

The mission of the King County Housing Authority is to provide quality affordable housing opportunities and to build communities through partnerships. We encourage self-sufficiency and we protect the dignity of people with limited resources while safeguarding the public trust.

**Brittany Park renovated**  
RESIDENTS VOICE APPROVAL  
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# KCHA NEWS

July  
2008

A resource for King County Housing Authority residents

## Southwest area youth win academic honors from Boys & Girls Clubs

By HEATHER MILLER  
King County Housing Authority

Two Firwood Circle elementary school students have made history.

Amina Abdalla, 10, and Sandy Ngo, 11, are the first members of the Auburn Boys & Girls Club to win Academic Excellence Awards. The Boys & Girls Clubs of King County give out the awards annually to youth at clubs throughout the county.

"It was really exciting," Sandy said of winning the award, which came with a blue and gold trophy.

"I was really amazed," Amina said. "It was the best day ever."

Maira Goldsby, the Auburn club's program director, said both girls were well-deserving. Amina has worked hard to improve her spelling skills — an effort that has improved her school work across the board and boosted her confidence. Sandy has a very strong academic record and always is willing to help at the club however she can.

"It was really hard to choose just two kids because a lot of the kids here do really well, but these two really stood out," Goldsby said. "I was so proud to have two members recognized from Auburn for the first time."

Amina and Sandy say they work hard at school because they know that getting a good education will be important in their fu-



PHOTO BY HEATHER MILLER

Amina Abdalla, 10, (left) and Sandy Ngo, 11, (right) are the first members of the Auburn Boys & Girls Club to win Academic Excellence Awards.

tures. And they have some advice for others who might be struggling at school.

"Really take your time and stay focused," Sandy said. "If you really listen, you can learn a lot of stuff."

Perhaps most importantly, said Amina, students should remember to believe in themselves.

"Try harder and think more," she said. "You'll be great at it."

## Housing association, KCHA award scholarships to Northeast area resident

By HEATHER MILLER  
King County Housing Authority

Juanita Court resident Behzad Fathi moved his family from Iran to Washington state three years ago because he wanted to build a better life for his two young children.

And for Fathi, earning a college degree is a big part of that new life. He's studying accounting at Bellevue Community College. Once he gets an associate's degree there, Fathi, 46, wants to continue his education and eventually become a Certified Public Accountant.



Behzad Fathi

"I love accounting, and it's the reason I came here with my family," he said.

Fathi recently won the Regional Community College Scholarship worth \$2,000 from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). The two-year scholarship is payable at \$1,000 per year. Fathi also will be awarded an additional \$250 for the first year from the King County Housing Authority. He said the awards to help pay for his tuition are extremely important because his college expenses can add up quickly. Fathi works part-time while he's going to school, and in addition to tuition, he has to buy college textbooks and pay the family's regular bills.

"I need this kind of money for my life here," he said. "It was really happy to win the award. I can't describe it."

Fathi calls his future accounting career the backbone of his family's new life in the United States and said the recent scholarship gets him one step closer to pursuing that path.

"It's been a long way to get there," he said of earning his CPA certification. "It is my dream."

## Better Budgeting Basics – A New Series

By KCHA STAFF

One of the toughest challenges that many of us face is learning how to manage our money. That's especially true as prices for some of our most basic needs continue to go up. This month's feature focuses on how to build a budget that will work for your family — and hopefully help you save money as well.

**Getting started: Five steps to develop-**

**ing a budget.**

1. The first step to setting up a realistic budget is to determine how much monthly income your family has available. Add up the annual, after-tax income from everyone in your household and divide the result by 12. That will tell you how much money you have to budget with every month.

2. Next, make a list of your monthly expenses and how much money you'll need for each one. Remember to include food, transportation, rent, utilities, telephone, cable and/or Internet connection, any insurance policies that you have and anything else that's an expense specific to your household. For expenses that vary from month to month, like your energy bill, determine the average monthly cost over the course of a year and use that number in your monthly budget.

3. Your budget also should reflect costs that might come up only once a year — like back-to-school clothes for your kids or getting new license plate tags for your vehicle. Figure out how much you'll spend on those one-time costs and divide that number by 12 so you know how much you'll need to set aside every month to pay for them.

4. Once you've tallied up all of your essential monthly expenses, subtract the

total from your monthly income. The result will be how much money you have left over to pay for anything that is not essential — like renting a movie or going out for ice cream.

5. Try to set aside at least some of the money that you have left for non-essential items and save it. Even setting aside \$5 or \$10 a week can help you build a savings that will come in handy in your future, particularly if your household faces an unexpected financial need.

**Trimming your budget: Five steps to balancing your budget.**

If, after running the numbers, you discover that you have more expenses than you do income, here are some potential ways to reduce your monthly spending:

1. Cut out long-distance phone calls and ask family and friends to call you. If you can't, at least cut down on the number of long-distance calls that you make.

2. Don't gamble, even on weekly lottery tickets. If you spend \$5 a week on the lottery, that's \$260 a year.

3. Smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol can be expensive habits. If you can cut one or both substances out of your life, that will save you money.

4. It can feel like a big sacrifice to cut

out entertainment activities — like going to the movies. But if you're having trouble balancing your budget, it's important to remember that entertainment doesn't count as one of your household's basic needs. The key is striking the right balance. Maybe you can afford to go to the movies once a month but not every week.

5. The same goes for eating out. You'll save a lot of money by preparing a vast majority of your meals at home. Save going out to restaurants for truly special occasions.

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# Greenbridge, Park Lake II form Resident Council

BY HEATHER MILLER  
King County Housing Authority

Greenbridge resident Alice Terry came to a recent community meeting partly because she hoped to get to know her neighbors better. She also wanted to see if she could help with an ongoing effort to bring the community together.

Terry left the meeting with both wishes fulfilled; she's now a member of a new Resident Council that represents KCHA's Greenbridge and Park Lake Homes II communities.

"I want to learn the ins and outs of being an advocate for the community," Terry said. "I want to make a difference."

The new council includes representatives from several of the different cultures that live in Greenbridge and Park Lake II such as Cambodian, U.S.-born American, Somali and Vietnamese. Each council member will act as a liaison between residents who share their cultural background and the community as a whole.

Among their priorities for the council, residents said they wanted to ensure that the neighborhood is a safe, inviting place for everyone.

"I want everyone to be able to work together and support each other," said Matlyn Smith, a Greenbridge resident.

A group of Greenbridge children also is forming a Youth Council to organize age-appropriate events and activities.

"I'm excited to have a place to hang out with our friends," said Jenny Nguyen, 11, who lives at Greenbridge.



PHOTO BY HEATHER MILLER

The newly formed Resident Council for Greenbridge and Park Lake Homes II paused for their first photo as a group after a recent community meeting at the Wiley Community Center. The council members are, from left to right, first row (starting with second from the left): Alice Terry, Nafisa Abdulle and Shugri Ugas; second row: Yvonne Auxier and Que Dinh; third row: Simom Sau and Thu Doan; last row: Sokha Kim. Also pictured in the first row (left) is Greenbridge resident Faduma Abu. Council members not pictured: Asha Nur and Sopheap Sok.

Nearly 75 residents came to the meeting. The event also drew 10 volunteers or staff from KCHA, the YWCA Seattle-King County-Snohomish County, Neighborhood House and the Southwest Branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs of King County. Members of the club's Torch Club for middle school students helped with the lunch.

To contact the new Resident Council or find out more, please e-mail [greenbridgecommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:greenbridgecommunitycouncil@gmail.com).

Synergy Construction, Inc. donated food for the meeting.

## Park Lake II revitalization to include new services, relocation help for residents

BY HEATHER MILLER  
King County Housing Authority

Community services to help everyone from infants to seniors would become available in the future at a revitalized Park Lake Homes II.

KCHA submitted an application June 20 for a HOPE VI grant that's needed to redevelop the White Center property. The proposed redevelopment would replace all 165 units affordable to public housing residents, add 100 to 130 for-sale homes, construct a mid-rise building for elderly and disabled residents and create new pedestrian trails and parks. KCHA also has plans to expand community services at Park Lake II.

Information gathered through a resident survey and community focus groups directed that community services plan.

"We are very excited about the opportunity, once the project is complete, to offer a lot of new services," said Linda Weedman, KCHA's resident services director. "We created this plan based on the services that you

and your neighbors told us you wanted."

### Community services

The three-story building for elderly and disabled residents would include ground-floor space for community service providers. In that building and in other spaces near Park Lake II, the following services are among those that are planned:

- Five-year case management — during the grant period — to increase self-sufficiency for adults who are able to work, seniors and adults with disabilities
- Employment services — during the grant period — for seniors and adults with disabilities interested in and able to work. Employment services and job search assistance for work-able adults will continue even after the grant ends.
- Child care and Head Start preschool programs for babies and toddlers through the Puget Sound Educational Service District
- On-site, after-school tutoring, summer enrichment and computer training for children in grades K-6

- A variety of activities for teenagers
- English as a Second Language (ESL) and General Educational Development (GED) classes
- A computer lab with Internet access
- Food bank delivery

### Relocation

If KCHA finds out in September that it won a HOPE VI grant, you will be notified immediately, and relocation preparation would start right away.

"That's when we're going to start talking with you about where you want to move," said Christina Friedenthal, KCHA's community services manager.

Everyone would need to move out by September 2009, but you would have some control about your exact move-out date. Your relocation options include:

- Participating in the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)
- Applying to transfer to another KCHA public housing property

Please see "Park Lake II" on Page 3

A new, three-story, 55-65-unit building for seniors and adults with disabilities would include ground-floor space for community service providers.

ILLUSTRATION BY GGLO  
ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGN



### YWCA Greenbridge Job Fair set for July

YWCA Greenbridge has organized a Job, Health and Educational Fair from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 15 in the Wiley Community Center Plaza, 9800 Eighth Ave. S.W., Seattle. The event is free.

Employers will be hiring for many types of positions, including, but not limited to, warehouse workers, forklift operators, call center employees, administrative assistants, stockers, executive office employees, retail sales associates, cashiers, customer service representatives, care givers and more. So bring your resumes!

Refreshments will be served, and there will be door prizes.

For more information, please call 206-763-6922.

## Get free dental care for your kids

The KC KIDS program provides free dental care coverage until Dec. 31 to children who qualify. The program is a King County children's oral health pilot project, supported by a \$1 million gift from Washington Dental Service in partnership with King County Executive Ron Sims' Children's Health Initiative.

Your family is eligible if:

- Your children live in King County and are younger than 20
- Your household income meets the program's guidelines, for example, a maximum of \$5,163 per month for a family of four
- Your children have no other dental coverage

You can apply today:

• Go to [www.kckidsdental.org](http://www.kckidsdental.org) and click on the link that reads "click here to get started."

• If you're eligible, fill out an application online or fill it out by hand. Enrollment applications are available in Spanish and Vietnamese.

• You'll need to print the application and either mail it to: KC KIDS COHP, P.O. Box 75025, Seattle, WA 98175-0025 or fax it to: 206-528-7391.

• Be sure to include proof of income for the past 30 days with your application. Proof of income can include paycheck stubs, the most recent tax return you have if you're self-employed or, if you receive government assistance, there are several ways to show proof such as a bank statement, check stub or other written documentation.

If you're accepted, you can choose any provider in the Washington Dental Service Participating Preferred Provider Organization network. You'll receive a handbook that includes a list of participating dentists.

You'll pay no out-of-pocket costs. Most dental services are covered. If you have questions about the KC KIDS program or need help enrolling, please call toll free between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday: 866-839-9466.



Neighborhood  
House

## Northlake House upgrades cheer residents



PHOTO BY FELIX RODRIGUEZ

Northlake House residents (from left to right) Harda Norris, Helen Zemann, Berta Gutierrez and Laverne Robbins show off one of the building's newly renovated hallways. The building recently added new paint and new lighting to hallways and common spaces.

BY FELIX RODRIGUEZ  
King County Housing Authority

A few finishing touches are all that's left to complete on a Northlake House renovation project that has brightened the building's hallways and common spaces.

The construction crew painted the walls in two lovely white and wheat-colored tones. Also in the hallways, the railings were replaced and new energy-saving lights were installed. What were once slightly dim hallways now feature bright lighting, and the entire building is a more attractive home for residents.

"It looks very classy," resident Marcela Priszner said, adding that she particularly likes the new railings.

In addition, all residents now have large, appealing bulletin boards next to their doors

that they are welcome to decorate. Those boards also are useful for KCHA staff to pin flyers, building activity calendars and other important information for residents, rather than slipping such items under doors.

The construction crew that worked on the renovations was outstanding. Crew members made every reasonable effort to minimize the inconveniences to the residents and became a temporary part of the building's community.

Many residents spoke fondly about crew members and invited them to join in a Northlake House potluck and birthday event in May. Though it was after their work hours, three crew members came.

Throughout the project, residents exhibited good spirits, and many have expressed appreciation for the recent changes to their home.

## Residents applaud renovation at Brittany Park

BY HEATHER MILLER  
King County Housing Authority

Resident Charlotte Trout says she's impressed with the recent transformation at Brittany Park — the building that's been her home for about two years.

She thinks installing a new sprinkler system in all residents' units was an important safety upgrade. And she likes the bright new paint colors that now adorn the walls in Brittany Park's common areas.

"I think it looks really classy," Trout said.

Residents, Normandy Park city officials and guests were thrilled by the chance to see the newly upgraded Brittany Park mixed-population building at a recent open house. The renovation project added critically needed fire-life safety system improvements, replaced the roof and remodeled hallways, the lobby and unit entryways.

Normandy Park Mayor Shawn McEvoy, Mayor Pro Tem George Hadley and City Manager Doug Schulze joined KCHA Executive Director Stephen Norman and staff from Housing Management, Resident Services and Capital Construction to celebrate the building's recent upgrades.

"It is very exciting to see the transformation," McEvoy said. "Brittany Park is a nicer place, but even more importantly, it's a safer place. I'm happy to see that you're taking good care of our residents."

Brittany Park is one of eight mixed-population buildings receiving vital safety improvements and beautifully remodeled community spaces as part of a recent \$25 million financing transaction.

"One of our top priorities is to maintain the highest possible standards of safety and well-being for our seniors and for persons with disabilities," Norman said.

In addition to the safety upgrades, Brittany Park units now have new doors and new



PHOTO BY HEATHER MILLER

KCHA Executive Director Stephen Norman (far left) and Normandy Park Mayor Shawn McEvoy (second from right) share a smile with Brittany Park residents Vera Asaturov (second from left) and Lorraine King (far right) at a recent open house to celebrate the building's renovation. A big thank you goes to King and Asaturov for opening their units to those who toured the building.

entryway flooring. The building's hallways also were repainted and received new lighting and new carpeting. And all residents now have fabric-covered bulletin boards hanging outside their doors — an addition that's a big hit with resident Mary Branham.

She changes her bulletin board decorations regularly to match upcoming holidays, and she keeps up several plaques that display mottos that she likes, such as "Live each day."

"I think everything looks really nice, and I especially like the bulletin boards," Branham said of the renovation.

The building's residents handled the construction project with grace and good humor.

"The construction crew was a really nice bunch," said James Stock, a resident who has lived at Brittany Park for more than four years. "They really made an improvement."

## Please remember: Fireworks are not allowed at KCHA properties

Though the upcoming Independence Day holiday can seem like a fun time to set off fireworks, please remember that **all fireworks are banned at King County Housing Authority properties.**

Some legal fireworks are marketed to consumers as "safe and sane." But in reality, all fireworks carry some safety risks. Many can cause devastating property fires or severe injuries, such as amputations. Additionally, discharging fireworks is against the law throughout the year — including July 4 — in a majority of King County cities.

KCHA considers the use of fireworks on our properties a serious offense, and violators will be served a three-day eviction notice.

Here are some 2006 statistics about fireworks in Washington state:

- There were 1,001 fireworks-related injuries and/or fires reported to the State Fire Marshal that year by fire departments and hospital emergency rooms.
- That's a 17 percent increase from the previous year total of 856.
- Of the 1,001 reports received, there were 794 fires and 207 injuries.
- Those incidents resulted in \$9 million in property loss.
- Roughly one-third of those reports occurred within King County.

A great way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public display produced by trained professionals. Their shows are spectacular, safe and can be a fun family tradition.

## Reduce your exposure to hazardous chemicals

BY KCHA STAFF

Residents throughout King County commonly use products that contain chemicals that are harmful to the environment and to human health. These chemicals are found in many products, such as those used to clean houses and maintain cars.

The Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County wants to help you learn more about how to identify these products so that you can lower your risk of exposure to hazardous chemicals and protect the environment.

**How do I know if I have any potentially hazardous products?**

The best way is to read product labels. Look for the signal words: POISON, DANGER, WARNING or CAUTION on the product label. Those signal words give you information about how likely the product is to cause illnesses or irritations that may appear immediately after you are directly exposed to it.

The signal word on the label applies to the most dangerous route of entry — such as swallowing, inhaling or exposure to the skin or to the eyes — for that particular product.

• POISON and DANGER indicate the highest hazard levels.

• POISON and DANGER mean that a product is highly hazardous and can cause injury or death if ingested, inhaled, absorbed through the skin or gets in the eyes. Look for these words on cleaners, polishes, paint strippers and pesticides, and try to use less hazardous products whenever possible.

• WARNING indicates the product is moderately hazardous to human health if people contact the product by swallowing, inhaling, getting it on their skin or in their eyes.

• CAUTION means the product is slightly hazardous by any of the routes of entry described above.

• Products that don't have any of these words on the label are the least hazardous and safest to use whenever possible.

**How should I dispose of hazardous products?**

There are many hazardous products that you shouldn't throw in the garbage. Those include household cleaners, automotive supplies, fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent bulbs and flammable or corrosive liquids. Instead, you should take them to a household hazardous waste site. There are three King County sites:

• **South Facility:** 8105 Fifth Ave. S., Seattle. Open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, except holidays. No appointment required.

• **Factoria Facility:** 13800 S.E. 32nd St., Bellevue. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, except holidays. No appointment required.

• **North Facility:** 12550 Stone Ave. N., Seattle. Open 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday through Tuesday, except holidays. No appointment required.

To find out limits on what you can bring or if you have questions, a staff member is available by calling the Household Hazards Line at 206-296-4692 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday and Friday, except holidays, or by sending an e-mail to [haz.waste@kingcounty.gov](mailto:haz.waste@kingcounty.gov).

If you're interested in learning more about hazardous chemicals and how to properly dispose of them, the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program can provide interactive training and outreach at your public housing community. To find out more, please call Seattle Public Utilities' Michael Davis at 206-615-1376 or Marcella Wilson at 206-386-4016.

## Park Lake II

Continued from Page 2

• Exploring the possibility of purchasing a home

KCHA also would provide you with relocation assistance, which includes:

• Providing a moving company to help you pack, move and unpack as necessary. You also would receive a \$100 stipend on the day of your move, and KCHA would pay to transfer your utilities

OR

• Reimbursing you for pre-approved moving expenses such as a moving truck, boxes, transferring utilities, etc.

OR

• Paying you a lump sum amount determined based on your unit's bedroom size.

You are responsible for all of your own moving expenses, but you can keep any leftover money.

All important information about your relocation will be translated into the major languages spoken at Park Lake II to ensure that you understand the process. KCHA staff can help you settle into your new surroundings, offering assistance with everything from learning the new bus schedule to enrolling your children in school.

Throughout relocation, you would be a part of the decision-making and always should ask KCHA staff as many questions as you need to.

"Your relocation team is going to be here every step of the way," Friedenthal said. "You are not alone."

