

### Seattle announces Safe Routes to School Action Plan

Last week Mayor Ed Murray, Seattle Public Schools, the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), and community partners unveiled Seattle's inaugural Safe Routes to School Action Plan.

Safe Streets, Healthy Schools and Communities is a five-year action plan that guides investments for engineering improvements, education, encouragement, and enforcement around schools in Seattle. It is a first of its kind document for Seattle, developed by a coalition of public agencies, parents and safety advocates.

The announcement was made at Sacajawea Elementary School in north Seattle, one of 12 locations where SDOT completed Safe Routes to School projects in 2015, which include new sidewalks and crossing improvements.

The Mayor's proposed 2016 budget allocates \$5.8 million to support Safe Route to School projects at another 9 schools.

Over the past ten years, more elementary students have been walking and biking to school, growing from 15 percent in 2005 to 24 percent in 2015.

As part of the action plan announced today, every third, fourth and fifth grade Seattle public elementary school student will receive walking and biking safety education through their physical education class.

A new partnership between SDOT, Seattle Public Schools and Cascade Bicycle Club will deliver that opportunity beginning next year. Today, only half of Seattle public elementary schools receive bike safety education, and no formal pedestrian safety education program exists.

Safe Routes to School is funded by fines from the school speed zone camera program, state and federal grants, and the Bridging the Gap transportation levy, which expires this year.

Seattle's school zone speed camera program has generated \$16 million for the Safe Routes to School program since 2012.

Download the full Safe Routes to School Action Plan at [http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/saferoutes\\_actionplan.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/saferoutes_actionplan.htm).

For more information about Vision Zero, visit [www.seattle.gov/visionzero](http://www.seattle.gov/visionzero). #VisionZeroSEA

### County Council Celebrates Value of Workers with Disabilities

A 25th Anniversary celebration was part of this week's recognition by the Metropolitan King County Council of October as Disability Awareness Month in King County.

This year's recognition highlights that 2015 is the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disability Act, (ADA) the national mandate to eliminate discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

The proclamation recognizes efforts on both a local and national level to provide accommodations that allow those with physical, developmental and other disabilities to utilize

### Seattle Race Conference



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Kintisha Williams participates in a discussion about racial bias during a workshop called "The Problem Women of Color and Institutional Change" Saturday, Oct. 10 at the 2015 Seattle Race Conference at Seattle University. The theme for the conference was "Perceptions Kill! The Impacts of Implicit Racial Bias."

their skills and talents and contribute to society.

King County's principles of equity and social justice focus on the inclusion of all people in the workplace.

Jeff Casem, Disability Services Supervisor in King County's Department of Executive Services, Human Resources Division, said these principles ensure that the county has a government that serves all of its citizens.

The Council proclamation encourages county residents to remember the spirit and principals of equality and inclusion that are the bedrock of the ADA.

### Bellevue Reduces Emissions with New Biodiesel

The city of Bellevue announced today that it will use a more environmentally friendly and cheaper biodiesel for its fleet operations.

The new biodiesel, a blend of 80 percent petroleum diesel and 20 percent biodiesel known as B20, is produced from recycled cooking oil instead of virgin-crop oil, which will reduce the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions by 16.5 percent as compared to petroleum diesel.

The fuel will also be purchased at an average cost savings of 28 cents per gallon over the previous B15 blend, saving

the city an estimated total of \$25,650 per year.

Biodiesel is a renewable, cleaner-burning diesel fuel replacement that is produced from a diverse mix of feedstock including recycled cooking oil, soybean, corn and canola oil, and animal fats.

According to the EPA, biodiesel reduces greenhouse gas emissions by at least 57 percent for non-recycled oil and up to 86 percent for recycled cooking oil when compared to petroleum diesel.

Under the new contract, over 51 percent of the recycled cooking oil will be sourced from a 50-mile radius of Seattle, ensuring that the fuel is made from local resources not shipped from across the country.

The effort to reduce emissions from Bellevue's fleet is part of the city's broader Environmental Stewardship Initiative.

The program has had a number of successes, including the replacement of 50 percent the city's fleet vehicles with hybrids and electric alternatives, and a 22 percent reduction in energy usage by City Hall between 2009 and 2014.

The city presents its carbon footprint on an online dashboard available to the public. The dashboard, Environmental Stewardship by the Numbers, tracks progress on a variety of environmental targets set in 2007, when Bellevue signed on to the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

## SEATTLE COMMUNITY CALENDAR 2015



If you have an event you want to share with the community, email it two weeks in advance to The Skanner at [info@theskanner.com](mailto:info@theskanner.com)

#### Thursday, October 15

**WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY OPEN HOUSE:** The Department of Services for the Blind is hosting an open house to showcase the tools, techniques and technologies that help people with visual impairments enjoy independence at home, in the community and in the workplace. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Washington State Department of Services for the Blind, 3411 S. Alaska St.

#### Saturday, October 17

**FALL FAMILY HARVEST:** Celebrate the change of seasons with the Fall Family Harvest in Occidental Square Park. Bring the whole family. Feel free to wear your Halloween costumes. Enjoy kidsquest museum activity for children, an inflatable obstacle course, inflatable football course, free candy, live music and so much more. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., Occidental Square Park, 117 S. Washington St.

**ETHNIC HERITAGE STORYTELLING WORKSHOP:** This free workshop includes: How to tell and record your family and community stories, ways to share your heritage, the power of video storytelling online and local research services and much more. Beverages and light snacks will be provided, but participants should plan on bringing lunch. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. South Bellevue Community Center, 14509 SE Newport Way, Bellevue. To register, e-mail [info@ethnicheritagecouncil.org](mailto:info@ethnicheritagecouncil.org).

**HARDWARE STORE FOOTBALL PARTY DECORATING IDEAS:** Be the MVP at your home football party with great decorating ideas from the experts. 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., McLendon's Hardware, 440 Rainier Ave. S. Renton.

#### Friday, October 23

**SEATTLE BLACK TECH EVENT:** Calling all artists, retailers, tech guys and friends of the 23rd & Union Community! We will be having an info session explaining what the mission is for Black Dot Epicenter, our vision for the space. 6 p.m. Midtown Center, 1160 23rd Ave.

**HALLOWEEN HOWL DANCE:** This dance is for teens and adults living with intellectual disabilities. Come dressed in your favorite costume and dance and socialize with friends. Light snacks and dessert will be served. Ages 16 and older. Cost \$9 resident,

\$11 non-resident. Pre-registration preferred. For more information and to register call (425) 452-7686. 7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Highland Community Center, 14224 Bel-Red Rd., Bellevue.

#### Saturday, October 24

**SPOOKFEST CARNIVAL:** Come celebrate Halloween with a good old fashioned carnival with games, arts and crafts, entertainment and food! At 2 p.m. the carnival features Xakary the Magician, as seen on America's Got Talent. All ages, fun for the entire family! \$1 per ticket, activity costs will vary between 1-4 tickets, with many free activities also. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., South Bellevue Community Center, 1409 SE Newport, Bellevue.

**8TH ANNUAL CRAFT BAZAAR, BAKE SALE, QUILT & GIFT RAFFLE:** There will be more than 30 different vendors at this craft fair selling their wonderful hand-crafted and one-of-a-kind items. 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Alliance Bible Church, 19320 SE 240th St., Kent.

#### Sunday, October 25

**ST. ANDREW'S DAY CELEBRATION!** St. Andrew's will celebrate the Feast of St. Andrew, patron saint on Celtic Christianity and Holy Communion (all ages welcome). St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 7410 S. 12th St., Tacoma.