless Shelter
Located at 1415 NE 43rd St., University Temple UM Church, Seattle. Offers a multi-course, restaurant-quality Christmas dinner for anyone in need; Dec. 26. More info at <http://rootsinfo.org>.

Salvation Army - NW William Booth Center
Located at 811 Maynard Ave. S., Seattle. Offers a Christmas day meal for anyone in need, Dec. 25. Phone 206-621-0145.

Teen Feed
Located at 4515 16th Ave. NE, Seattle. Offers free holiday dinners for youth and young adults on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Both meals to be held at the University Congregational Church, Dec. 24 -25. Phone 206-522-4366.

Thai Siam Restaurant
Located at 8305 15th Ave. NW, Seattle. Provides a free Christmas Day turkey dinner for anyone in need, Dec. 25. More info at <http://www.thaisiamrestaurant.com>.

YouthCare
Located at 1828 Yale Ave., Seattle. Provides

a Christmas Day meal for at-risk and homeless youth and young adults, ages 13 through 22, Dec. 25. Phone 206-622-5555.

Beacon Avenue Food Bank
Located at 6230 Beacon Ave. S., Bethany Church of Christ, Seattle. Provides food for anyone in need. Phone 206-722-5101.

Northwest Harvest
Located at 711 Cherry Street, Seattle. Provides to anyone in need. Phone 206-625-0755.

Food banks

Asian Counseling and Referral Service
Located at 919 S. King Street, Seattle. Food pantry provides supplemental culturally specific Asian-Pacific emergency food as well as a hot meal once a week to low-income people in need. Phone 206-292-5714.

Ballard Food Bank
Located at 5130 Leary Ave. NW, Seattle. Coordinates a food pantry for residents of Ballard, Magnolia and Queen Anne. Sometimes has a limited supply of pet food. Provides weekly home delivery, determined on a case-by-case basis. Clients may visit food pantry once per week. Phone 206-789-7800.

Beacon Avenue Food Bank
Located at 6230 Beacon Ave. S., Bethany Church of Christ, Seattle. Provides food for anyone in need; also provides limited baby food formula, and limited diapers as available; clients may visit once per week. Phone 206-722-5105.

Bethany Community Church
Located at 8023 Green Lake Dr. N., Seattle. Provides a food pantry once a week for people in need. Additionally, grocery bags

filled with food are distributed each week day. Phone 206-524-9000.

Centerstone
Located at 722 18th Ave., Seattle. Provides perishable and non-perishable food items to residents of Seattle; offers home food delivery to those who are homebound. Clients may visit the pantry once per week. Phone 206-812-4970.

El Centro de la Raza
Located at 2524 16th Ave. S., Seattle. Operates a food pantry for anyone in need. Government commodities available once per week to residents in select ZIP codes. Phone 206-957-4634.

FamilyWorks
Located at 1501 N. 45th St., Seattle. Food pantry provides commodities, baby food and formula to North Seattle area residents. Clients may visit the food pantry once per week. Also provides no-cook bags for people who are homeless. Phone 206-694-6723.

Food Bank @ St. Mary's
Located at 611 20th Ave. S., Seattle. Operates a food pantry for Seattle residents, including commodities for east half of 98144. Provides non-cook food bags for homeless and special food bags for toddlers. Phone 206-324-7000 Ext. 18.

Jewish Family Service
Located at 1601 16th Ave., Seattle. Operates a food pantry for residents of ZIP codes 98101, 98102, 98112, 98121 and 98122, and for all Jewish people in King County. Phone 206-461-3240.

Tenth Ave. S Hillclimb project nearly complete

Staircase linking Chinatown to Yesler Terrace set to open in January 2016



COURTESY OF SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY



PHOTO BY NANCY GARDNER

Area residents will soon have a quicker and more enjoyable way to go between the Little Saigon and Yesler Terrace neighborhoods. The preliminary drawing, left, shows how the pedestrian staircase, complete with 24-hour lighting, seating areas, and a wheelchair-accessible ramp will make traveling easier. At right, the hillclimb pictured in early November. In December, 2012, JPMorgan Chase Foundation awarded SHA a \$650,000 grant to support the design and completion of the Hillclimb. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided an additional \$700,00 toward construction. The hillclimb will also include artwork designed and crafted by residents and neighbors.