

Events & Announcements

PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Central District Little League

Chukundi Salisbury Jr., 10 gets a hug from his Rainier District Little League Full Tilt teammates after he scored a run against the Pittsburgh Keystones from the Central District Little League in a recent game at the Garfield Playfield.

Seattle News Briefs**Youth Voice, Youth Choice Vote Week is May 21-29**

What would you do with \$700,000 of Seattle's City budget? Youth get to make that decision by participating in Youth Voice, Youth Choice Vote Week on May 21-29.

Youth Voice, Youth Choice is a new participatory budgeting initiative of the City of Seattle in which youth ages 11-25 democratically decide how to spend a portion of the City's budget. After several months of collecting ideas from community members, and youth volunteers turning those ideas into proposals, we're readying for the vote which will occur on Saturday, May 21 through Sunday, May 29. Youth will cast their vote for their favorite projects which range from park improvements to youth programs to arts funding.

If you live, work, or go to school in Seattle, are between the ages of 11-25, and want to make a difference in your community, cast your vote at an in-person polling site or vote online. The projects that receive the most votes will be funded by the City! Visit <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/programs-and-services/seattle-participatory-budgeting> the week before vote week to see the list of projects and to find out how to vote or hold a polling site of your own.

City of Seattle Brings Utility Discount to 10,000 More Households

Today Seattle Mayor Ed Murray and Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) Director Andrew Lofton announced proposed changes to the Utility Discount Program (UDP) to auto-enroll more than 10,000 low-income Seattle Housing Authority households. Today's announcement puts the City on track to surpass the Mayor's goal to double program enrollment two years ahead of schedule.

Once auto-enrollment is complete, the UDP will provide more than \$10 million in utility assistance each year to SHA tenants. This will cut in half their Seattle electric, water, garbage/recycling, sewage and drainage bills. The average household benefit will be \$1,030 per year.

This move is a part of Murray's commitment to address Seattle's growing income inequality and remove institutional barriers between services and those in need. In 2014, Mayor Murray challenged City Departments to double the number of households enrolled in the UDP from 14,000 to 28,000 by the end of 2018.

After legislation to enact today's proposal is approved by the Seattle City Council, all income-eligible households of Seattle Housing Authority will be notified that they have been auto-enrolled in the Util-

ity Discount Program, beginning August 1, 2016. All households will have the opportunity to opt out of the Utility Discount Program if they prefer. The Council will take up this proposal this spring. Current City ordinances prevent SHA tenants from participating in the program.

The Utility Discount Program offers a credit of 60 percent on Seattle City Light bills and 50 percent on Seattle Public Utilities bills. This program is available for residential City Light and Seattle Public Utilities customers only and does not apply to residences used for business purposes. Eligible households must have income of less than 70 percent of state median household income, about \$60,000 for a family of four.

Today's expansion of the UDP to SHA tenants is paid for by all utility customers. The average Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities bill will increase between 0.5 percent and 0.65 percent in coming years.

This program expansion builds upon a partnership with the Washington State Housing Finance Commission to auto-enroll eligible households of other affordable housing projects, reducing administrative barriers to utility discount services.

The UDP program is funded by both Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities and is administered by the Seattle Human Services Department. Utility Discount Program eligibility information and application materials can be found at <http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/services-and-programs/utility-discount-program>.

King County Officials Urge Caution Around Cold Rivers, Lakes, Sound

Warm air temperatures don't translate to warm water temperatures. In fact, unseasonably warm weather will accelerate the typical Cascade Range spring snowmelt, and rivers will be running swift with icy cold runoff for weeks to come. Lakes and Puget Sound are also quite cold this time of year, and swimmers can suffer from cold-water shock after just a few minutes in the water.

King County officials are on high alert because 17 people died in preventable drownings in the county in 2015.

King County, Public Health – Seattle & King County, and the King County Sheriff's Office encourage kayakers, boaters, rafters, swimmers and other river users to check conditions and scout rivers thoroughly for hazards before entering the water.

In 2015, Public Health – Seattle & King County found that 17 people died in preventable drowning incidents. Of these, 12 (70 percent) took place in open water, such as rivers, lakes, ponds, or Puget Sound. Of the 12 open water deaths, nine (75 percent), may have been prevented with lifejacket use. Over half (52 percent) of all King County deaths involved alcohol and or other drugs in the last five years.

In 2014, there were 98 unintentional drowning deaths of Washington residents.

Community Calendar 2016*cont'd from pg 4*

Counseling, and or Programs, Homeless Ministries, Athletics and many more areas. Please contact Rev. Rhonda L. Smith for more information and tickets, call (971) 801-3406 or email at ehondiva3@gmail.com. Tickets are \$15 each. 10 a.m. – noon. Maranatha Church, 4222 NE 12th Ave.

FREE MARSHALL FAMILY FUN DAY: We will be hosting a Free Family Fun Day filled with public swim sessions, open access to our fitness center, fitness demonstrations, pottery demonstrations, activities in the gym and much more! Noon – 5 p.m. Marshall Community Center, 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd., Vancouver.

SATURDAY – SUNDAY, MAY 21 – 22

DOZER DAYS 2016 AT THE CLARK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS! We invite you to join us for Dozer Days, where kids can hop in the cab and drive a dozer loader, backhoe, fire engine and much more. 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. both days. Adults get in for \$10, Kids 2 – 12 and Seniors 60+ for \$8. Clark County Fairgrounds, 17402 Delfel Rd., Ridgefield.

SUNDAY, MAY 22

"MOTHERING INSIDE" : THE FIFTH IN A SERIES OF DOCUMENTARY FILMS ABOUT CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES: "Mothering Inside" documents a unique program at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville, OR in which female inmates spend quality time with their children. The film showing is free of charge, but donations will be accepted. 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. First Unitarian Church, SW 12th between Main St. and Salmon St.

Seattle Metro**THURSDAY, MAY 12**

FIRST HILL STREETCAR CELEBRATION: Celebrate the First Hill streetcar opening with fun interactive performances and visual arts installations at the new Streetcar. 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Streetcar stops at E Pike/Broadway and Denny/Broadway.

FRIDAY, MAY 13

NORTHWEST SEAPORT CHANTEY SING: Sea Chantey and other sea songs celebrate our connections with the sea, ships, skippers and sailors. Free for all to enjoy and take part in. 8 p.m. – 10 p.m., Historic Steam Ferry Virginia V, 860 Terry Ave. N.

THE HOMETOWN BAND FREE SPRING CONCERT IN PORT ORCHARD: Join The Hometown Band at their annual spring concert. Show tunes, classics, marches and lots more! 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., Port Orchard Methodist Church, 725 Kitsap St., Port Orchard.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

WEST SEATTLE COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE DAY: Hundreds of sales – big and small – all over West Seattle. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., West Seattle Area, 2850 SW Yancy St.

SUNDAY, MAY 15

PUGET SOUND STARTS HERE FAMILY FUN DAY: Environmental Educators from around the area join together to host this event. Offering hands-on activities, lessons, games and entertainment related to water quality and the environment. 10 a.m., Foss Waterway Seaport, 705 Dock St., Tacoma.

THURSDAY, MAY 19

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION OFFERS MEN'S COFFEE GROUP: Are you a male spouse caring for someone with memory loss? Do you need information and support? Alzheimer's Association Men's Coffee Groups provide a consistent and caring place for male caregivers to learn, share and gain emotional support from other male spouses. 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Alzheimer's Association Chapter Office, 100 W. Harrison St. North Tower, #N200.

SATURDAY, MAY 21

SHOP THE FRIENDSHIP POP-UP! Join the Friends Of The Seattle Public Library for its Pop-Up Shop. Pop in to purchase pre-owned paperbacks and children's books for \$1. Goodies from the Friendship Shop including tote bags, mugs, and jewelry! Lots of things to look at and choose from. 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., West Seattle Library, 2306 42nd Ave SW.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER: Join in with the community and start your day off right! With Pancakes, Waffles or French Toast plus scrambled eggs and sausage. Cost is \$6. 8 a.m. Blaine Community Senior Center, Conference Room, 753 G. St., Blaine.