The mission of the Seattle Housing Authority is to enhance the Seattle community by creating and sustaining decent, safe and affordable living environments that foster stability and self-sufficiency for people with low incomes.

Eyes on the prize!
SHA employees raise $40K
See Page 2

SHA News
February 2009
News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods

Phinney Terrace residents mark inauguration of Obama

By Tyler Roush
The Voice editor

Every U.S. presidential inauguration — and the peaceful transition of power that it represents — is a significant moment in our history. But the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States was greeted with greater enthusiasm than any in recent memory.

Residents of Phinney Terrace, an SSHP building in the Phinney Ridge / Greenwood neighborhood, held a community celebration as they watched the first African-American man take the presidential oath.

Phinney Terrace resident Al Stuart Mayo organized the event.

“The President suggested we reach out to millions tuned in to the Presidential Inauguration Jan. 20 to see Barack Obama, seen here during a speech at KeyArena in February of 2008, sworn in as the 44th President of the United States.

Residents and guests at Phinney Terrace gathered to watch the inauguration of President Barack Obama on Jan. 20, joining millions across the country and around the world.

What to do if you are a victim of bullying

By Voice Staff

Bullying or harassing behavior is not permitted in SHA buildings. It is written into each resident’s lease agreement with the Seattle Housing Authority — one must exhibit appropriate conduct as a resident of an SHA building.

Despite these safeguards, some SHA residents might find themselves the victims of bullying or harassment by their fellow residents.

Depending on the nature of the bullying, SHA attorney Linda Brosell recommends that residents take certain steps to prevent it.

If the bullying rises to the level of physical assault, Brosell said that the victim should contact 911 to report it.

Please see “Bullying” on Page 4

HUD provides housing authorities with additional self-sufficiency program funds

By Jeff Arnn
Seattle Housing Authority

On Jan. 2, The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the allocation of $49 million in grant funding to help housing authorities administer self-sufficiency programs for low-income people receiving rental assistance.

Of that $49 million, about $1.4 million will make its way to housing authorities in Washington state. Roughly $300,000 will go to Seattle Housing Authority.

The money will be used to help voucher-holders in the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) who also participate in the agency’s Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program.

The FSS program provides support and resources to low-income participants as they work toward goals in education, career advancement, starting a business, or buying a home. Program staff work alongside community partners to help participants make use of services such as child care, transportation, job training, employment counseling, substance abuse treatment, household skills training, and homeownership counseling.

“Getting a decent job and increasing a person’s potential for higher-paying employment is the first step in becoming economically independent,” said former HUD Secretary Steve Preston, who headed the organization when the funding announcement was made earlier this month. “This program has proven its effectiveness in helping families develop the skills that lead to stable employment.”

Those who participate in the FSS program sign a contract that requires them to obtain or maintain employment during the following five years. The contract also mandates that the family no longer receive welfare assistance at the end of the five-year term.

As participants’ goals are met and family income increases over time, a portion of the increased income is deposited in an interest-bearing escrow account. Once the contract is completed, those escrow funds can be used for any purpose, such as educational expenses, starting a business, or making a down payment on a home.

Because there are a limited number of spaces in the FSS program, a waiting list is created on a first-come, first-served basis. People are contacted in the order their enrollment requests were received.

Voucher-holders living within the Seattle city limits who are interested in participating can call 206-615-3317 to learn more about applying and joining the waiting list. Low Income Public Housing program residents should call 206-615-3313.

Seattle Housing Authority launches redesigned Web site

By Jeff Arnn
Seattle Housing Authority

More than ten years after it was created, Seattle Housing Authority has redesigned its public Web site, seattlehousing.org.

The redesigned site focuses on connecting applicants with information about the agency’s affordable housing and rental assistance programs, while making it simple for residents, landlords, partner agencies, contractors, media members and the general public to find what they need.

Usability and accessibility have been improved through better organization, clearer navigation and a more helpful search tool.

Meeting accessibility guidelines set by Section 508 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, along with those of the World Wide Web Consortium, helps ensure the site works better for people of all levels of ability.

The content of seattlehousing.org has also been enhanced, with an eye toward making language simpler, friendlier, less bureaucratic and easier to understand. Images used throughout the site show the richness and diversity of the people served by Seattle Housing Authority and the communities they call home.

The agency worked with residents, service providers, employees, and the public in creating the updated Web site.

Surveys, interviews, focus groups, and user testing with these groups guided the site’s development and informed decisions about design and content.

The new site was developed entirely in-house by Seattle Housing Authority’s Communications office.
Letters to the Editor
Readers of The Voice speak out

Obama’s call to action means it’s time to act

It was just a few hours after President Obama finished his inaugural speech, in which he called ALL of us to task for facing and dealing with the issues and problems that our profligate run-with-progress, run-with-technology lives have brought us to. And isn’t it if any of it was new... but only that we’ve now been officially posted to the proposition that it’s OUR problem to deal with. We cannot expect some “rule from on high” to correct things that we’ve all brought about, over the years. That has now become our job, and has to be OUR perspective.

I had hardly absorbed this when I became aware of the growing roar outside our windows at the Ravenna School SSSH apartment complex. A familiar sound, certainly, but suddenly there was a fresh edge to it as I realized that for all the good talk and commitment, SHA was going right on with Business as Usual. That was a gasoline-powered blower, outside the window, being EXACTLY THE PROBLEM! Hey, people, I’m old enough to recall (often with nostalgia, I’ll admit) when something called a broom did that sort of thing. It’s not any faster done with gasoline blowers, but over the years we somehow got so lazy that it SEEMS to be faster. Nor certainly is it any cheaper, about which SHA is supposed to be concerned.

So how about it, SHA? Isn’t this a good place to start? Let us begin living what we are now preaching. Let us get back to hands, tools, green tools, and much healthier, around] REAL tools, instead of these supposedly ‘make life easier’ tools. Let’s start LOOKING AT WHAT WE’RE DOING... instead of just talking about it.

Irv Thomas

Seattle Housing retains flexibility of MTW status

New agreement extends through 2018

By Virginia Felton
Seattle Housing Authority

On the last day of 2008, Tom Tierney signed a new Moving to Work (MTW) Agreement extending until 2018 Seattle Housing Authority’s status as a housing authority that is allowed more flexibility than most across the country.

“It is a great advantage to us to be one of just 30 high-performing housing authorities in the MTW program,” said Tierney. “I am very pleased that we were able to complete this agreement to ensure flexibility for another ten years.”

Seattle Housing staff have been working with HUD for over two years to come to terms on the final document. Dec. 31 was the deadline for signing. The current agreement would have expired at the end of 2009.

“Even though the new agreement has some additional reporting requirements, it is worth retaining the fund flexibility and the opportunity to be innovative in the ways we deliver housing to the citizens of Seattle,” noted Tierney.

The original MTW agreement allowed Seattle Housing to pursue innovations within its housing program by interpreting federal housing laws very broadly. The innovations begun under the old agreement are grandfathered into the new one.

For example, MTW status has allowed the Housing Authority to partner with nonprofit housing organizations by providing them with project-based vouchers.

MTW authority has also made it possible for the agency to be flexible with its HUD funding, moving it between programs as needed.

“Because this is a demonstration project, HUD has placed more emphasis in the new agreement on measuring how our innovations achieve the goals of the demonstration,” said Tierney. “These goals include operating more efficiently, increasing housing choices for low-income households, and helping low-income households become more self-sufficient,” noted Ann-Marie Lindbou, Seattle Housing Authority’s director of housing finance and asset management. “Each time we look at doing things differently from HUD standards, we will need to identify how to evaluate the effectiveness of that change.”

Both the Board of Commissioners and the agency’s senior staff members felt that it was important to retain flexibility.

“We negotiated hard with HUD to retain as much flexibility as possible,” said Tierney. “I believe the agreement we signed is a much better one for us than what was originally proposed by HUD.”

Over the past ten years under MTW, the Housing Authority has developed housing programs specific to Seattle. For example, innovative rent policies help residents to become more self-sufficient.

The ability to form partnerships with other organizations has also been increased, allowing the agency to participate in initiatives such as Sound Families and the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County.

Seattle Housing Authority’s 2008 Giving Campaign raised approximately $40,000 and had over 17 percent employee participation, an increase of over seven percent from 2007. More than 90 employees contributed to the campaign.

Every year Seattle Housing staff works with the Combined Fund Drive to offer a selection of 3,500 registered charities for donors to choose among. In 2008, CFD raised $5.75 million for local, national and international communities in need.

A committee of employees planned, organized and coordinated the work of the fund drive, with Claire McDaniel as coordinator. According to co-chair Virginia Felton, “New members on the committee injected much needed enthusiasm and energy, with ideas for new events coming from old and new members alike. The creativity of the committee really contributed our success.”

The campaign began in early October and extended into early December.

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With this year’s events there was something for everyone. Events included a used book sale, a breakfast gathering that featured guest speakers from Prospect Enrichment Preschool and from Seattle’s Union Gospel Mission talking about the work their non-profit organizations do in the community.

Additional guest speakers visited SHA from organizations such as the Make A Wish Foundation, Outdoors for All (which provides outdoor activities for the disabled) and the King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Employees also contributed by donating time along with KaBoom! and Bank of America to build a new playground in the NewHolly neighborhood.

Favorite campaign events also included a cute pet contest, informal staff gatherings during lunchtimes Friday and a South Seas luau at the NewHolly Gathering Hall, which concluded the campaign.

Use your voice! Advocacy Training with WLIHA at Center Park

We need your voice now! The legislative session in Olympia has begun and our elected representatives are beginning to make choices that will affect our lives. Our state has a large budget deficit to overcome which means our leaders will have to cut programs and services to balance the budget.

Learn how to advocate for issues that are important to you and your community. Washington Low Income Housing Alliance is excited to partner with Seattle Housing Authority to present two trainings: on citizen advocacy and on issues that affect each and everyone one of us. Find out how to write a letter to the editor that will get published, how to find your legislator, and what to say when you contact them.

Please join us. Trainings will be held at Center Park, 2121 26th Ave. S., in Seattle. The first, an introduction to advocacy, is Feb. 10 from 10 a.m. – noon. The second, an introduction to issues, will be held on Feb. 17, 10 a.m. – noon.
The end of TV as we know it?

By Sven Kohler
Seattle Housing Authority

You know about the impending transition to digital television (DTV) broadcasting if you have been paying attention to the TV ads or reading these articles in the Voice for the past year. For more than a year, Feb. 17, 2009, has been widely known as the date your ability to watch TV for free changes forever. And despite an effort by Congress to extend the deadline, it appears as though Feb. 17 will still mark the digital transition and the end of television as we know it.

People of many were still groping around in the dark right before the dawn of DTV. To help buy time leading up to the deadline, June 12 was proposed as the new date when analog broadcast transmissions would be shut off and only TVs equipped to handle the new digital signals will work.

The bill to delay the Feb. 17 deadline was unanimously passed by the Senate Jan. 26, but was voted down by the House two days later. Barring any last-minute changes by Congress or the Obama administration, the digital TV transition deadline will remain Feb. 17.

Keep an eye on news reports about the digital transition just in case, as the deadline could still be extended.

Though the deadline is unchanged, the many hurdles to a smooth transition have become more and more clear. The government-assisted DTV converter box coupon program was designed to offset the financial impact of the switch for people with older TV sets, but the program ran out of money in January (at least temporarily).

Even if you bought a new TV with a built-in digital tuner, you are supposed to be ready to receive the new digital signal, but many found that good reception is still a challenge. You often need to purchase a new set-top antenna, or at least have the patience and skills to fiddle with your old one. And even if you were looking for help, it seems that existing nationwide consumer assistance hotlines have not been able to provide help for everyone who needs it.

Advanced trials of the conversion process took place in Wilmington, North Carolina last year and in the entire state of Hawaii last month. These experiences have shown that many people will lose stations they are familiar with, even though the majority of TV watchers will do fine. It was generally the most vulnerable people who will very likely have trouble once the old, familiar TV signals disappear, especially the elderly, people who don’t speak English well, and people without technology skills.

The delay would have been an effort to buy time and make sure that vulnerable people are not left in the dark. The Obama administration had supported the delay amid hopes that the converter box subsidy would regain funding by then.

Set up your converter box

With the deadline about two weeks away, it would be good idea to set up your converter box now. It takes time and some effort to hook up the converter box correctly. You may try it yourself and then realize you need to get help. If you do need help, the extended deadline means that groups offering help may have more time to offer assistance. Check back in the Voice next month for more information about local groups willing to help.

And don’t forget to factor in the antenna. In buildings with rooftop antennas, you may be able to get a variety of channels simply by plugging into the existing wall jack. But you may find that a $30 VHF/UHF set-top antenna will work better. Give yourself time to experiment.

And what if you are already prepared, even before the deadline? Ask your neighbors to see if there is someone who needs help getting themselves ready. If you have an extra coupon that you won’t use, you might do someone a favor and give it to them. The coupons can’t be redeemed for cash. They are fully transferable, but should not be sold.

Happy Lunar New Year!

Beacon Tower residents celebrated the Lunar New Year with a community party last month. The Lunar New Year started Jan. 26.

The last new pipes during homeWorks

By Sven Kohler
Seattle Housing Authority

People who celebrated the Lunar New Year on Jan. 26 marked the Year of the Ox.

This may also be known as the Year of New Plumbing for residents of the Stewart Manor and Center West apartment buildings. There, the final water pipe replacement work of the entire 5-year-long homeWorks construction project concludes near the end of February.

This month plumbers are busy installing new water supply pipes in all the apartments in those buildings. In units with new plumbing, residents have noticed better tasting and clearer looking water thanks to the copper pipes. Water pressure and hot water supply have also improved as the old galvanized pipes are removed.

Ripping out the old pipes and installing new ones in a building without interrupting the water supply for more than a few hours at a time is a challenge. But since buildings in the homeWorks project have remained occupied during the work, it has been essential to make sure that residents who live there can still use their plumbing at the end of each and every workday.

Of course, with a construction project of this magnitude, some impact on everyday life is expected. But there are steps that can be taken to avoid it. For example, the homeWorks crew gave advanced notice to residents of Stewart Manor and Center West that the water supply in the entire building must be shut down for hours at a time once or twice a week for more than a month.

“I have had to get ready for the water shut-downs, but it hasn’t been too bad. The plumbers are obviously doing great work, and it will be worth this temporary hassle to have new pipes,” said Fred Jensen of Center West. “And I’ve told the guys myself, they have been really polite and professional.”

The plumbers work 10-hour days to keep on their tight schedule. This is critical, since residents rely on the detailed calendar they are given in advance to show them when work is planned in their apartments.

On days when plumbers connect the new pipes in a half dozen or more units at once, work must begin right at 8 a.m.

“Those days, my crew is anxious to start on time, since we know that the longer it takes to begin, the longer the water will be off,” said Brent Delvecchio, the plumbing foreman at Stewart Manor. “We know that this might be a change in some people’s daily schedule during construction, so we do our best to make it work smoothly.”

So far, in nearly 1,800 apartments over the past four years, the plumbers have been able to get the water back on in the afternoon every time.

homeWorks involves renovating the interior and exterior of buildings as well. The work at Barton Place is nearly complete, as workers install new floor tiles and paint the halls and community room and clean and paint the exterior. The work there should be done by March, after which a party is planned to celebrate the end of construction.

The final touches on the new ventilation system at Ross Manor have been successfully completed at last. The unexpected condition of the shafts posed a real challenge and required unexpected work in each apartment. Remaining items at the building include a new front entry gate and refurbished elevators.

The entire homeWorks project will end with a contractor renovating the caulking around the windows at Stewart Manor this January. Workers will be weatherproofing the windows in each apartment from a movable platform hung from the side of the building. homeWorks prevents water leaks from outside the building with new weatherproofing and roofing, and prevents water leaks inside by replacing water supply pipes.

A contractor renovates the caulking around the windows at Stewart Manor this January. Workers will be weatherproofing the windows in each apartment from a movable platform hung from the side of the building. homeWorks prevents water leaks from outside the building with new weatherproofing and roofing, and prevents water leaks inside by replacing water supply pipes.

West View Town Summer. Construction there is less extensive than at other buildings since the pipes are still in good shape. Minor work has been progressing there off and on since the roof was replaced and the building office was remodeled this past summer. In January, homeWorks installed a new phone-operated entry system after building residents complained that the old door bells had quit working.
Neighborhood Challenge Fund application is available online

The Neighborhood Challenge Fund application form is now available for download on the High Point Neighborhood Association website, www.highpointneighborhood.org.

Initially announced at the December 11 quarterly meeting, the Neighborhood Challenge Fund (NCF) is available to High Point residents who seek to improve their community and have a good idea. Amounts up to $2,500 will be leveraged for events, physical improvements, or other initiatives that have a project manager and the support of at least five neighbors. The Neighborhood Association has set aside $9,000 in the 2009 budget for the fund.

Andrew Mead, the Neighborhood Association president, described this new program as one of the best ideas the Neighborhood Association has had so far. To that end, the Neighborhood Association will also use the NCF process when the Trustees and Committees propose new initiatives that are not specifically listed in the Neighborhood Association adopted budget.

For more information, please contact one of the Neighborhood Association Trustees or Genevieve Aguilar, the High Point Community Builder, at 206-937-3292.

Foundation being laid at High Point

Concrete walls that will serve as the basement and foundation of Neighborhood House’s High Point Neighborhood Center are seen in this construction photo taken in January.

Our community; I thought, these are the seniors who have lived through adversity,” Mayo said.

Though geographically isolated in the Pacific Northwest, Mayo said he organized the viewing party so that he and his fellow residents might feel a connection to the occasion.

“Even though we’re among the farthest away from the event, I hoped that they would feel in touch with the event,” he said.

For Mayo, the Inauguration marked a destination point after an arduous campaign.

“I’m really excited, finally, after what I considered a very long primary,” he said.

He wanted to mark the occasion with a celebration for his friends at Pinney Terrace.

Top Pot donated doughnuts with an inauguration theme, even the balloons, a dozen or more.

Mayo invested his own money in the decorations and supplies.

All of the cups and plates were made of biodegradable, recycled materials. Even the balloons, a dozen or more.

Nearly 200 guests came to watch the historic event.

Cheers and applause erupted from the attendees at the conclusion of President Obama’s speech.

“You know what, he outdid Kennedy — what a speech,” said Nick Marshall, referring to the famed 1961 inaugural address in which President Kennedy implored his fellow Americans to “ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country.”

The Inauguration likewise conjured images of Kennedy for Ann Rodgers, who said she had flashbacks to Robert Frost reciting poetry at the chilly 1961 inauguration.

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Floating about the community room, were biodegradable balloons.

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Obama

Continued from front page

“Obama,” he said. “I’ve been entranced when he speaks,” Marshall said. “The first day I saw him, I had no doubt he would become President. My wife and I hope that he keeps his original promise to himself, also.”

“With a black man elected President?” Marshall said.

“Are you serious? Hell no!” he said.

Marshall, who is 72, grew up in the south at a time when racism and segregation were realities. Did he expect to see a black man elected President?

“Are you serious? Hell no!” he said.

He praised Obama for his ability to engage youth and get them involved in their communities — to “inspire young people to look up and say, ‘My God, this is my country.’”

Williams, who also grew up in the south during the era of segregation, said that the Obama presidency had begun to restore her pride in her country.

“I love the colors red, white and blue,” she said. “And now I can.”

Bullying

Continued from front page

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Bullying

Continued from front page

immediately.

However, if the bullying constitutes verbal harassment or abuse or obnoxious behavior, the victim should take measures to document and report the behavior.

First, Brosell recommended that the victim report the behavior to the building’s management office.

Next, document each incident in a journal, being sure to record the date, time and location of each instance of bullying.

If the behavior escalates and intervention is necessary, it is important to have a record of all occurrences.

“The best thing a tenant can do is to let the (building’s management) office know, document the incidents, and if the other party crosses the line, call 911,” Brosell said. “As a fourth option, a restraining order is not inappropriate.

These are all options available to anyone in the city.”

SHA is bound by the landlord/tenant act and has no greater powers than any other landlord in the city, Brosell said.

Perception becomes a challenge in matters such as these, Brosell added. To the victim of bullying, any interaction with a perceived aggressor could be seen as an example of harassment.

On the other hand, the perpetrator might not even be aware that his or her actions have reached a level of harassment.

That can make it challenging to moderate these types of conflicts.

Brosell’s advice is to not provoke any aggressive behavior and to know when to walk away.

Unfortunately, she said, people who are good at bullying can often incite the victim to be the one to throw the first punch. That’s much more likely to get the victim, rather than the perpetrator, in trouble.

“The best bet,” Brosell said, “is to document the issues, make reports — (and) if there is an assault, we definitely want to know about it and we want the police to know about it.”

THE VOICE
This Boys & Girls Club benefits the whole community

By Scott Freutel
Seattle Housing Authority

One way to look at the new Boys & Girls Club and Rainier Valley Teen Center facility at Rainier Vista is through the eyes of Michael Davis, who at age 16 has been active in the club, and now in the related teen center, for over 11 years.

“It’s a brand new facility, and it’s great,” Michael said recently. “It’s an attention-getter that brings in a lot of new kids, especially younger kids. The old club wasn’t so attractive.”

The $17 million new facility, formally named the Joel E. Smilow Clubhouse, after a visitor into the Boys & Girls Club half of the building. To the right is a large gym with a state-of-the-art electronic scoreboard. The other half of the building is the Rainier Valley Teen Center, which has an identical gym of its own.

In the Boys & Girls Club a recreation area boasts a kids’-height pool table covered with bright blue cloth and two Foosball tables. This leads to a state-of-the-art kitchen, a compact facility whose cooks prepare healthy meals for as many as 150 kids every night of the week.

Upstairs are classrooms, meeting rooms, offices, and a technology lab with 12 computer workstations for younger kids.

In the Teen Center are classrooms, another technology lab (this one with 16 computer workstations), a television-and-recording studio outfitted with three television cameras and professional audio equipment. A large upstairs art studio serves all age groups. A nearby dental clinic is run in partnership with the Washington Oral Health Foundation. A multipurpose room nearby can be opened up to provide very large common spaces.

A staff of 19 runs this busy facility, with the assistance of many volunteers. There are about 450 members now, including about 100 teens. Membership in the Club or Center is $20 per year per child ($10 for children who live in Rainier Vista), and financial assistance is available. A small fee is charged for some programs.

Visit the club and meet the mayor
Mayor Greg Nickels will give his 2009 State of the City address at the Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club from 10:20 a.m. until noon on Monday, Feb. 17. The public is welcome to attend. The Club is at 4520 Martin Luther King Jr. Way South.

Rainier Vista celebrates the Lunar New Year

January goes out like an ox

Rainier Vista Boy & Girls Club and Rainier Valley Teen Center: Arts: Nature art, green design, mask-making, percussion, beginning piano, theater, dance, music and video production, storytelling through photos

Education: Creating websites, digital music, screenplay writing and moviemaking, graphic design, financial literacy, tutoring and homework help, exploring careers

Sports & fitness: Step-dancing, karate, basketball, drill team. Coming soon: baseball, softball, volleyball, soccer, track & field, tennis, football

A few of the activities available at the Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club and Rainier Valley Teen Center include: basketball, drill team, track & field, tennis, baseball, softball, volleyball, soccer, and the Teen Center.

Youth congregate and play games in one of two gyms located in the Boys & Girls Club Rainier Valley Teen Center.


Residents and guests at Rainier Vista celebrated the Year of the Ox with a community gathering at the Neighborhood House Rainier Vista Center on Jan. 23. The public was welcome to attend.

New Holly celebrates 2009

By Rolita Flores Ezecure
SHA Resident

Food. Laughter. People; young, old and in-between. This was a time to get together with old friends and also make new friends. These are just some words to describe the NewHolly Multicultural New Year Party & Neighborhood Night. Also included in the Multicultural Communications Committee of NewHolly.

This New Year’s Party is one that has been held annually for this neighborhood. Yet this was the first time that it was combined with Neighborhood Night. During this event, people from the NewHolly neighborhood were asked to bring a dish to share for the night. Dishes included various salads, sambousas, pumpkin dishes and spaghetti of different origins.

Also, neighbors were asked to dress in their ethnic clothing. It was a colorful and wonderful way to get to know one another.

The night started with a welcome to all people as they walked in. At their tables, neighbors were encouraged to fill out the world maps. People filled in the world maps with three guiding questions: Where are you from? Where have you lived or visited? Where would you like to go and visit?

This activity was a way for people at the tables to share and get to know one another. This activity was thought up by one of the members, Lima Cheng, of the Multicultural Communications Committee. Then, as time persisted, a few people stood up one by one to share their answers.

After getting to know a few neighbors, people were able to go and eat. Oh, what a fantastic feast! As people were eating, the Neighborhood Night portion started. There was a lot of information shared. There were reports made about committee projects and grants, community representative reports, budget information, and any new grant proposals or ideas. After reports were done, the youth made a mad dash to the dessert table. They couldn’t wait to get a hold of the yummy treats.

Overall, the night was a success. As I reflect back on this night, I believe this was a time to share what was done in 2008 and be able to come together as a community to celebrate at the beginning of the New Year. This was also a time to celebrate one’s cultural background and share with one another a piece of their homelands, their foods and clothing, and come together as one community.

As a member of the NewHolly neighborhood and the Multicultural Communications Committee, it is great to know that there are venues like these to be able to create a stronger sense of ownership to one’s community. Chief Seattle stated; “Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to ourselves, we do to the world. We do to each other a piece of their homelands, and wonderful ways to get to know one another.

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After getting to know a few neighbors, people were able to go and eat. Oh, what a bound together. All things connect.”

Thus, it is nice to know that there are conscious and social justice focused members in the NewHolly community who wanted to come together to host this event.

This event would not have been possible without the current members of the Multicultural Communications Committee: Lima Cheng, Sam Cheng, Emily Inkpen, Daphne Schneider, Rosann Rankin, Hale Rankin, and Amber Wade.

Services abound at NewHolly

By Voice Staff

Where can my child attend preschool or Head Start classes? Can I attend ESL classes? Is there some place my teenager can hang out after school? A variety of services are available for residents of NewHolly on the NewHolly Neighborhood Campus and the surrounding community. For those seeking volunteer opportunities, many programs do have volunteer positions available.

SHA community building questions may be directed to Community Builder Joy Bryngelson at 206-723-1722. To see a complete directory online, go to www.newhollycampus.org. A summary of services follows:

Child Development

Neighborhood House Head Start & Early Head Start

Head Start (for ages three to five) and Early Head Start (for ages newborn to three and pregnant women and their families) are available for income-eligible families. Morning and afternoon Head Start classes are available Monday through Thursday at the NewHolly Family Building. For more information, contact Neighborhood House Family Support Supervisor Million Lions at 206-461-8430, ext. 246, or million@nhwa.org.

Early Head Start provides weekly home visits for pregnant women and families with children under three. For more information, contact Neighborhood House’s Kendra Rodriguez at 206-760-9330, ext. 17 or ken.drac@nhwa.org.

Citizenship Classes

Center for Career Alternatives

Counseling

Citizenship Classes Center for Career Alternatives

Center for Career Alternatives provides citizenship instruction with English as a Second Language (ESL) for individuals preparing for the United States naturalization interview.

For information about programs at NewHolly, contact the NewHolly Youth and Family Center at 206-723-4073. For other Center for Career Alternatives programs, contact the main office at 206-322-9080.

Counseling

Atlantic Street Center Youth & Family Counseling

The program provides youth and family case management, counseling and therapy for youth ages six to 18 and their families. Services can take place in NewHolly or surrounding area.

For more information, call 206-723-4073.

Education

Catholic Community Services Youth Tutoring

Provides late afternoon and evening program for elementary, middle and high school students. Students receive help with homework, build language arts and math skills, play educational games, read books, use computers and work with a caring staff and volunteer tutors.

For more information, contact Education Coordinator Teresa Miller at 206-725-7942.

Vietnamese Friendship Association

The Vietnamese Friendship Association provides academic and cultural enrichment programs, including an after-school tutoring program, a Saturday morning Vietnamese language and heritage program, and a summer program to low-income Vietnamese youth from the ages of nine to 18.

For more information, call 206-760-5173.

Employment

Foundation for Work

The Foundations for Work program assists low-income people with finding and retaining work so that the individuals can become self-sufficient. Work creates stability and when someone’s work is stable; their housing situation is also stable. People of low-income (175% of the poverty level) are eligible. Contact Shuker Olow at 206-412-3766.
Catholic Community Services offers one-on-one tutoring

By Claire McDaniel

Seattle Housing Authority

Since 1991 Catholic Community Services has been helping kids succeed at school through their youth tutoring programs. Through one-on-one instruction with a volunteer tutor, students improve basic skills and get specific help with their homework.

The Youth Tutoring Program (YTP) is currently operating tutoring centers in five Seattle Housing Authority locations — Yesler Terrace, Rainier Vista, NewHolly, High Point and Jackson Park.

Recently on a rainy night in the Yesler Terrace YTP center at Yesler and Broadway, Najib Ibrahim, 10, met with his tutor Adam Boender. When asked why he participates in the program he said simply, “To learn.”

Boender said that his writing has improved as a result of his tutoring sessions with his 7-year-old tutor. “My stories used to always be short and now they are longer. My spelling has improved too,” said Ibrahim. When asked why he likes his tutor, he replied, “He’s funny.”

Boender, one of 16 tutors at the Yesler Terrace center on this night, volunteers as a way to be more involved with his community. “It seemed like something fun to do. I like kids and I like teaching so it worked out well,” he said.

Of course tutoring has both challenges and rewards.

“You’ve got to learn how to work with the kids,” Boender said. “They are all so different. It was challenging in the beginning trying to figure out how to get Naji to be an active participant.”

Tutoring has taught Boender patience. He knows he and Ibrahim will find a way to accomplish their goals in any given tutoring session.

“If I don’t become frustrated then he doesn’t become frustrated,” he said. It’s also a good feeling for Boender to supplement Ibrahim’s time in school where students don’t necessarily get the one-on-one attention they might need.

About 45 kids in grades first through 12th are served at the Yesler Terrace YTP Center, and almost all the kids attend three sessions a week.

At the center library books are available for use in the first portion of the tutoring session, which consists of 10 minutes of reading together.

Amy Kopriva has been the YTP Center Supervisor for over three years.

“Our goal is to accomplish three activities each time the kids come in: reading, skill building and daily homework,” she explained.

In addition to the 10-minute reading session, there is skill building in math and language arts, which includes pronunciation and grammar.

“The kids get assessed when they join the program so that we know what level they are on for both subjects. They are assigned skill packet binders to use to track their academic progress throughout the program. They work on this portion for about 20 to 25 minutes per session. The rest of the time is devoted to homework,” she said.

Most of the families in the program are immigrants or refugees. For 80 percent of the families English is not the primary language spoken at home.

Kopriva said, “Helping to build friendships and foster mentoring between kids and adults is one of our main goals.”

Surveys of the parents, volunteers and teachers are done each year to find out how much students have improved in their school work. This feedback helps to measure the success of the tutoring program.

Although the Yesler Terrace YTP Center is not currently in need of tutors, the NewHolly and High Point centers could use more volunteers. If you are interested in being a tutor in one of these communities or need more information, contact Kate Harr, YTP volunteer coordinator, at 206-328-5659 or kateh@ccsww.org.

Or contact the YTP Program Manager, Cicily Nordness, at 206-328-5719 or cicily@ccsww.org.

For general information on the program, go to www.ccsww.org, click “Children and Youth,” then click “Youth Tutoring Program.”

NewHolly

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Youth, Teens and Family

Atlantic Street Center Teen Center and Youth

Teen programs include leadership development, life and social skills groups, arts, cultural activities, sports, drop-in recreation, movie nights, homework assistance, field trips, and community service opportunities, Summer Academy and Summer Tennis Clinic. The program is for teens ages 13 to 18; limited programming is available for youth ages nine to 12.

Atlantic Street Center Family Center

Programs include U.S. citizenship classes, ESL conversation, parent and family support, health and nutrition information, family activities and field trips, school support, community service and volunteer opportunities, voter registration, sewing group, support groups, consultation, resource referrals, family study time, and NewHolly tenant eviction prevention services, Girl Scouts, Vocinam (marital arts), and youth and family counseling.

For more information on either center, call 206-723-4073.

Girl Scouts

NewHolly Girl Scouts is a year-round program helping girls, 5 to 17 years old, to grow strong in mind, body and spirit. Under the supervision of caring adults, girls experience the fun of learning new skills, making good friends, and fantastic opportunities!

Lots of hands-on activities, learning life skills, safe indoor and outdoor adventures, enriching experiences for girls’ development and academic progress, and caring about others through community service projects.

Open to all girls residing at NewHolly and the surrounding neighborhoods.

For more information, call 206-407-6758.

Neighborhood House

Located above the library, Neighborhood House provides essential case management to ensure self-sufficiency and independence. Services include assistance in accessing public benefits, communication with SHA, utility assistance, information, referral, translation/interpretation and advocacy.

Residents for these services must be of East African descent and currently reside in NewHolly or be former residents of Holly Park who relocated due to redevelopment. Neighborhood House also provides a broad array of services to Seniors 55+ which include the above listed services plus specialized services related to aging in place.

For more information, call 206-768-6628.

Information for this article was taken from www.newhollycampus.org.

Notes from the Manager

By Judi Carter

Senior Property Manager

During Annual inspections of the first section of Yesler Terrace, it was found that many units have mice. These pests are a serious problem and we need your assistance to get rid of them.

It is important that you wipe down the top of the stove, counter tops, tables and any place that there might be crumbs and carefully sweep the floors every night. It is very important that you take the garbage out every night before you go to bed.

Mice are small and do not need much food to live very comfortably. At least once a week, you need to move the refrigerator out to sweep and mop behind it. Frequently, things that are stored on top may slip below.

Mice are opportunistic. They will eat most anything we humans would eat. Foods that come in boxes or bags are very attractive to mice. If at all possible, these need to be stored in plastic or metal containers with tight lids.

If you do not have such a container handy, store these items in the refrigerator until you can get a plastic or metal container. Many people feed their pets outside. If you have a pet, be sure to put the food up and wash the food dish after the animal has eaten, whether you feed it outside or inside.

If you have a bird, it is important to keep the bird seed cleaned up daily, especially at night when mice like to forage for food. But please do not feed the wild birds outside, as it attracts not only mice, but other rodents as well.

If you notice small holes in your apartment, they could be mouse holes. Contact the management office to put in a work order to have any holes patched. The telephone number is 206-223-4983.

Lastly, and nearly as important as these other measures, please contact the management office to have your unit treated if you have mice. If you are among those who do not now have mice, you can be assured that you will not get them, if you adhere to these precautions. If we work together, I know that we can get rid of these pests.

Emergency Preparedness tip of the month: Last year I suggested that you should all set aside some canned and dry goods and a can opener to be used in the event of an emergency. We need to periodic use the food that we set aside and buy new, so that it does not get past the expiration date.

A friend of mine broke her leg in a fall, and was so happy that she had the emergency food to eat after she got out of the hospital. While it was not a big area disaster, it was very nice to have the food handy to eat until she could get someone to go to the store for her.

She will be replacing a couple of cans a month until she has enough food set aside to last her for three days again, so that if she needs it for another emergency, it will be there.
**Health tips for parents**

**Советы родителям**

У моего ребенка жар. В каком случае надо звать врача? Как лучше всего остановить кровотечение из носа?

Жар или лихорадка — это когда температура тела поднимается до 39 градусов по Фаренхайту (и выше). Температура также может измеряться подмышкой, но это неточный метод измерения. Жар обычно указывает на инфекцию. Дайте ребенку Тыдуал для детей сперва своего врача и следуйте указаниям и если температура не падает, посадите ребенка в ванну с прокалённой водой не глубже трёх сантиметров и обвейте мочалкой.

Всегда читайте этикетки на лекарствах, которые вы покупаете без рецепта, чтобы определить нужную дозу и применять измеренные прописания в пакете с лекарством, а не столько ложек. Никогда не давайте ребенку аспирин. Это может ухудшить состояние вашего ребенка.

Ситуации, при которых вы должны срочно позвонить врачу или немедленно обратиться за помощью, если у ребенка:

- затруднённое дыхание;
- нестабилизирующее кровотечение; 
- кровь в моче или в кале;
- повод и остановка менструации на 6 часов;
- затруднение глотания или потеря аппетита;
- Жар и одновременное одышка.

Лучший способ остановки кровотечения из носа — это усадить ребенка, наклонить его голову вперёд, заставить его легко вдохнуть и выдохнуть через нос 10 минут подряд. Если кровотечение не останавливается, повторите то же самое в следующие 10 минут.

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