



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



# The Voice

July  
2016  
*Articles translated  
into six languages*

The newspaper of Neighborhood House — visit our website at [www.voice.seattlehousing.net](http://www.voice.seattlehousing.net)

## Seattleites show support for Orlando victims

BY TROY SMITH  
*SHA resident*

Sunday, June 12 was the worst single shooting in modern U.S. history, but it could have happened anywhere, any place and at any time.

Many of my friends and neighbors have said they're scared and worry about their safety. Still others have said that the massacre in Florida won't stop them from living their lives or prevent them from taking part in Seattle's Pride events during June.

It is this resilience that is our greatest asset. We know that these tragedies can happen and are meant to spread fear within the LGBTQ community.

But we must endeavor to stay the course and continue to enjoy our lives. We can't stop living or showing our pride after this tragedy.

Many cities across the country are celebrating Pride this summer, including Seattle, which held its 42nd annual Pride Parade June 26, and which I proudly attended.



*Thousands of people filled Seattle's Cal Anderson Park June 12 to hear Mayor Ed Murray discuss the Orlando mass shooting. Area residents say the tragedy has not deterred them from attending June's Pride Parade and other festivities.*

PHOTOS BY ELLIOTT BRONSTEIN



The Seattle community has held candlelight vigils, said our prayers and mourned for those who were lost in Orlando. But the best gift we can give the victims and their

families is to show them we will not give into fear or intimidation tactics.

So let's continue being ourselves and stay vigilant about our surroundings. We

won't be silenced; we won't be intimidated.

We can only hope for a better, safer future for all, and continue living proud and out.

## Yesler redevelopment: a 10-year retrospective

*Former Seattle Mayor Norm Rice reflects on how resident input has helped shape the community*

*Editor's note: In 2006, Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) asked Seattle's former mayor, Norm Rice, to spearhead the Citizen Review Committee on Yesler's redevelopment. The Voice's editor, Nancy Gardner, caught up with him recently and asked him what he thinks of the project, how civic engagement has played an important role in the community, and what the future holds.*

**The Voice (V):** How has Yesler changed over the years? What was your time like as a chair of the Citizen's Review committee on Yesler redevelopment?

**Norm Rice (NR):** I think the leadership at SHA has been amazing—many of the executive directors have been close friends of mine. When Tom Tierney [former SHA executive director from 2004–2012] came to me to ask for my help, I couldn't say anything but yes.



PHOTO BY NANCY GARDNER

*Former Seattle Mayor Norm Rice frequently visits the Yesler neighborhood.*

Please see "Rice" on Page 3

### Yesler to feature many paths, parks and spaces

BY MARK HINSHAW  
*Seattle Housing Authority*

The April issue of The Voice chronicled some of the public spaces that will be opening at Yesler over the next two years as part of the redevelopment. These include the recently opened Hillclimb, a terraced walkway that connects Harborview to Little Saigon and the Chinatown-International District, and a central, nearly 2-acre Yesler Park.

Additionally, there will be three smaller pocket parks, with the first to be completed in 2018 at Fir Street and 10th Avenue.

These have all stemmed from ideas submitted through residents who've met with area planners and developers over the past decade and who continue to share their input in shaping the community.

Stephanie Van Dyke, SHA's director of development, says this Citizen's Review Committee, a diverse stakeholder group, is increasingly engaged in supporting the development of a thriving community with sustainable programs and services.

#### Food trucks open for business

As part of the initiative to develop green spaces, SHA is also engaging with a number of partners to bring other amenities to the neighborhood. Already several food trucks are open for business in the area near Yesler Way and 10th Avenue.

More are on their way and—like other areas of the city with food trucks—the type of food offered will vary day by day. Eventually, the effort will expand to include more trucks, eating areas, and possibly evening hours.

Please see "Yesler" on Page 3

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# Health Notes

**R** A column devoted to your well-being

## How to stay safe while you're enjoying a summer swim



BY NEIGHBORCARE HEALTH

The National Weather Service predicts hotter than average temperatures through at least August for the Seattle area.

One way to stay cool is to enjoy a dip in one of our area's many pools. Knowing how to stay safe while playing in the water will help prevent accidents and keep everyone enjoying themselves all summer long.

**Learn how to swim.** There are many organizations including the YMCA and Seattle Parks and Recreation that provide both child and adult swim classes in the Seattle area as well as discounted pricing for those who qualify. Kids can begin learning at age three. Getting them comfortable in the water and teaching them how to swim can avoid accidents later on.

**Use the buddy system** and always swim with someone else. It's important to let a friend know that you are in the water in case help is needed.

**Know your swimming ability**—drowning can occur quickly, within as little as 30 seconds. Many accidents happen when people swim too far away from their starting point and don't have the energy to get back.

**Keep an eye out for the kids.** Children should never be left alone around water, even a backyard pool. Teaching children not to go in the water unless first asking an adult is also an important water safety skill.

**Choose the right life jacket** suited for children or adults. For those who don't feel comfortable with their swimming skills,

life jackets can be a safe and effective way for them to enjoy the water. All life jackets should be approved by the U.S. Coast Guard (look on the label for this info), and fit properly. To learn more about how to find and fit a life jacket visit [www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org). And remember: inflatable water toys, while fun to use, are not reliable flotation devices.

**Do not drink alcohol or use drugs near the water.** Drinking or using drugs can affect balance and coordination and swimming skills and then weaken your ability to stay safe and warm in the water. They can also inhibit your ability to pay attention to others and react quickly in an emergency.

**Be careful, be aware, and have fun.**

This summer, when the coolness of a pool, lake, river or ocean beckons, be sure you and your loved ones remember these tips for staying safe. Seattle Parks and Recreation scholarships for individuals and families can be found at [www.seattle.gov/parks/](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/).

*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](http://www.neighborcare.org).*

# Be Safe

## How the heat can affect home safety

BY LINDA SPAIN  
Acting Executive Director, SNG

During this time of year when the mercury rises, it's especially easy to forget to lock our doors and windows.

I recently had a conversation with a woman who told me she had her personal belongings stolen from her home. The scary thing is that she was at home when this happened. The back door was left open while the interior was being painted. The lesson: if you have workers in your home as this woman did, know who they are and ask that they keep the outside doors closed and locked. And don't leave valuables and purses or wallets sitting in plain view.

Here are some additional safety tips for the summer months ahead:

### Windows

On warmer days, many windows or doors are left open to keep cool. The majority of burglaries happen through an open door or window—this is easy to prevent. Make sure the windows are not open wide enough so that someone can squeeze in. If you must open a window, invest in an approved limited-opening device that allows a window to open only a few inches.

Don't forget to always supervise kids and keep their play area away from windows to avert accidental falls from a window.

### Ladders

Make sure that ladders are secure so that would-be thieves cannot enter through an upper-story door or window. Contact your property manager if you see an unsecured ladder lying around.



### Pedestrians

There are more pedestrians and bicycle riders out and about during summer. Remember to review bike safety with your children. Other tips to keep in mind:

- Wear reflective or brightly colored clothing before it gets dark
- When driving, remember to give pedestrians the right of way and watch for bicyclists
- Drive with caution in neighborhoods and around parks, where there are likely more children playing

Keeping kids engaged and busy is a good way to keep them out of trouble during summer vacation. Inquire with Seattle Parks and Recreation and community centers to see what youth programs are available. Some programs even offer full or partial scholarships for low-income youth.

Visit [www.seattle.gov/parks/](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/) or call 206-684-5177 for information about summer classes and programs.

*The mission of Seattle Neighborhood Group is to prevent crime and build community through partnerships with residents, businesses, law enforcement and other organizations. Contact SNG at 206-323-9666.*

## NewHolly Family Fun Fest & Health Fair 2016

**Saturday, August 27**  
**11 AM - 3 PM**  
**NewHolly Neighborhood Campus**  
**7054 32nd Ave S**

Health Fair with FREE Community Resources

Youth & Family Games: Bouncy House

Free BBQ Lunch (Halal)

Multicultural Booths

Prizes for Schools-Age Kids

Free Giveaways for Everyone

Face painting and Fitness Obstacle Course

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 206-723-1725

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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](http://www.nhwa.org) and at [www.seattlehousing.org](http://www.seattlehousing.org).

# Eid Mubarak!

**11 a.m. - 12:30pm**  
**Saturday, July 9**  
Lake City Branch  
12501 28th Ave. N.E.

**3 - 5 p.m.**  
**Saturday, July 9**  
Douglass-Truth Branch  
2300 E. Yesler Way

**Join us at The Seattle Public Library to celebrate Eid Al Fitr—the end of Ramadan!**

Learn about Ramadan and Eid. Make Eid cards for friends or family. Get to know your neighbors. Engage in fun activities including henna, crafts and more. Bring your family!

[www.spl.org](http://www.spl.org) • 206-684-0849

## New, familiar faces appointed to 2016-17 RAC

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

On June 8, the Resident Action Council (RAC) held its biennial election of officers. The following people were elected for two-year terms:

**President — Lee Suito**, Scattered Sites  
**Vice President — Robert 'Bob' Mull**, Olive Ridge

**Secretary — Kristin O'Donnell**, Yesler  
**Treasurer — Troy Smith**, Olive Ridge  
**General Assistant (formerly Ombudsperson)—John Yost**, Bell Tower

Six residents were also elected for one-year terms to fill vacancies as At-Large Representatives:

**Dorene Cornwell**, Center Park

**Tonya Mason**, Jackson Park

**Alice Truss**, Primeau Place

**Linda Soriano**, International Terrace

**Patricia Ann**, Jefferson Terrace

**Anitra Freeman**, International Terrace

The elections were monitored by an independent third-party from the League of Women Voters.



PHOTO BY ANDY CHAN

The Resident Action Council 2016-17 officers elected June 8 include the following, left to right: Alice Truss, Glenn Slemmer, David Norris, Lois Gruber, Robert ("Bob") Mull, Kristin O'Donnell, Dorene Cornwell, Anitra Freeman, John Yost, Lee Suito, Troy Smith. Slemmer, Norris and Gruber were elected for the 2015-16 term.

## Summer meal program begins at dozens of city sites

BY VOICE STAFF

The Washington State Summer Food Program provides free meals to children and teens ages 18 and younger at dozens of sites around Seattle. Most sites offer a free lunch program, while some also offer snacks.

See below for a list of summer meal program sites near Seattle Housing Authority's largest family communities.

Unless otherwise noted, the sites listed below began serving meals June 29 and operate **Monday through Friday**. In most cases the program runs **through Aug. 26**.

For more information, including a full list of summer meal sites, visit <https://resources.parenthelp123.org/>

### High Point

Neighborhood House High Point Center  
6400 Sylvan Way SW  
Breakfast: 8:30—9:30 a.m.  
Lunch: noon—1 p.m.

### NewHolly

East African Community Services  
7054 32nd Ave. S.  
Lunch: noon—1 p.m.

### Rainier Vista

Neighborhood House Rainier Vista Center  
4410 29th Ave. S.  
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.—1 p.m.

### Yesler Community Center

917 E. Yesler Way  
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.  
Snacks: 3-3:30 p.m.

## Yesler

Continued from Page 1

### Yesler's urban farm

Another element being developed is an urban farm. SHA has selected The Black Farmers Collective (BFC) to manage and operate a 1.5 acre farm on the swath of land just east of Interstate 5. The BFC will work with youth in training programs, and they'll be able to keep produce they grow.

Educational classes in healthy cooking will be offered. And there will eventually be a farm stand on Yesler Way selling produce. The BFC will spend a year making the soil more grower-friendly but will also be setting up a small demonstration farm with hoop-style greenhouses (resembling a semi-circular tunnel).

The BFC will also host a number of community dinners to talk with residents about what a farm there should be growing, given the diversity of cuisines from throughout the world. The farm will be located south of Yesler Way.

### A place for fido to run

SHA is also working with the State of Washington on the patch of property north of Yesler Way and east of the freeway. This area is ideal for an off-leash dog area. It is already fenced in and a gate off of Alder Street is envisioned. The nonprofit group, Citizens for Off Leash Areas (COLA) has agreed to manage it. This acre of land will be a welcome location where dogs can play and run.



One of the many food trucks now open for business in the Yesler neighborhood. Area residents and workers from First Hill are enjoying the variety of foods available to the Yesler community every weekday during lunchtime hours.

PHOTO BY SHA

### More gardening spaces

The City of Seattle has helped SHA establish a number of P-Patches throughout the site. The Horiuchi P-Patch on Boren Avenue was opened last year.

Recently, a temporary P-Patch was opened on Fir Street to replace the older one in the southwest corner that was closed. Hoa Mai Gardens, SHA housing that is being built now, will include more than 20 P-Patches. More raised beds will border Main Street just east of the Hillclimb.

### Neighborhood art and artists

SHA will soon launch a major program to bring arts and artists to the neighborhood. With funding from The Kresge Foundation, SHA has hired four artists to work in the community and produce activities as well as physical works of art.

even on weekends. It took a lot longer than I thought it would.

**(V): How have citizens played a part?**

**(NR):** At the end of the day, we have to ensure that we listened to them and heard them and that it reflects a place where everyone can live, work and play. If you can't make a place where everyone feels comfortable, then you'll have problems. The issue of density, multi-family and low-income housing is complicated.

We're still not there yet—but I see the kids playing and the people smiling and it gives me a warm feeling. But we need to figure out how to integrate high-rises and mixed

Two of the artists will be 'in residency' and will work out of a Yesler Arts Mobile Studio (YAMS) vehicle, a converted RV that has just recently been parked near 10th Avenue and Yesler Way. They will work with kids, youth and adults to create artful activities, temporary pieces of art, and tap into talents that residents already may have.

As Yesler transforms to a dynamic urban community offering much more housing for people along the full spectrum of incomes, the many parks and open landscaped areas at Yesler will ensure that all residents have a place to enjoy natural settings and connect with one another as they take part in community spaces and activities.

income and developers need to remain sensitive to residents' needs. Fostering vibrant, self-sustaining communities is something I've been involved with for a long time now, and it's important to me. It's all about citizen engagement. We built a trust and I think it still exists.

**(V): What have you been up to lately?**

**(NR):** I'm writing a book, whose working title is "The Soul of a Messenger." It's about how to create civic engagement, and how to make successful collaborations. It should be out in a couple of months.

## Seattle Housing Authority receives HUD Healthy Homes Award

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in partnership with the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), named Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) the recipient of the 2016 HUD Secretary's Award for Healthy Homes in the Cross Cutting Coordination program category. SHA's Breathe Easy Program at Yesler was judged outstanding by the independent reviewers at the NEHA and by HUD.

In 2015, SHA, Neighborcare Health, American Lung Association, and King County Hazardous Waste Management Program launched the Yesler Breathe Easy Program in newly constructed homes for low-income families as part of the Yesler redevelopment. The program also includes one-on-one visits from trained community health workers.

The program at Yesler stems from practices implemented beginning in 2005 at SHA's redevelopment of the High Point neighborhood in West Seattle, where an independent study showed dramatic improvement in residents' health. Within the first year of living in the Breathe Easy homes at High Point, children with asthma experienced a 65 percent increase in symptom-free days.

For more information about the American Lung Association's free Healthy Home check-up call 206-512-3280 or sign up at [www.wamhe.org](http://www.wamhe.org).

## Rice

Continued from Page 1

It taught me more about myself and the people than I thought it would. That residents want to be part of that journey [of redevelopment plans] and actively engaged and involved in the decision-making process. Yesler is more complicated than people realize—there are many languages spoken there—so we had to not just speak more slowly at meetings and work with a translator, but also tap into what their [residents] hopes, fears and aspirations were. Trust was built over time, and we spent a lot of time talking to individuals,

# Rainier Vista resident helps encourage local youths to become leaders

**Bridging the gap between teens and their knowledge of sustainability issues**

BY ABDIKANI ALI  
SHA resident

My name is Abdikani Ali, and I am a senior at the University of Washington, Bothell. While I'm studying business, outside of school I have a strong passion for improving our community. Over the years, I always wanted to do something for the youth in Rainier Vista. I know this community—it is rich in an abundance of drive and passion and full of potential. I decided to create an event for area young people to feel more connected to our community.

My vision was to promote connections between young people and local environmental nonprofits like Horn of Africa Services, Plant for the Planet and Refugee Women's Alliance at the event, which took place at the Beacon Hill Food Forest on May 21.

Another goal was to educate kids about our planet and help them realize how vital they are in creating a sustainable future for it. One of their important takeaways was understanding the causes and effects of our climate crisis. So we prepped the soil, did some weeding and planted seeds. But we didn't just plant something in the ground. Organizers helped plant the seeds in our minds that we, too, can make a difference in the world.

We had such a strong turnout that it made me even more passionate about continuing with other activities beyond gardening. Future activities designed to help empower our next generation and inspire them to care and act now for their future will definitely happen.

Why is a sense of community so important to me? As a Somali-American I've spent my life navigating two cultures. American culture encompasses most aspects of my life, and Somali culture defines my identity and my core values.

As I grew up, I began to realize the differences between the two cultures.

*A recent volunteer permaculture project at the Beacon Hill Food Forest allowed teens to become more connected with their community. Below, the author, Abdikani, second from left, shares a lighthearted moment with fellow gardening enthusiasts. Nonprofits including Plant for the Planet, Refugee Women's Alliance and Horn of Africa Services connected with dozens of teens who wanted to learn more about climate change and become stewards of the neighborhood.*

PHOTOS BY ABDIKANI ALI



American culture is more independent and individualistic—we are brought up to do things on our own, rather than depending on others. On the other hand, Somali culture is deeply rooted in community and family. My family has taught me that working in

a team can accomplish more than working alone, and that a support system is essential to success.

Through teamwork, I believe society will only become stronger and more resilient.

## Neighborhood House offers free citizenship classes

*Free classes are offered in White Center and West Seattle*

BY NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

Neighborhood House offers free citizenship courses and other services to residents of King County. The next session of classes begins Tuesday, Aug. 9 and will continue for about eight weeks.

The beginning and advanced-level classes will be offered at two sites in Seattle and King County: Wiley Center in Greenbridge and High Point in West Seattle.

Eligible clients are legal, low-income, permanent residents of the United States who live in the general area. More classes will be offered throughout the year.

The group studies American history, naturalization questions and other components of the citizenship exam. Courses

include practice in writing, reading and mock interviews.

Also offered is free assistance with N-400 applications, fee waivers and medical waivers. Documents required for enrollment include a green card, social security card, driver's license, DSHS letter and/or low-income verification.

Class sites and more information include the following:

### Neighborhood House citizenship sites:

**High Point Center in West Seattle**  
6400 Sylvan Way SW, Seattle, 206-588-4900  
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 - 6 :30 p.m.

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

**Wiley Center at Greenbridge**  
9800 Eighth Ave SW, Seattle, 206-461-4554  
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12 - 2:00 p.m.  
Languages spoken on site: Spanish, French, Somali, Vietnamese, Burmese, Russian, Ukrainian, Khmer.

For more information about Neighborhood House citizenship classes, or to enroll, contact instructor Marissa Graff at marissag@nhwa.org or phone 206-734-0366.

The  
Seattle  
Public  
Library



## Learn to play chess this summer



The Seattle Public Library offers several drop-in chess programs for children, teens and adults. Learn to play chess, then challenge your neighbors!

### High Point Branch

3411 SW Raymond St.  
4:30—5:30 p.m. Tuesdays,  
through Aug. 30

Children and teens are invited to drop by for fun and casual games of chess. All skill levels are welcome. Chess sets and guidance by an adult chess coach will be available.

### Northeast Branch

6801 35th Ave. NE  
5:30—7:30 p.m. Thursdays,  
through Aug. 25

Children, teens and adults are invited to drop by for fun and casual games of chess. Chess puzzles and basic chess instruction will also be available.

### Rainier Beach Branch

9125 Rainier Ave. S.  
3:30—5 p.m. Tuesdays,  
through Aug. 30 (no program Aug. 9)

Children and teens, ages 7 and up, are invited to join Detective Cookie's Urban Youth Chess Club by dropping by to learn and play chess. Family and community members are also welcome.

## Around the Sound

### Seattle's water quality results now available

BY SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Supplying the Seattle region with clean, safe drinking water has been a City of Seattle priority for almost 125 years. Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) has built safeguards into every step of the water system to ensure that the water we use every day is some of the best in the country.

Each year, as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency, SPU publishes a Drinking Water Quality Report that summarizes water quality information for the year. Residents will receive a copy in the mail during the first week of July. Visit [www.seattle.gov/util/waterquality](http://www.seattle.gov/util/waterquality) to view the report, or phone 206-684-3000 for more information.

Visit our website:  
[voice.seattlehousing.net](http://voice.seattlehousing.net)

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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 email at [nancyg@nhwa.org](mailto:nancyg@nhwa.org).

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

# Do you know how to be safe during an earthquake?

Practice 'Drop, Cover and Hold' at home and stay tuned for SHA workshops this fall

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Last month, earthquake emergency drills and practices were held around the Pacific Northwest. The Cascadia Subduction Zone, extending 600 miles off our shore, could shift and cause a megaquake and tsunami. Officials said the "Cascadia Rising" exercise was a way to test emergency responses across the region.

Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) will be offering workshops about earthquake preparedness to residents this October. Here are some emergency preparedness tips The Voice routinely shares with readers.

### Myths versus fact

One of the great myths about earthquakes is that during the big one, all buildings collapse. In the United States, this rarely happens, especially when compared to the number of buildings that are impacted by earthquakes.

### Conquering the instinct to run

During earthquakes, many peoples' fight or flight instincts urge them to run, even when they know they should **Drop, Cover and Hold**. Studies show that people in our country tend to be hurt by falling objects, not by collapsing structures.

If you are on your feet and trying to move, you are in danger from toppling bookcases, breaking windows, falling televisions or shifting furniture. Safety comes from taking quick action and finding a 'quake-safe place' within 3 to 4 seconds.

You and your loved ones can learn to resist the instinct to run by knowing where safe places are in each room of your home and practice positioning yourselves there.

When the earth shakes, **Drop** to the ground, **Cover** under a desk or table and **Hold** on to the desk or table so it does not bounce away. Stay there until the shaking stops.



Getting beneath any desk or table is always the best option. If the room you're in doesn't have a table or desk, sit **BESIDE** the inside wall or **BETWEEN** the rows of chairs in a movie theater, church or stadium. If you're not near a table, try to get lower than the other furnishings.



### Store emergency water for disasters

Disasters like earthquakes can damage the water system. You should store enough water for at least three days for each member of your family. Seven days is preferred.

### How to store an emergency water supply

Two-litre pop bottles are excellent ways to store water, providing you follow these steps:

- Make sure the bottle is clean. Put about 1/8 of a teaspoon of bleach and 2 cups of water in the bottle.
- Put the lid on and shake the bottle gently. Be sure you wash around the lid and top of the bottle.
- Empty and fill with fresh water, all the way to the top of the bottle. Screw the top on tight and label the bottle as emergency drinking water. Put the date you filled the container on the label.
- Store as much water as you can! It's recommended to store six, 2-litre bottles per person in your family.
- Empty and refill the bottles every 6 months. (When you change the clocks in the spring and fall is a good time to also empty and refill your water bottles.)

**WARNING:** Do not use glass bottles (they break easily), plastic milk jugs (they are hard to seal and break easily) or bottles that have had bleach or other toxic chemicals in them.

Stay tuned for more information this fall.

## Become an advocate for homelessness

BY VOICE STAFF

Are you someone who's passionate about issues around affordable housing and homelessness? Have you experienced homelessness yourself, or come close? The Emerging Advocates Program (EAP), offered by the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance (WLIHA) might be for you.

The EAP workshop series, offered in Seattle every two years and elsewhere in the state at least once per year, trains and supports people with personal experience of homelessness and housing instability to get involved in legislative advocacy and the housing and homelessness movement.

Twenty participants will be selected this summer to begin the training workshop series in September. Applications for the fall session are being accepted through July 24. Participants will meet weekly for six core trainings, a few optional workshops and events, and one-on-one sessions to support their individual advocacy goals. A day trip to the state capitol in Olympia completes the program, where attendees follow the journey of a bill becoming law, participate in a mock hearing, and have a Q&A session with a lobbyist and legislative staff.

To learn more or apply, visit [www.wliha.org/EAP](http://www.wliha.org/EAP), or contact Housing Alliance Community Organizer Alouise Urness: [Alouise@wliha.org](mailto:Alouise@wliha.org) 206-442-9455 x 203.

## Neighborhood activism leads to new public park in Rainier Vista

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY, SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RAINIER VISTA TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

**RV** From backyard barbecues to parties in neighborhood parks, summer is a busy time in Rainier Vista. Many families and groups of kids enjoy Central Park, but unfortunately the street surrounding it has been used as a race track during the summer months, putting park users and residents in danger.

With the goal of restoring safety and comfort, local neighborhood advocate Justin Hellier applied to have South Genesee Street on the south end of the park converted into a new public space through the Seattle Department of Transportation's (SDOT) Pavement to Parks program.

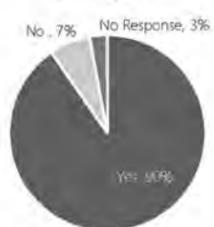
His proposal was accepted and plans are now in the works. The revision will close one block of Genesee and convert it into a community space that will become an extension of the park.

The Rainier Vista Pavement to Parks project was one of three projects selected citywide. It will be built this summer and remain in place for one to three years before a permanent design is considered. It is expected to calm local traffic and bring the community together in a safe and fun public space. SDOT has been working with the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) and the neighborhood Traffic Safety and Community Building Committee in shaping the project.

More than 110 neighbors gave their ideas for the new park at the kick-off street party April 22. The community enjoyed food, live performances and traditional Ethiopian

coffee. Surveys were conducted in five languages, and the project received 90% support from the neighborhood. A majority of neighbors (64%) would like to see play equipment in the space. Plants (44%) and seating (38%) also received a high number of requests.

Do you support the closure of this block to create a new public space?



A summer Teen Internship Program (TIP) has also been created around this project to support the design and evaluation work.

The ten-week TIP will be coordinated by Mares Asfaha, SHA's Youth Program Coordinator, and Gwen Wessels from Seattle Parks and Recreation.

The TIP is made possible through a partnership that includes SDOT, SHA, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and the Rainier Vista Homeowners Association. Mares has hired six teen interns to help SDOT with public engagement, design and evaluation. These interns will also organize the grand opening event in August, as well as a series of community activities.

For information on the Pavement to Parks project, call 206-733-9649 or email [susan.mclaughlin@seattle.gov](mailto:susan.mclaughlin@seattle.gov).

## Youth tell the City how to spend \$700,000 of public funds

Thousands of youth vote; seven community projects chosen

BY VOICE STAFF

In May, the City asked 11-25 year-olds, including Voice readers, how they could improve their communities. The results are in!

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray recently announced the project winners of Youth Voice, Youth Choice, the City's new Participatory Budgeting (PB) initiative in which youth decide how to spend \$700,000 of the City's budget. More than 3,000 youth ages 11-25 voted on 19 project proposals in May.

The seven winning projects are:

- Houses for People Experiencing Homelessness
- Youth Homeless Shelter Improvements
- Job Readiness Workshops for Homeless Youth
- Homeless Children and Youth Liaison Services
- Wi-Fi Hotspot Checkout
- Park Bathroom Upgrades
- Safe Routes to Schools

"Thanks to the leadership of former Councilmember Nick Licata, we launched participatory budgeting to empower the youth of Seattle and to show them that their voice matters in shaping this city," said Mayor Ed Murray.

"Through this process, we learned that young people are concerned about the homelessness crisis gripping our city, as well as issues of equity and public safety. They want to help those who are suffering and to create safer streets for walking or biking."

The process started in January with several assemblies where the public brainstormed ideas for projects it would like to see in their communities. The 20 youth delegates turned those ideas into 19 concrete proposals with help from Seattle Department of Neighborhoods and City staff. Now that the choices have been made, City staff and local agencies will implement the projects.

Participatory Budgeting is a civic engagement program in which community members decide how to spend a portion of a city's budget. Seattle has joined Chicago, New York, Boston and cities across the globe in using the process. Youth Voice, Youth Choice is managed by Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.

### 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 r ESOUr CES

## Community Notes

### Mayor launches new Navigation Center for unsheltered homeless

By CITY OF SEATTLE

Last month, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray issued an executive order to direct the creation of a low-barrier, one stop service center for people without shelter to receive the customized support they need to move from the streets back into permanent housing.

"Our strategy for helping people without shelter has to be broader than designating another site in the city to pitch a tent," Murray said.

The service center will be modeled on the San Francisco Navigation Center, the first of its kind, dormitory-style living facility that provides people living outside with shower, bathroom, laundry and dining facilities, a place to store their belongings, as well as round-the-clock case management, mental and behavioral health services, and connections to benefit programs and housing, all in one location.

The center will be especially suited to people with partners, pets or possessions who choose to stay in encampments rather than shelters, where partners, pets or possessions are not typically allowed. It will serve up to 75 people at a time.

The center will be funded in part by \$600,000 secured by the City in the state capital budget in the 2016 legislative session. The City is matching this state appropriation with a private donation of \$600,000 earmarked for homelessness services, and will establish a designated fund to collect additional private donations to support the center.

### Outreach workers in underrepresented communities needed

By DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS

The City of Seattle is seeking people to do outreach work to underrepresented communities. Known as Public Outreach and Engagement Liaisons (POELs), these contractors must be connected to their respective cultures, fluent in the languages, and bicultural and bilingual.

POELs are compensated independent contractors. The positions are generally flexible with any type of schedule and include either daytime or evening hours as well as some weekends. The applicants must have extensive experience organizing and facilitating community meetings, and must be fluent and able to interpret and translate in at least one other language. The languages presently being sought include Vietnamese, Chinese (both Mandarin and Cantonese), Spanish, Korean, and Somali. The applicants must live or work in the following neighborhoods: Lake City, Northgate, University District and West Seattle.

If interested, please send a resume or a short biography, plus two references to: DON\_Liaison@seattle.gov or Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, POEL Program, P.O. Box 94649, Seattle, WA 98124.

## STAR Center: one of Rainier Valley's best kept secrets

By BRENDA KAY NETH  
SHA resident

When I realized that I could no longer type as a result of a pinched nerve in my neck and carpal tunnel syndrome in both hands, I was still determined to continue working as a volunteer editor and freelance writer.

I had heard about the speech recognition software program, Dragon NaturallySpeaking, and contacted Seattle Public Library (SPL) to find out where I could learn it.

I was guided to the Special Technology Access Resource Center (STAR) of Seattle, a nonprofit computer center located at Seattle Housing Authority's (SHA) Center Park apartments.

The STAR Center is free to the public and is equipped with seven adjustable computer stations accessible to those in wheelchairs. Classes about digital photography, internet, email and popular Microsoft programs such as PowerPoint, Access and Excel are offered throughout the year.

Over a dozen assistive tools like JAWS, ZoomText, and WordQ enable individuals facing speech, sight, and mobility challenges to succeed with computer technology.

Tom Ross, co-founder of STAR Center and specialist in voice dictation programs, introduced me to the technology available specifically for my needs. Together, we went through the steps needed to keep my writing 'voice' alive. By speaking into a headset with a microphone, I learned how to 'wake-up' the microphone, select type, browse the internet and send email.

Ross says the STAR Center tailors its training and technology to each person's needs, and also acts as a resource to make other connections within the community. He says there are plans to have more collaboration with SPL, and that he recently applied for a grant to receive funding for tactile graphics. These are images that use raised surfaces so that a visually-impaired person can feel them. Tactile graphics are used to communicate non-textual information such as maps, paintings, graphs and diagrams.

Kathleen Hansen, the other co-founder of STAR Center, says computer technology advances so quickly that adaptive technology often is forced to form alternative approaches. Because of this, Tom hopes to recruit volunteers who are willing to learn quickly and be open to new ideas.

"Many of the current volunteers, themselves disabled, can approach newcomers easier because of their own personal experiences with the challenges faced," Ross says.

Ross believes the facility is underused mainly because Seattle offers an overflowing supply of technological resources. He says its free classes like Dragon NaturallySpeaking can cost as much as \$160 per hour through private companies, so STAR Center is a real boon for clients.

I'm grateful to the STAR Center and Michael Pollack, information systems manager with Full Life Care, who recently installed Dragon NaturallySpeaking on one of the computers in the SHA community where I live.

Clearly, the Dragon speaks kindly once tamed.



PHOTO BY BRENDA KAY NETH

Tom Ross teaches client Rhonda Walkup (center) and her caregiver Joan Klewis about Dragon NaturallySpeaking.

### STAR of Seattle fast facts:

#### Location:

Center Park, 2121 26th Ave. S.  
Seattle, 98144

Phone: 206-325-4284

Email: starofseattle@cablespeed.com

#### Hours of operation:

Monday, 1-5 p.m.

Tuesday through Friday, 1-7 p.m.

#### Services:

The STAR Center offers free computer classes for the following:

- Computer literacy
- Basic internet literacy
- Social media literacy

#### Assistive technology offerings:

There are over two dozen special technology hardware and software adaptations available at the Center. Persons wishing to explore the assistive technology options listed below should call the STAR Center prior to their first visit to schedule an exploration interview.

#### Sample assistive programs:

- JAWS, a screen reader
- ZoomText, a talking computer screen magnifier
- WordQ, which predicts users' word choices
- Dragon NaturallySpeaking, allows users to use voice to type

#### Additional STAR Center resources:

Westwood Heights Technology Center in West Seattle is another computer lab supported by SHA, Full Life Care, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program and the City of Seattle.

#### Location:

9455 27th Ave. SW  
Seattle, 98126

Phone: 206-932-6942 ext. 16



Seattle Chamber Music Society and SEEDArts present

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Fridays

**JULY 8**  
**JULY 15**  
**JULY 22**  
**JULY 29**



JAMES EHNES  
Artistic Director

It's another summer of Music Under the Stars! Just grab a blanket, pack a picnic, and join us for a casual evening of classical music. Each night, there's a live student performance, followed by KING-FM's broadcast of a Seattle Chamber Music Society concert streamed directly from Benaroya Hall. For more information visit [seattlechambermusic.org](http://seattlechambermusic.org).





# TRANSLATIONS

TRANSLATED ARTICLES FROM THE VOICE

## Únase a nosotros para observar la ceremonia de naturalización del cuatro de julio de Seattle/By Leahla Contreras

El Seattle Center será anfitrión de la ceremonia anual de naturalización del cuatro de julio. En horario de las 11 a.m. hasta la 1:15 p.m., el público está invitado a observar mientras El Honorable Richard C. Tallman, juez del juzgado de circuito de Los Estados Unidos, le toma juramento a más de 500 candidatos de más de 80 países que serán nuevos ciudadanos.

Los organizadores quieren animar al público que vengan ese día feriado de cuatro de julio a reafirmar el significado de la ciudadanía de Los Estados Unidos. Será un día monumental para los ciudadanos nuevos, que han venido de culturas diversas de todo el mundo para hacer su hogar en Los Estados Unidos.

La ceremonia de naturalización, que toma lugar cada año en el Seattle Center por los últimos 32 años, es uno de los eventos del cuatro de julio más significativos de la región. Es producido por la Fundación de Seattle Center, Seattle Center, el tribunal del distrito de Los Estados Unidos del distrito oeste de Washington, y la agencia de servicios de inmigración y de ciudadanía de Los Estados Unidos.

El alcalde de la ciudad de Seattle, Ed Murray, será el maestro de ceremonias para este evento anual de 2016. Un discurso personal por el representante Jim McDermott y un discurso de felicitaciones por la senadora Maria Cantwell tendrán lugar después de la ceremonia.

## አርባዕተ ሓምሌ ኣብ ዝግበር ስነስርዓት ማሕላ ናይ ዜግነት ንምምልካት ተሳታፊ ኩነት/By Habte Negash

አርባዕተ ሓምሌ ዝግበር ኣኸባብራ ስነስርዓት ማሕላ ዜግነት ሎሚ ዓመት ድማ ሰነይ 4 ሓምሌ ካብ 11 ቅቕ. ክሳብ 1:15 ድቑ ኣብ ዘሎ ግዜ ኣብ ስያትል ሰንተር ክፍጸም እዩ። ክበር ሪፖርት ሲ. ቶልማን፣ ናይ ቤት ፍርዲ ዳኛ፣ ኣብቲ ዕለት እቲ ኣብ ቅድሚ መበቆል ናይ 80 ሃገራት መበቆል ዘሎዎም 500 ናይ ዜግነት ወረቀቶም ዚቐበሉ ሕጹይት ናይ ዜግነት ቃለ ማሕላ ኪፍጸሙ እዮም።

አወሃሃድቲ ናይቲ መደብ፣ ህዝቢ ኣብቲ ዚግበር ስነስርዓት ኣበዓዕላ ኣርባዕተ ሓምሌ ተሳተፍቲ ብምዃን ንትርጉም ናይ ዩናይትድ ስቴትስ ሲትዘንሺፕ ድምቀት ኪህብዎ ይዕድም። እዚ ዕለት እዚ ኣብ ሕይወት እቶም ካብ ዝተፈለገሎ ባህሪታት ናይ ዓለም መጺኦም ኣብ ዩናይትድ ስቴትስ ክነብሩ ዝፍቀደሎም ሓደስቲ ዜጋታት ከም ሓወልቲ ኪዘከር ዝነብር

ተዘከሮ ኣለዎ። እዚ ኣርባዕተ ሓምሌ ዝግበር ኣኸባብራ ናይ ዜግነት ስነስርዓት ንዝሓለፈ 32 ዓመታት ብብዓመቱ ኣብ ስያትል ሰንተር ኪፍጸም ጸኒሑ እዩ። እዚ ድማ ንተዘከሮ ኣርባዕተ ሓምሌ ዓቢ ትርጉም ዝህብ ኮይኑ ብምትሕብባር ትካል ስያትል ሰንተር፣ ስያትል ዲስትሪክት ኮርት፣ ከምኡውን ክፍሊ ሲትሰንሺፕን ኢሚግሬሽንን ዝግበር ኣብዚ ዘባ ዝዓበይ ጽልዎ ዘለዎ ስርዓት እዩ።

ናይዚ ኣብ 2016 ዝግበር ናይ ዜግነት በዓል ኣኸባብራ ስነስርዓት ከንቲባ ከተማ ስያትል መዮር ኤድ መሪ ኪመርሖ እዮም። ረፕረዘንታቲቭ ጂም ኤም ሲ ደርምት ድማ ኣብቲ ኣጋጣሚ ኪዛረቡ እዮም። ከምኡውን ስነተር ማርያ ካንትወል ናይ ዮሃና መደረ ኬስምዓ እዮን።

## HÃY CÙNG THAM DỰ NGHI LỄ TUYỂN THỆ NHẬP TỊCH TRONG DỊP LỄ 4 THÁNG 7/By Long Luu

(Trung tâm giải trí) Seattle Center theo thông lệ hàng năm, sẽ tổ chức lễ tuyên thệ nhập tịch vào dịp lễ Độc Lập 4th tháng Bảy, lúc 11 giờ trưa đến 1:15 chiều, nhằm ngày thứ Hai 4 tháng 7, xin mời công chúng đến tham dự nghi lễ nhập tịch do quan tòa Richard C.Tallman, tòa án Liên Bang cử hành cho 500 ứng viên có gốc gác từ 80 quốc gia để trở thành công dân Mỹ.

Các cơ quan trong ban tổ chức khuyến khích công chúng cùng tham gia với họ trong ngày lễ 4 tháng 7 để cùng nhau tái thừa nhận ý nghĩa người công dân của Hợp Chúng Quốc. Đó là ngày đáng nhớ cho những công dân mới, họ đến từ các nền văn hóa khác nhau và từ khắp

noi trên địa cầu để rồi họ chọn Hợp Chúng Quốc này là xứ sở của họ.

Nghi thức nhập tịch, được tổ chức hàng năm tại Seattle Center từ 32 năm qua, là một nghi lễ ý nghĩa nhất trong ngày Lễ 4 tháng 7 cho toàn vùng, được bảo trợ bởi Seattle Center Foundation, Seattle Center, Tòa Án Liên Bang Khu Vực Phía Tây, và Sở Di Trú Hoa Kỳ.

Thị Trưởng thành phố Seattle Ed Murray sẽ là điều hành viên cho nghi lễ nhập tịch 2016, cùng với lời diễn văn khai mạc từ Dân biểu quốc hội Jim McDermott và diễn văn chúc mừng từ Thượng Nghị Sĩ Quốc Hội Maria Cantwell tiếp theo trong nghi lễ.

## Присоединяйтесь к празднованию церемонии натурализации в День независимости США в Сиэтле/ By Irina Vodonos

В понедельник, 4 июля, с 11:00 до 13:15 все желающие приглашаются в Сиэтл-центр на ежегодную церемонию натурализации. У присутствующих будет возможность увидеть, как судья окружного суда США Ричард С. Толман приводит к присяге более 500 соискателей американского гражданства родом из 80 с лишним стран.

Организаторы мероприятия приглашают публику присоединиться к участникам церемонии 4 июля, в День независимости США, чтобы заново осознать ценность гражданства Соединенных Штатов. Этот день является монументальным для получающих гражданство людей, приехавших в свой новый дом - США - с самых разных концов

планеты.

Ежегодная церемония натурализации, которая проводится в Сиэтл-центре уже 32 года - одно из самых значимых мероприятий в честь Дня независимости, проводящихся в нашем регионе. Организаторы церемонии - Фонд поддержки Сиэтл-центра, Сиэтл-центр, окружной суд США западного округа штата Вашингтон и Служба гражданства и иммиграции США.

В этом году ведущим церемонии натурализации будет мэр Сиэтла Эд Мюррей. После окончания церемонии конгрессмен Джим МакДермотт выступит с личным обращением, а сенатор Мария Кантвелл - с поздравительной речью.

## ሲያትል ሴንተርን ፎርዝ ኦፍ ጁላይ የዜግነት ምረቃ በዓል ይሳተፉ!/By Assaye Abunie

ሲያትል ሴንተር ዓመታዊውን የዜግነት ምረቃ በዓል ሰኞ ጁላይ ፎርዝ ከሰዓት በኋላ ከ1:15 ጀምሮ ለማክበር በመዘጋጀት ላይ ሲሆን ማንኛውንም ሰው ተጋብዟል። በዚህ ዕለት የተከበሩ ሪፖርት ቶልማን የዩ ኤስ ኮርት ዳኛ የሆኑት ከ500 መቶ የሚበልጡ ከ80 አገሮች የተውጣጡ እጩ የሆኑትን አዲስ ዜጋ ለማድረግ መሃል ያስደርጋሉ።

አደራጅ የሆኑት ህዝቡ የጁላይን ፎርዝ በዓል እንዲሳተፍና የአሜሪካን የዜግነት ትርጉም የሚረጋገጥበትን ቀን እንዲመለከት በማበረታታት ላይ ናቸው። ይህ ቀን አዲስ ዜጋ ለሆኑትና በዓለም ዙርያ ከተለያዩ ባህል በመምጣት አሜሪካንን አዲስ ቤታቸው የሚያደርጉበት ነው።

ይህ የዜግነት በዓል በሲያትል ሴንተር በየዓመቱ ላለፉት 32 ዓመት በአካባቢው ከሚደረጉት የጁላይ ፎርዝ በዓል በጣም ትርጉም ያለውና በሲያትል ሴንተር ፋውንዴሽን፣ ሲያትል ሴንተር፣ የዩናይትድ ስቴትስ ዲስትሪክት ኮርት እና የዩናይትድ ስቴትስ ሲትዘንሺፕና ኢሚግሬሽን የተጀመረ ነው።

የሲቲ ኦፍ ሲያትል የሆኑት ሚዮር ኤዲ መሪ የ2016 የዜግነት በዓል ፕሮግራም አቅራቢ ናቸው። የዩናይትድ ሴትስ ሃውስ ሪፕረዘንታቲቭ ጂም ማክደርመት የእንኳን ደስ ያላችሁ የግል መግለጫ እንዲሁም የዩ ኤስ ሴንተር ማሪያ ካንትዌል ተጨማሪ ንግግር ያደርጋሉ።

## Kasoo qaybgal Xafladda Jinsiyad bixinta Seattle ee Afarta July/By Mahamoud Gaayte

Waxaa Iagu qabanayaa bartamaha magaalada Seattle ( Seattle Center) xafladii sanadlaha ahayd ee jinsiyad bixinta afarta bisha July, 11ka subaxnimo ilaa 1:15 duhurnimo., Isniin, 4ta July,

kasoo qaybgalku waa mid u furan dadwenaha si ey u daawadaan mudane Richard C. Tallman, oo aha qaalli ka tirsan maxkamadda racfaanka ee dalkan mareykanka, isaga oo dhaarinaaya dad kabadan 500 oo musharax oo kakala yirnid in kabadan 80 dal, sidii ey unoqon lahaayeen muwaadiniin cusub.

Isku-dubaridayaashu waxa ey dadweynaha ku boorinayaan in ay ka so qaybgalaan maalika 4ta july si ey u muujiyaan qiimaha maalinkaasi ugu fadhiyo muwaadinimada dalka Mareykanka. Waa maalin guul u ah muwaadiniinta cusub, kuwaas oo ka yirnid

dhaqama kala duwan dunida daafeheeda si ey uga dhigtaan Mareykanka gurigoodii cusbaa.

Xafladan jinsiyad bixinta ayaa ah mid sanadle ah laguna qabanayey bartamaha Seattle 32kii sano ee Iasoo dhaafay, wexeyna ka midtahay waxyaabaha ugu qiimaha badan maalintaas 4 july ee Iagu qabto gobolkan. Waxaa soo agaasimey Mu'asasadda Bartamaha Seattle, Maxkamadda Mareykanka qaybta galbeed ee gobolka Washington, Xafiiska Socdaalka iyo Jinsiyadda Mareykanka.

Duqa magaalada Seattle Ed Murray ayaa ka noqonaya naadiye xafladda jinsiyad bixinta 2016ka. Marti sharaf waaweyn sida xubinta sare ee Jim McDermott iyo xubinta barlamaanka Maria Cantwell.

# OUR COMMUNITIES

STORIES FROM OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

## Local pair makes playing board games fun and exciting again Their role-playing game *No Thank You, Evil* lets kids unleash their creativity and imagination

By JONATHAN LUONG  
*The Voice intern*

Nowadays, most young people seem to be consumed by social media and electronic gaming. The public perception of board games is one of a box simply gathering dust in a forgotten cupboard or toy store. That's where game designers Monte Cook and Shanna Germain come into the picture.

"We always say that our games have to compete with the puppies of the world," Germain says. "If a family were in a room with one of our games, a puppy, and an iPad, they would have to find our game to be the most interesting thing."

With the release of *No Thank You, Evil* from Monte Cook Games, founded in 2012, Cook and Germain have opened up a creative outlet for kids.

For Germain, her childhood was defined by the countless games that she was able to get her hands on, from *Monopoly* to *Bunnies and Burrows*, the latter which fueled her interest in playing games.

"I was always shy as a child, so board games gave me a chance to express myself within a certain set of rules," she says.

At the age of six, she told her parents she wanted to be the famous suspense writer Stephen King, but it was not until experiencing a variety of jobs, from being a paramedic to a bartender, that she found the perfect opportunity with Cook.

"He shared *Numenera*, a game he had been creating, with me, and asked me if I wanted to help him with it."

From there, what started out as a humble project launched through Kickstarter, a crowd-funding site, eventually landed the pair more than 4,600 backers who donated about \$500,000 to bring the game from



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN LUONG

Columbia City resident James Walls says *No Thank You, Evil* is the go-to game for his three children, (l-r) Olivia, Sarah and Ethan. The board game, which debuted in March, involves make-believe, adventure and storytelling for children and their parents.

concept to family countertops. *Numenera's* huge success convinced them to create Monte Cook Games, the company.

*No Thank You, Evil*, the latest release for the brand, for ages 5 and up, adds a unique twist in role-playing. As is typical for games of the genre, players assume different characters and work together to solve objectives, such as embarking on a rescue mission or defeating a group of enemies. The free range of action, however, is what makes the game highly accessible for a variety of audiences.

"We worked with kids with dyslexia, those on the autism spectrum, and those with mobility issues when we were testing out the game," Germain says. "We wanted to ensure that kids could have all the options they wanted, and that we would reward them for making different choices. In taking on issues, this system encourages different perspectives to solve problems. If one of the goals is to fight a monster, one of the players might suggest to fight it, but another person might want to sing the monster to sleep, or engage in a conversation with it."



Above, Shanna Germain and Monte Cook celebrate the release of their game for kids, *Numenera*. It was launched through a Kickstarter campaign, whose funders donated more than \$500,000.

She adds that players don't have to resort to anything they don't want to do, which promotes creative and unique solutions. As such, Germain and Cook think the game will bring out the inner child of every player, regardless of age.

*Editor's note: The Voice thanks Intern Jonathan Luong for his many contributions during the past year, and wishes him a bright future as he enters the University of Washington this fall.*

### No July RAC meeting

The Resident Action Council (RAC) will be taking July off and will reconvene Aug. 10.

MUSIC UNDER THE STARS at  
**DELDRIDGE PLAYFIELD**  
*In front of the Community Center on the corner of Delridge and Genesee*

**FREE CONCERTS**  
7:15pm Live Student Performance  
8pm Live Broadcast

Tuesday

**JULY 5**

Mondays

**JULY 11**  
**JULY 18**  
**JULY 25**

This summer, Music Under the Stars comes to West Seattle! Just grab a blanket, pack a picnic, and join us for a casual evening of classical music. Each night, there's a live student performance, followed by KING-FM's broadcast of a Seattle Chamber Music Society concert streamed directly from Benaroya Hall. For more information visit [seattletechambermusic.org](http://seattletechambermusic.org).

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- Preschool two days a week & weekly home visits
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**HALF DAY PRESCHOOL (AGES 3-5)**

- Serving children of all abilities, including those with special needs & disabilities
- Morning and afternoon sessions
- Meals and snacks provided
- Serving low income families in: West Seattle // Central Seattle // South Seattle

**FULL DAY PRESCHOOL (AGES 3-5)**

- Serving children of all abilities, including those with special needs & disabilities
- Meals and snacks provided
- Serving low income families in: West Seattle // Central Seattle // South Seattle

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