

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.

Green Leaf potluck fun
SERVICE PROVIDERS JOIN IN
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KCHA NEWS

August
2005

A resource for King County Housing Authority residents

Park Lake kids to star in Cambodian celebration



PHOTO COURTESY OF KING COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Park Lake II resident Sandra Men (right) will be performing in the Celebrate Cambodia! event at Seattle Center on Aug. 13.

By CLAUDE IOSSO
King County Housing Authority

WHITE CENTER – When Cambodian-Americans gather at Seattle Center to celebrate the culture of their homeland this month, Park Lake Homes residents will play a starring role.

You may not recognize them in their colorful costumes, but many of the dancers and musicians taking the stage on Aug. 13 will be children who've grown up in the White Center family community.

"I like the dancing," said Sandra Men, 14, who will be performing with her troupe from the Khmer Community of Seattle-King County, a group based in downtown White Center.

The daughter of Sopharn Men and Noeun Mao of Park Lake II, Men said she was nervous but excited about the performance when she talked about it in July.

Not that she had a great reason to be nervous. Men, who will be a freshman at Evergreen High School in September, has been performing classical Cambodian

dance since she was in first grade.

Her love for dance is one of the main reasons she participates in Khmer Community's youth group.

The group meets in a converted storefront space on 16th Avenue Southwest, a stretch of White Center where Cambodian shops and churches are concentrated. About 20 kids, most of them girls, practice the traditional dancing every Saturday. The boys favor learning how to play traditional instruments.

Several kids from Park Lake, including Monica Cheath, Richard Sok and Vesna Heng, participate in the group.

Preparing children to perform at events such as Seattle Center's Celebrate Cambodia! is a goal of the program.

Celebrate Cambodia! will be a presentation of Cambodian dancing, music, crafts, games and a fashion show. It's scheduled to take place at Center House from noon to 4 p.m. Khmer Community is the producer, along with the Seattle-based Cambodian Women's Association and Seattle Center's Festal. Admission is free.

The White Center youth group is more than just a training ground for Cambodian performers, it supports Cambodian families in the White Center area in many ways.

About 25 youths meet at the clubhouse on Tuesdays and Thursdays for a variety of activities, including classes in the Khmer language.

Men, who said she was invited to the group last year by friends at Park Lake, attends along with a younger sister, Sandy, and a younger brother, Carvin.

Children in the group range from first graders to high school students. Not all of them are Cambodian, but they all learn what is involved in the culture. Sandra Men, who was born in Massachusetts, said she enjoys learning about her cultural origins.

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Springwood center construction begins

KING COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

KENT – Construction work for the Springwood Youth Center is beginning this month. Demolition of the old Rec Hall will be the first step.

The King County Housing Authority, which has hired Briere & Associates of Renton to build the new facility, was fencing and preparing the site through July.

While construction is underway, the Kent Youth and Family Services after-school and summer youth programs will operate out of a converted housing unit in Building 23 across the street from the Southeast Management office at 27405 129th Pl. S.E.



DRAWING COURTESY OF KING COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

The youth center should be finished next year.

Teach on the Beach makes environment real for kids

By MIKE DAGGETT
Special to the Voice

DES MOINES – Until this summer, many children at Park Lake Homes, Burndale Homes and Ballinger Homes may have thought information about the weather was all they needed to know about their environment. Crows and squirrels may have been the only wildlife they thought about.

Teach on the Beach, a hands-on educational program at Saltwater State Park in Des Moines, surely changed that.

For two months this summer, a King County Housing Authority AmeriCorps team spent a day teaching groups of 10 to 70 kids about their environment.

There were lessons on the watershed, the forest and the beach, along with plenty of time for the children to reflect on what they'd learned.

Youth in the Neighborhood House programs at Park Lake and Burndale were among the 700 children who spent the day in the lively outdoor classroom.

Teach on the Beach educators also

brought their lessons to youth enrolled in Ballinger's Center for Human Services summer program. Those kids absorbed some of the information on a walk at Marina Beach in Edmonds.

During the lesson, students learned what a watershed is and how human beings interact with it. Students also learned about the life cycle of the salmon and the types of salmon that live in the Puget Sound.

To teach kids about the forests, leaders took them on a hike, where they learned to identify plants and gain respect for woodland plants and animals.

The students experienced the different sights, sounds, smells and feel of the forest, a place some don't often go.

At the beach, the students learned about the rules and laws that ensure plants and animals are not unnecessarily disturbed.

Then they were invited to explore.

The kids would wander the beach and find different types of plant and animal life, from crabs to seaweed. They were able to touch and hold the wildlife without

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Park Lake services have new addresses

KING COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Social services and King County Housing Authority management no longer occupy the Wiley Community Center on Eighth Avenue Southwest, but Park Lake residents don't have to travel far for help.

Many community services and management moved last month to a cluster of converted housing units on Fourth Place

Southwest and Fifth Avenue Southwest.

Now in a row along Fourth Place Southwest are: the Greenbridge Family Services Office (at building number 10006); the Neighborhood House Tutoring Center (at 10024); the Sheriff's substation (at 10032); Highline Community College ESL classes (at 10038); and the YWCA Greenbridge

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Council revisits annexation

KING COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY
 The North Highline Unincorporated Area Council continues to discuss the possible annexation of the North Highline area by Burien or Seattle.
 Burien staff made a presentation at a council work-study session in July and Seattle staff are expected to meet with the council at its Aug. 18 meeting.
 Burien officials have met with council members before to present a draft annexation study, but with five new members taking seats on the council in June, another meeting on the issue seemed appropriate.
 To encourage community participation, the meeting was held at St. Bernadette School in the Salmon Creek neighborhood. It was an educational meeting and no action was taken regarding annexation.

Council members also heard a presentation from two groups that are preparing a \$75,000 governance study for the council. One of the groups presented results of a community survey regarding governance.
 The council, on its summer schedule, usually meets the third Thursday of each month at the North Highline Fire Station, 1243 Southwest 112th St. from 7 to 9:30 p.m. However, the council may meet again at St. Bernadette on Aug. 18.
 If you have any questions, contact Russ Kay, council president, at (206)762-1094 or by e-mail at rkay@northhighlineuc.org.
 In cooperation with the council, the King County Housing Authority offers free transportation to these meetings. If you are interested, please call Steve Fisher at (206) 574-1280.

AmeriCorps team helps 1,800 people



PHOTO COURTESY OF KING COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY
 The 2004-05 KCHA AmeriCorps team are (back row, from left) Jerod Agave, Thomas Peavey, Volunteer Coordinator Pat Porter, Brooke Tufte, Betsy Talbot, Siri Angeles, John DePasquale, Project Coordinator Harold Phillips, Ellen Kozyra and (front row, from left) Jana Liptak, Paige Casalegno, Sarah Botkin, Jill Beppu, Christine Hutchison and State Parks Puget Sound Regional Coordinator John Johns. Members Laura Wigren and Nikki and Ryan Wheaton are not pictured.

BY CLAUDE IOSSO
 King County Housing Authority

Every fall for the past eight years, a King County Housing Authority AmeriCorps team has set out to achieve great things, including helping public housing residents learn English and providing tutoring help for hundreds of kids.
 The 2004-05 team met these goals and then some.

At a farewell lunch last month at the KCHA administrative offices in Tukwila, Assistant Director of Resident Services Barbara Myers and others credited the 15 team members for service that helped more than 1,800 people.

"You've accomplished a lot—the amount is staggering," Volunteer Coordinator Pat Porter told the team. "Your students all love you."

In all, more than 600 children, including 300 from Ballinger Homes, Park Lake Homes, Green River Homes, Firwood Circle and Burndale Homes and 300 from the Echo Glen Children's Center, received tutoring, mentoring and art instruction from AmeriCorps members.

At 11 housing communities, including the mixed-population high-rises Plaza Seventeen, Wayland Arms, Casa Juanita, Paramount House and the Lake House, nearly 200 adults took English as a Second Language classes with AmeriCorps members.

More than 1,000 kids from 45 elementary schools in the Highline, Kent and Federal Way school districts learned about

the environment through the instruction of AmeriCorps members in the Teach on the Beach program.

"It was nice getting to know the kids and families and seeing them progress," said Brooke Tufte, who worked with children at Green River Homes and Burndale Homes. "At the beginning of the year, one little girl from Russia could hardly speak English. Now she's a chatterbox."

"It was a good experience," said John DePasquale, adding that he watched children at Chinook Middle School in White Center learn about leadership, recognize needs in their community and find ways to address those needs.

Five of the team members, including Tufte, DePasquale, Jerod Arave, Sarah Botkin and Ellen Kozyra, tutored young people in KCHA communities. Jana Liptak helped Burien kids paint a mural and Jill Beppu taught inmates at Echo Glen Children's Center how to make mosaics.

Beppu, Siri Angeles and Christine Hutchison endeared themselves to adults at the mixed-population high-rises in Auburn, Kirkland and Shoreline with lively ESL classes. Paige Casalegno taught ESL at apartment complexes in White Center and SeaTac that serve moderate-income households.

Five of the team members — Thomas Peavey, Betsy Talbot, Nikki and Ryan Wheaton and Laura Wigren — worked in the Teach on the Beach program at Saltwater State Park.

The KCHA AmeriCorps program affiliated with the Washington Service Corps.

Beach

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damaging the ocean environment.
 The lessons ended with a period for reflection that helped the children wind down from a day of learning and seeing new things.
 During this time, students used paper, markers, crayons, stickers and other materials to describe what they observed.
 If you want your children to attend the program, encourage their school or youth group to get involved.
 For information, call the Saltwater State Park education office at (206) 824-0867.
 Mike Daggett is a member of the KCHA AmeriCorps Teach on the Beach team.

Dancing

Continued from front page

Still, the way she figures it, her parents would approve of Khmer Community youth programs even if she absorbed a limited amount about the culture.
 "I'm not at home, and I'm not wasting my time, so my parents like that," she said with a smile.
 Still, Sopharn Men and Noeun Mao will likely be at Celebrate Cambodia!, videotaping their daughter's performance as they routinely do.
 If you want to learn more about Khmer Community of Seattle-King County, you can call (206) 762-3922 or visit the center at 10025 16th Ave. S.W.

Shuttle schedule

The monthly schedule is posted at central locations in the buildings the shuttle serves. The schedule sometimes changes, so confirm times against the posted schedule. Residents must sign up for ride service.

Mon., Aug. 1: Bothell/Redmond grocery
 Northwood 9:30
 Northlake House 9:45
 Forest Glen 1:00
 Casa Juanita 1:35

Tues., Aug. 2: Shoreline grocery/food bank
 Briarwood 9:45
 Lake House 10:15
 Paramount 12:30
 Northridge I/II 1:00

Wed., Aug. 3: Burien grocery
 Burien Park 8:45
 Munro Manor 9:15
 Brittany Park 9:45
 Boulevard Manor 10:30
 Riverton Terrace 10:40
 Yardley Arms 1:00
 Park Lake 1:30

Thurs., Aug. 4: Issaquah/Kent grocery
 Eastridge House 9:30
 Harrison House 1:00

Fri., Aug. 5: Auburn grocery
 Gustaves Manor 9:45
 Wayland Arms 10:15
 Plaza Seventeen 10:35

Mon., Aug. 8: Wal-Mart/Redmond grocery
 The Northwood 8:45
 Northlake House 9:00
 Forest Glen 1:00
 Casa Juanita 1:45

Tues., Aug. 9: SeaTac/Kent groc./Southcenter
 Harrison House 9:15
 Vantage Glen 11:30
 Harrison House 1:20

Wed., Aug. 10: Int. grocery/Southcenter
 Brittany Park 10:00
 Munro Manor 10:20
 Burien Park 10:50
 Boulevard Manor 11:10

Thurs., Aug. 11: reserved
 Fri., Aug. 12: reserved
 Mon., Aug. 15: Bothell/Redmond grocery
 Northwood 9:30
 Northlake House 9:45
 Forest Glen 1:00
 Casa Juanita 1:35

Tues., Aug. 16: food bank
 Mardi Gras 10:00
 Paramount House 12:10
 Northridge I/II 12:25
 Briarwood 12:45
 Lake House 1:00

Wed., Aug. 17: Burien grocery
 Burien Park 8:45
 Munro Manor 9:15
 Brittany Park 9:45
 Boulevard Manor 10:30
 Riverton Terrace 10:40
 Yardley Arms 1:00
 Park Lake 1:30

Thurs., Aug. 18: Issaquah/Kent grocery
 Eastridge House 9:30
 Harrison House 1:00

Fri., Aug. 19: food banks
 Gustaves Manor 9:45
 Wayland Arms 9:55
 Plaza Seventeen 10:30
 Southridge 1:00

Mon., Aug. 22: food banks
 Brittany Park 9:15
 Yardley Arms 11:30
 Riverton Terrace 1:30

Tues., Aug. 23: food banks
 Mardi Gras 10:00
 Burien Park 1:00

Wed., Aug. 24: reserved
 Thurs., Aug. 25: food bank/Kent grocery
 Boulevard Manor 9:30
 Munro Manor 9:45
 Harrison House 1:00

Fri., Aug. 26: reserved
 Mon., Aug. 29: reserved
 Tues., Aug. 30: reserved
 Wed., Aug. 31: reserved

Honesty, and a check, 32 years later

KING COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY
 The South Area Regional Office got a letter in the mail this spring that provoked a few smiles from King County Housing Authority employees.

It was an apology and a check from a former resident.

"In 1973 my wife, two children and I lived for approximately five months at the Firwood Circle complex in Auburn," the letter said. "At that time we had a savings account which we feel should have been disclosed to you."

The letter continued: "Since then we have become Christians and feel strongly that the amount enclosed is due you for additional rent during the time were there. We apologize and ask your forgiveness."

The letter, unsigned, included a check for \$626.

"It's a first," said Housing Management Director Jim Dion. "It's a reminder that there a lot of good people out there who will try to do the right thing."

The money was deposited into KCHA's general fund.

Longtime South Area manager retires

Regional office closes with her departure

KING COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

AUBURN – South Area Manager Pat Hogaboam was a familiar sight at Green River Homes. Even residents and children who rarely set foot in the management offices on Ninth Street Southeast knew her as “Miss Pat,” the friendly little woman with the big dog who regularly walked the neighborhood.

After 28 years at the King County Housing Authority, 21 of them as Southend manager, Hogaboam retired on June 30. Dozens of residents who had found a friend in their



Pat Hogaboam

area manager bid Hogaboam farewell at a party at the South Regional Office.

“She will be totally missed,” said Alva Sadler, a longtime Green River resident. “Although we sometimes did not agree on things, she was always fair. You could count on her.”

Sadler, who served on the Auburn Resident Council and also served a term as resident commissioner for KCHA, added that Hogaboam was willing to listen to residents’ needs and to work their suggestions into community rules.

“She let us know that what we thought was important,” she said.

As area manager, Hogaboam did not meet with residents as regularly as housing administrators did, but she always made a point of greeting them when they moved into South Area housing, which includes

family and mixed-population developments in Auburn and Federal Way.

Although Pat is already enjoying retirement, she said she misses connecting with residents and housing applicants.

“Being able to facilitate applicants finding a place to live was really what we’re all about,” Hogaboam said. “It was really gratifying to see families come together when they had housing. I watched kids grow up.”

Even when a notice was filed for a lease violation, Hogaboam strove to make certain the meeting was pleasant. “You don’t have to raise your voice; you don’t have to say mean things,” she notes. “Once we educated residents, most of the time we didn’t have another problem.”

Walking the Green River neighborhood on Saturdays made for the kind of connection Hogaboam really enjoyed. With her friendly Doberman pincer Brandy on a leash, Hogaboam was popular with children out playing.

“Brandy loved the kids and the kids loved her,” Hogaboam said. The same could be said about Hogaboam herself in her relations with most of the residents.

With the advent of site-based management last year, Hogaboam’s role changed and she became manager of a regional office instead of an area management office.

Rather than hiring a replacement, KCHA is shifting regional oversight of the Southend properties to Southeast and Southwest area offices.

Green River Homes and Valley Park will continue to be managed from the Green River office.

The developments in Auburn and Snoqualmie will have regional management from the Southeast office at Springwood Apartments in Kent. The developments in Federal Way and Olympia will have regional management from the Southwest office at Park Lake Homes in White Center.

When they are needed, regional managers will come to the sites.

Service providers join Green Leaf potluck



PHOTO COURTESY OF KING COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

This young Green Leaf resident enjoys crafts at the Spring Bash.

BY GRACE ADRIANO

King County Housing Authority

KENMORE – Residents at Green Leaf Apartments look forward to the Spring Bash every year. The potluck barbecue at the 27-unit family development in Kenmore gives these families an opportunity to catch up as the weather turns warm.

There was an added feature to this year’s Spring Bash on June 18. Local service providers came and spoke with residents about their services and programs. The community room that sunny Saturday was transformed into a mini resource fair.

Representatives from the Kenmore Library, the Northshore Family Center, Seattle-King County Public Health, the Bothell-Kenmore Community Health Center, Planned Parenthood and the Northshore YMCA laid out brochures about their programs for the residents.

Residents could pick up information about health and medical services, English classes, summer camps and library cards. Many of the resources were translated in different languages.

“I invited these service providers because many of the residents do not know about them,” said Lindsey Legaspi, outreach worker for Shoreline Community College. “The residents can take advantage of these resources.”

Legaspi helped organize this year’s Spring Bash, but a longtime resident, Toni Cavilee, started the annual event years ago as a way for her and her neighbors to mix and mingle. Residents are originally from countries both near and far, including Eastern Europe, East Africa and Asia, so the potluck featured an exotic collection of foods.

Sure, there was the standard American

barbecue fare—homemade potato salad, chips, hotdogs and hamburgers—but the residents also enjoyed teriyaki chicken, okra sautéed with tomatoes, rice dishes from Eritrea and Afghanistan, Cambodian fried rice and a Pakistani dish made of garbanzo beans and tomatoes.

The service providers made an effort to connect with the families, and residents played a spirited game of Service Providers Bingo. Together, children and parents circled the room to ask the service providers the following question, “What can you do for me and my family?” Each family that filled a kind of bingo table with the answers received a prize.

The children won crayons, coloring books and toys. Their parents won T-shirts, canvas bags, flashlights, food containers and other household items. The two grand prizes were the board games “Cadoo” and “Cariboo.”

A former King County Housing Authority AmeriCorps member donated the grand prizes. Cavilee and Val Thomas-Matson from the King County Community Organizing Program donated the other prizes.

The prize drawings drew everyone’s attention, but the service providers entertained in other ways as well. The Northshore Family Center attracted many of the young residents with glitter glue and magic markers. By the end of the afternoon, each child had a bookmark, which will come in handy at the Kenmore Library, for which many got library cards.

Shoreline Community College received a \$200 mini grant from the King County Community Organizing Program for the event. The program sponsors events that increase residents’ connections to their neighborhood and help them learn about community resources.

Visiting nurse celebrates service at Northlake

BY JUDY LAWLER

King County Housing Authority

BOTHELL – Jean Hansen literally has her hand on the pulse of several King County Housing Authority mixed-population high-rises. For many years, the visiting nurse has given residents regular checkups so they remain healthy and independent.

In June, the residents of Bothell’s Northlake House threw a surprise party to thank Hansen for her many years of service.

They told her they hope she continues to come to Northlake for many more years. There were helium-filled balloons, a potted miniature rose and a lot of thank you cards with personal notes in them.

“She’s a lovely person and very appreciated in this building,” said Helen Zemann, a Northlake resident and a member of the KCHA Resident Advisory Board. “She listens to us and gives us encouragement. If one of her regulars doesn’t show up, she knocks on the door. We all love her dearly.”

Hansen has been with Visiting Nurse Services for 25 years and has attended

to residents in virtually all of the KCHA senior buildings at one time to another. She knows her clients well and is always willing to spend time answering questions and offering assistance.

Monthly visits from registered nurses are one of the services available for the seniors and adults with disabilities who live in KCHA’s mixed population buildings.

Since late 2000, the Housing Authority has contracted with Visiting Nurse Services for the checkups.

The nurses monitor residents’ blood pressure and weight and track prescribed medications. They provide other services, including referrals for community-based treatment on an individual basis. In addition, the visiting nurses offer educational presentations on such topics as diabetes, the importance of exercise, stroke prevention and signs and symptoms of other illnesses.

Visiting nurses can be invaluable for seniors. The nice party, complete with refreshments, was the Northlake House residents’ way of telling Jean how much they appreciate all she does for them.

Addresses

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Career Development Center (at 10048).

Across the street from the Family Services Office is the new location for the Southwest Boys & Girls Club, at 10011 Fourth Pl., with some club activities taking place at the White Center Heights Elementary School.

Neighborhood House social services and ESL classes are nearby at 422 S.W. 102nd St.

The KCHA Southwest Area Management office has moved to 10022 Fifth Avenue S.W., less than a block from all of the services on Fourth.

The management office still has the same hours and the same phone number – (206) 574-1290.

The White Center Food Bank is temporarily located in the St. James Lutheran Church at 9421 18th Ave. S.W.

All of the new locations are temporary while construction takes place on the west side of Park Lake and the Community Center is renovated. While there were some minor bumps in the transition, service providers generally have the same phone numbers and hours they had before.

If you have questions about services, you can contact the YWCA Greenbridge Career Development Center at (206) 763-6922, Greenbridge Family Support Services at (206) 574-1160, the Sheriff’s Office at (206) 296-3332, Neighborhood House at (206) 461-4554, Highline Community College at (206) 878-3710, White Center Food Bank at (206) 762-2848 and the Boys & Girls Club at (206) 762-3221.

