Housing help on its way for homeless elementary students and their families

By Kristin O'Donnell
SHA resident

Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) Board of Commissioners voted on Aug. 15 to move forward with the new Home from School (HFS) pilot project designed to help shelter some of Bailey Gatzert Elementary School’s homeless students.

The HFS project involves SHA, Seattle Public Schools, City of Seattle, and a local service provider to offer public housing or vouchers to homeless families who are enrolled at the School.

HFS will help families find permanent accommodations in the School’s attendance area, which extends from roughly I-5 to 20th Avenue, between Cherry and Dearborn Streets.

An Aug. 10 presentation to the Yesler Terrace Community Council by SHA Executive Director Andrew Lofton generated strong approval. Through an interpreter, council members said they felt fortunate to have homes and believe it necessary for these children to have a roof over their heads, too.

At Bailey Gatzert more than 40 percent of students are English Language Learners, and more than 90 percent qualify for Free and Reduced Priced Lunches. Around one in five students are homeless or unstably housed.

In 2015, 31 percent of the students who began the school year at Bailey Gatzert were no longer enrolled there at the end of the year.

The School’s student achievement ratings have improved significantly in recent years, but are still considerably below district mean.

About one in five students who attends Bailey Gatzert Elementary School is homeless or without stable housing. The Seattle Housing Authority will help launch a new program this fall aimed at providing shelter for these students and their families.

SHA's Hoa Mai Gardens begins to blossom

Newest Yesler replacement housing will feature 111 units with views of Beacon Hill and Sodo

At left, workers are nearly finished constructing the wood framing portion of Hoa Mai Gardens, the next new Seattle Housing Authority building in Yesler, to be completed in Summer 2017. The six-story building will provide 111 one-to-four bedroom affordable housing units built around a courtyard, and will contain a play area, townhouses, social services offices and a parking garage. The name Hoa Mai refers to a beautiful yellow flower that is part of Vietnamese Lunar New Year celebrations and is believed to bring luck. The site overlooks Little Saigon and the International District, and is well-connected to the 10th Ave. S Hillclimb and the future Yesler Park.
Health Notes

A column devoted to your well-being

**Get a healthy start to the new school year with vaccinations**

**By Jane Hellenkamp**

Project Coordinator

Another summer has come to an end and with a new school year comes new routines and sharing the roads once again with school buses, pedestrians and bicyclists. Whether you or your children walk, bike or take the bus, a healthy dose of common sense and preventative steps can keep us all safe this fall.

**Emergency contacts**

Talk to your child and make sure they know their home phone number and address, and how to contact parents or trusted adults at work.

Check with your school to make sure it has the most updated emergency contact information for you.

**Pedestrian safety**

If your child walks to school, practice the route with them before the first day of classes. Find the safest route possible by using sidewalks and bus stops. Watch out for potential hazards, like dangerous intersections, and change the route if a better option is available.

If the route is along busy streets, try to organize a walking group with other children from the neighborhood. Respect crossing guards and obey all traffic signals. Teach kids to put their phones away while they are walking to school. Phones are a dangerous distraction for pedestrians that cause more than 16,000 injuries to walkers each year. Besides, phones are less likely to be stolen if kept hidden.

**Driver safety**

The same rules apply for drivers—put that phone away! It is illegal and dangerous to be on your phone while driving.

There are more drivers in school zones during the school year: children, businesses, law enforcement and others. Talk to your child and make sure they know their home phone number and address, and carefully through the area.

**Backpack safety**

Does your child’s backpack weigh more than he or she does? Back and shoulder pain and poor posture can all be attributed to hauling too much gear. The American Chiropractic Association recommends a backpack weigh no more than 10 percent of a child’s weight. For a 100-pound child that means carrying no more than 10 pounds.

**Bike safety**

Always make children wear a bicycle helmet—even on short rides.

Stay on the right side of the road, in the same direction as traffic. Use bike lanes if they exist.

Have kids wear bright or reflective clothing to make them more visible.

**School bus safety**

While waiting for the bus, stand at least 10 feet back from the curb. Board the bus only after it has come to a complete stop and the driver has instructed you to get on.

Children should sit down quickly on the bus, keep aisles clear, and stay seated until they arrive at their final destination.

Parents should walk young children to school, along with children taking new routes or attending new schools, at least for the first week to ensure they know how to get there safely.

The mission of Seattle Neighborhood Group is to prevent crime and build community through partnerships with residents, businesses, law enforcement and other organizations. Contact Jake at 206-323-7094 or jhellenkamp@gmail.com.
Four well-known artists will bring art to life at Yesler

By Seattle Housing Authority

SHA receives kudos for keeping residents safe

The national Housing Authority Insurance (HAI) Group has named Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) as the winner of its 2016 Risk Management Award in the Resident Safety category.

As part of its ongoing commitment to providing a safe living environment for residents and a safe work environment for staff members, SHA implemented a new scored Facility Safety Audit (FSA) in January 2015. The FSA enhances the agency’s safety cultures and regulatory compliance for its buildings.

In the 2015 revision of the previous FSA, which had been in place for several years, new sections were added to improve overall safety at each site location, including General Safety, General Housekeeping, Hazard Communication, Egress, Fire and Electrical Hazards Prevention and Safety, Building Exterior and Grounds, Workplace Violence Prevention and Safe Work Behaviors.

“On behalf of our residents, we are honored to receive the HAI Group’s Risk Management Award for Resident Safety,” said Andrew Lotfson, executive director of SHA.

“We are continuously finding ways to improve the safety of our buildings and appreciate this recognition of our efforts.”

The new FSA has further strengthened the partnership between the Safety, Health and Emergency Manager and Property Management. Once an audit is completed, results are shared with the building’s property management staff and work orders are issued to fix any problems.

SHA also implemented a recognition program for buildings that score 90 percent or higher to boost morale and drive heightened attention to safety throughout the organization.

New RAC president wants all residents’ voices to be heard

By Lee Suitor

President, Resident Action Council (RAC)

There has never been a way for me to run from organizing communities and building bridges. It has always been a pleasure and an honor to be asked to lead, and for me it is fun.

In my professional career I performed classical music, and was a conductor, composer, organist, director of adult and children’s choirs and a private instructor. I served large congregations and held university positions.

The skill set that I hope to lead RAC with as its new president grows directly out of these past experiences. A musician learns to be comfortable in front of large groups of people, to think quickly on one’s feet, and to have an instinct about when to lead and when to listen, to say ‘yes’ as often as possible, and have the wisdom to say ‘no’ when necessary.

Meet the artists:

Pat Graney Company

The Pat Graney Company creates, performs and tours new dance/installation works and conducts arts-based educational programming. Their keeping the Faith Artist Team residency program features dance, expository writing, American Sign Language and visual arts.

George Lee

George Lee is a sculptor and installation artist specializing in site-specific art, community engagement, and investigating unseen elements and interconnections in everyday lives. Lee’s work engages multicultural and underserved communities.

D.K. Pan

D.K. Pan investigates the intersection of place and memory through video, performance, installation and interventions. Pan is interested in art as a catalyst for social change, in service of love and freedom.

Charles Parrish

Charles Parrish is a sculptor who has lived at Yesler for 30 years. Specializing in stone carving, Parrish creates portraits in low relief and three dimensional forms. He considers his work to be about the politics of black people and often chooses black historical figures as his subjects.

“Yesler residents want to live side by side in peace with equal respect for all. I want to instill that in my work,” says Parrish.

SHA seeks input on 2017 Budget and Annual MTW Plan

Residents and community members are invited to comment on Seattle Housing Authority’s (SHA) 2017 Budget and Moving to Work (MTW) Annual Plan. The budget and plan outline the agency’s priorities and resources for the coming year.

Activities under consideration in the 2017 MTW Plan include a new initiative that would allow SHA to participate in a research partnership intended to help the agency learn which strategies most effectively support households with Housing Choice Vouchers which choose to lease units in high opportunity areas.

Comments may be submitted until Sept. 30 via www.seattlehousing.org or by calling 206-615-3576. SHA will also present the plan and budget at a public hearing at 10 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 16 at the Central Office at 190 Queen Anne Ave N.

The public hearing is one of several opportunities to provide comments about the plan and budget. Comments will also be accepted by phone, email or U.S. mail. In addition, SHA staff will meet with public housing representatives at the Joint Policy Advisory Committee and with the Seattle Senior Housing Program Advisory Committee in September.

Comments will be shared with the Board of Commissioners who will take them into consideration. This may result in modifications to the plan or budget. At the Board of Commissioners meeting in mid-October, staff will ask the Board to adopt the budget and plan for 2017. Following Board adoption, the plan will be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for approval.
Giving peace a chance while learning to dance

By BriEnA k. Ay Neth
SHA resident

On Wednesday, Sept. 21, the United Nations will observe the International Day of Peace. In 1981, the UN General Assembly designated this day to be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace. Since then, millions of people worldwide recognize those 24 hours as a time without war or violence.

All participating nations, including ours, will honor a kind of ‘cease-fire’ and promote world peace through activities and actions large and small. Corporations, nonprofits, schools and colleges will celebrate with moments of silence, the releasing of live doves, and engaging in dance and theatre.

For Seattle Danzas of Universal Peace, Sept. 21 will not be any different than any other Wednesday evening. That’s because Danzas of Universal Peace (DUP), a nonprofit founded in 1982, meets every Wednesday from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Keystone Congregational Church in Wallingford to celebrate the world’s major and minor religions. This celebration includes singing sacred phrases and songs.

Zarifah Spain, a certified DUP dance leader, says anyone of any faith can participate.

The goal for Spain and the other dance instructors and musicians is to create harmony within the dance circle each week, encouraging newcomers and those returning to join a sense of inner peace.

No previous dancing or singing experience is necessary to join in, just a willingness to participate. The instructors are volunteers, and a recommended donation of $5 is appreciated, but no one is turned away if they can’t afford it.

“We’ve gotten so far into division and hatred that we need to bring whatever peace into the world we can,” says Elizabeth Dequine, also a certified dance leader and musician. “The dances are a medium for this. I bring this wherever I go.”

On Sept 21, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will ring the Peace Bell at the annual ceremony in New York in observance of the International Day of Peace.

And the world will come together to recognize that a sustainable future cannot exist without sustainable peace.

Bailey Gatzert
Continued from Page 1

averages. The School does provide extra support to students and families through an on-site health clinic, a full-time family support worker and a partnership with Seattle University’s Center for Community Engagement, which offers tutoring and after-school and extended school year opportunities.

Those support services help students overcome the barriers to learning that are related to poverty. Through this pilot program that provides stable housing, organizers say the ability to stay in one school should help stabilize the school and lift test scores even more.

Initially, support in locating affordable housing in the School’s attendance area will be offered to homeless families whose children enroll in Bailey Gatzert at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year. SHA estimates that 35 to 40 families will be eligible.

A case manager will work with the families and housing providers in the area to locate permanent housing, and case management will continue for three to six months after families are housed.

Getting placed in a home will not happen immediately—although these families will have priority for housing vouchers, some homeless families have issues in addition to affordability that may complicate finding a place to rent. Additionally, vacancies are rate in the near-downtown neighborhood, Yesler waiting lists are closed and relocated Yesler residents still have first priority to return to the redeveloped community.

If public housing units aren’t available, families will be given vouchers that can be used with private and nonprofit housing.

If the first phase of the project is successful, more families will be considered. Tacoma’s Housing Authority and School District are operating a similar program in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. That program, now in its fifth year, requires substantial parent involvement, provides intensive social services to support that involvement and has shown positive results.

For families with children enrolled at Bailey Gatzert Elementary, please contact Keith Ervin who is the Family Support Worker at the school, 206-252-2816.
Making the grade: RV teens get A’s for effort and achievement

By YUSUF AHMED and MARTIN VAN

SPL’s Special Collections on the verge of giving up.

\[ \text{NextGen Views & Voices} \]

Editor's note: The Voice will periodically feature guest columns by local residents who are just beginning their college careers. They’ll be sharing what they’re learning, planning for and dreaming about during this very important time. If you're an SHA resident and want to contribute to The Voice, contact Editor Nancy Gardner.

Former SHA resident

If you were to ask me several years ago what I was going to do with my life I probably would have given you a blank look. I was an active socializer who hung around the party scene often, but was still able to pull decent grades, at least good enough not to ruin my chances of ever attending a university.

My dreams at that time revolved much more around being cool than having ambition to pursue a career. I just didn’t think about the future. Even though I had one brother in college, it just wasn’t on my mind because of the many distractions in my life at that time.

During my sophomore year my family moved and I was devastated to be taken away from the school in Seattle that had become special to me. I transferred to Todd Beamer High School in Federal Way, which was foreign to me and I was not ready to say goodbye to all my friends in Seattle just yet.

It felt like I had been tossed into the frigid waters in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. I was afraid and alone in a sea full of strange creatures. It was a monumental moment in my life and I had to learn how to adjust to the situation and focus on moving forward.

And then came my junior year, which didn’t get any easier. I was exhausted from taking challenging classes, being involved in sports and bouncing between Seattle and Federal Way to see my friends. I was very discouraged. My life had hit a low and I was on the verge of giving up.

But I owe my life’s turnaround to the luck of being chosen to travel to Ecuador for a school trip. It was very unexpected and at the time I was oblivious to the lasting effects that this opportunity would produce.

"Odds, Ends and Curiosities" will reveal some of the oldest, smallest, biggest and most bizarre items in its Special Collections. The tours are free but registration is required. For more information, call the library, 206-386-4636.

Making the grade: RV teens get A’s for effort and achievement

Members of the Teen Internship Program in Rainier Vista completed a lot of community building projects this summer. We have helped plan big events like August’s Night Out party with help from residents and Jen Calleja, the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) community builder.

The Night Out party was a success—the Seattle Police Department said they saw more people at our Night Out event than any other place in the city. Our goal was to bring residents together and we succeeded!

During our time in the program, we have partnered with other organizations to do our community building work. For example, we partnered up with Horn of Africa and Seattle Department of Transportation to create a mural as part of the Rainier Vista Pave-

Content guide

Don’t see your neighborhood section? Consult the guide below to find the logos that correspond to your community.

RV

Rainier Vista News

Please recycle me

Rainier Vista’s Teen Internship Program members learn team building skills at High Rope course above. The group (below) took on a number of volunteer projects this summer, including the Night Out party and cleaning up area parks.

In this tiny South American country I discovered how blessed I was to be living in a nation in which clean running water is readily accessible to everyone. It was after being exposed to Ecuador, where poverty was an epidemic taking over, that I decided I was going to make a difference, and that college was going to help me do this.

I had previously flunked a class as a junior, but by the end of the first semester my efforts had started to pay off. In fact, during the first semester of my senior year, I was awarded Student of the Semester.

I distinguished myself as an outstanding student in a short time period. I determined not to be held back by my academic history or prior mistakes in my personal life. I became very active in various clubs, volunteered to be a student representative for the school district, and established a few of my own projects that will carry a legacy at Todd Beamer High School.

For everything that I have gone through, I must say, I am ecstatic to be following in my brother’s footsteps and attending Western Washington University in Bellingham later this month.

However, my story would not be complete without recognizing the many cheer leaders who I have in my life who never stopped giving me unconditional love and support. That would primarily be my fam-

iy, and in particular my wonderful parents. I would not be the man I am today without their love and wisdom that they have passed down to me. I know that they are so proud to call me their son and excited for me to continue to chase the stars.

"Rainier Vista News", "High Point Herald", "New Holly Notes", "Rainer Vista News", "Yesler Happenings"

Please recycle me
A Night Out of summer block parties, music and fun
SHA residents celebrated national Night Out Aug. 2 while others enjoyed community get-togethers

(Clockwise from top right) Vietnamese dancers entertain Rainier Vista Night Out attendees while a group of women chose to play tetherball. A trio of friends pause while Rainier Vista resident photographer Jesse Young takes their picture. (Bottom right) Former Yesler resident and current property manager Fitsum Abraha enjoys the Yesler South Area Block Party with two longtime tenants. (Bottom left) No tickets were given out to partygoers at Hamilton Viewpoint Park in West Seattle. (At left) Youths at High Point's Mulberry Park Block Party pause for a selfie, and (above, left) 100 residents of Jefferson Terrace savor the summer barbecue. (Top left) Lake City House resident Lynda Musselman cruises to the party in style.
Hay que mantener vigentes las vacunas infantiles para el año escolar de 2016-17/By Leahla Contreras

El departamento de Salud Pública de Seattle y el condado de King les ha pedido a las familias en el condado de King que se preparen para el nuevo año escolar asegurándose de que las vacunas de sus niños estén al día.

Hasta ahora, el estado de Washington ha requerido que los niños que están en kindergarten hasta el ocho grado se vacunen con tres dosis de varicela, a todos los estudiantes de varicela desde el ocho grado en adelante, cuatro dosis de la vacuna de polio, y dos dosis de MMR (paparugas, sarampión y rubéola).

Los padres o tutores legales tienen el derecho de rechazar las vacunas para sus hijos por razones médicas, religiosas o filosóficas. Sin embargo, hay riesgos cuando uno decide por no vacunar. Los individuos parcialmente o no inmunizados corren un riesgo aumentado de infectarse con una enfermedad prevenible por las vacunas cuando llegan a exponerse a la enfermedad, y pueden contagiar a los demás. Las personas que el sistema inmunológico débil o con problemas crónicos de salud tienen un riesgo de desarrollar complicaciones serias como consecuencia de las enfermedades.

HAY GIÚ CHO VIẾCH CHUNG NGUYÀ CUA CON EM LUÔN CẬP NHẬT CHO MÙA HỌC 2016-2017

So Y Tế Công Cộng Seattle và quận King đang yêu cầu các gia đình trong quận cần nhắc nhở các em học về việc cập nhật các liều thuốc chủng ngừa Công cộng cho năm học 2016-2017.

Đặc biệt, các gia đình cần quan tâm đến việc việc giữ cho việc chủng ngừa bịnh thủy đậu, bịnh bại liệt, và 2 liều chủng ngừa bịnh các loại trên cho tuổi lớn (11 tuổi – 17 tuổi)

Cusboonaysintja joogtaah ee ee talaalka caruurta sanad dugsiyeedka waxaa laga doonayaa in aaney labac cirbaadooyin 2016-2017/BY Mahamoud Gaayte

Waxduu caafimaadka guud ee Seattle iyo raxa ayaa ka codsanaa qoyskaa ku nool king County iney isu diyaariyaan sanaddugsiedkeeda cibow uu u ahayn u Culadaa caruurtoo dhamaysintjiyaha.

Gobolka Washinton waxaa horayn sharci ahaan in ahaan ee talaalka dhigaa xadaanaa iila fasalka 9aad ay qaataan 2 cirbadood oo ah talaalka Varriella (Busbus ama Hababa baas). Laga bilaabo sanad-dugsiyeedkan cibow, dhamaan ardayda fasalka 9aad iila fasalka 12aad waa labaado aan ay qaatan 2ba cirbaadooyin oo talaalkaas ah ama iney Kenaan cadhyn karun caafimaad iyo horay ugu qaatay talaalka. Ardayda xadaanaa iisakka 9aad waa in ay qaatan talaalkaas.

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Cusboonaysintja joogtaah ee ee talaalka caruurta sanad dugsiyeedka waxaa laga doonayaa in aaney labac cirbaadooyin 2016-2017/BY Mahamoud Gaayte

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October 27 - 30, 2016
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- No advance registration: FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED
- Highest demand for tickets on Saturday & Sunday
- Interpreters available
- FREE parking in two locations:
  - Mercer St. Garage, 650 3rd Ave N
  - 1st Ave Garage, 220 1st Ave N
- Come prepared for a long day with food, comfortable clothing and any daily medications

All Services are FREE

DENTAL: Fillings, extractions, x-rays, deep cleanings

VISION: Vision screening, complete dilated eye exams, glaucoma screening, diabetic retinopathy, reading glasses and prescription eyeglasses. **Bring a current eyeglass prescription (no older than one year) to skip the exam and just get eyeglasses.**

MEDICAL: Physical exams, PAP smears, x-rays, EKGs, mammograms, ultrasounds, foot care, wound care, select lab tests, behavioral health, immunizations, acupuncture, naturopathic and chiropractic care, physical therapy consultation, nutrition and pharmacy counseling

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