

Events & Announcements**Southeast Economic Opportunity Center**

Uche Okezie, director of Real Estate Development at Homesite, writes down ideas during small group discussions at the Southeast Economic Opportunity Center Community Meeting Nov. 12 at the New Holly Gathering Hall. The Southeast Economic Opportunity Center would include business, employment, housing and education and support services at a single location next to the Othello Transit Station. The meeting followed an open house for the Othello and Rainier Community where neighbors could get information on youth and family services, employment, starting a small business and help in signing up for health insurance.

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tributions and can enjoy tax-free growth opportunity as well as tax-free withdrawals when funds are used for qualified higher education expenses (limitations apply).

Account funds may be used to cover college expenses like tuition, fees, books, computers and certain housing expenses at any accredited college, university or technical school in the U.S. and some abroad.

Seattle News Briefs**King County Council Approves \$11.4 Billion Budget**

The Metropolitan King County Council today gave its unanimous approval to a King County Budget that will lead to immediate, new investments in combating homelessness and improving public safety.

The Council aggressively sought to create and fund new, crucial initiatives through a mixture of strategic reforms, prioritization of funds, and innovative approaches to revenue.

Among the top initiatives included in the \$11.4 Billion package are the creation of a new homelessness navigation center on county-owned property, restoration of funding for vital regional services like the Sheriff's helicopter and marine units, and expansion of transit service throughout King County.

The Council renewed the County's commitment to public safety in this budget by restoring planned reductions in the King County Sheriff's Office, including the reduction of the Air Support and Marine Units, along with increasing the number of deputies serving the unincorporated areas.

This budget also restores bookings at the Regional Justice Center and provides additional resources for public defense and the King County Prosecutor.

In 2015, King County declared an emergency in regards to homelessness. The adopted budget commits the County—by itself and in partnerships with local governments and agencies—with new investments in shelters and comprehensive services to help keep homeless individuals and families safe while helping them overcome barriers to securing permanent housing. The initiatives include:

- Development and operation of a twenty-four hour a day/seven day a week emergency shelter on County-owned property across from the Courthouse or another suitable location. The emergency shelter will include day-center services, storage lockers and on-site supportive services and will investigate the installation of showers and laundry facilities;
- Development and operation of shelter and housing services at Harborview Hall on Seattle's First Hill;
- Investment in local partnerships to create programs to assist homeless in cities outside of Seattle.

A growing population needs expanded transportation options to get people to work, school and activities.

This adopted budget includes 300,000 new service hours for Metro Transit, increasing alternative transit services and right-size service options, and a focus on making the transit system "cleaner and greener" through the expansion of Metro's electric bus fleet.

The Council also worked toward making Metro more accessible to low-income riders by making more affordable the current discounted ticket program available for purchase by nonprofit agencies and including funds to waive the current fees for new ORCA cards and Regional Reduced Fare permits, following a study.

Along with being the regional government for over 2,000,000 citizens, King County is the "local government" for more than 250,000 residents living in the County's unincorporated communities.

Along with the increase in sheriff deputies, the adopted budget recognizes the County's unique role by increasing funds to the roads division to help maintain and repair the County road system, with an additional \$4 million for roads maintenance.

Metro Releases Statement on Harassment

On Tuesday Rob Gannon, Metro Transit General Manager issued the following statement:

"In this moment of change and transition, County Executive Constantine has reaffirmed our values and principles. King County is a place that values women, people of color, people with disabilities, people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, immigrants and refugees, and people of every religion, or of no religion.

"In the delivery of our service to the public, Metro Transit does not tolerate harassment of any kind. The vehicles we operate will remain safe places for our passengers. Acts of harassment on our buses or at our shelters violate Metro Transit's commitment to inclusion for all in our community and our rider Code of Conduct. Should they occur, we ask people to report them to our employees or call 911 if law enforcement is needed immediately.

"We will take enforcement actions against violators of this code. And we are reminding operators of our procedures for addressing violations of the code of conduct aboard their coaches.

"King County is a growing community rich in diversity and is one of the world's great metropolitan areas. Metro demonstrates our contribution by providing the best service possible, safely and with respect given to all our customers. We ask all our riders to join in that commitment.

"Ride safe, and help us keep our system safe for everyone."

Community Calendar 2016*cont'd from pg 4***WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER: Genesis Community Fellowship is hosting a free Thanksgiving dinner. If you know someone that would benefit from a warm meal, please bring them along. The Thanksgiving Feast will take place the night before Thanksgiving. 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Genesis is located at NE 27th & Killingsworth St.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

32ND ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY: The day after Thanksgiving thousands of Portlanders will gather at the square to celebrate the lighting of the spectacular 75ft Douglas Fir Tree. Festivities include a holiday sing-a-long with Thomas Lauderdale and members of Pink Martini, The NW Community Gospel Choir, Pacific Youth Choir and friends. 5:30 p.m., Pioneer Courthouse Square, 555 SW Yamhill Ave.

MY MACY'S HOLIDAY PARADE: 29th Annual My Macy's Holiday Parade. This year's parade features 25 inflatable floats, local middle and high school marching bands, nearly 650 costumed characters and community drill teams, and the one and only SANTA. Parade begins at 9th Ave. and W. Burnside then travels the downtown streets Stark, Broadway, Alder and 4th, 5th, and 6th. Parade starts at 10 a.m.

Seattle Metro**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

THANKSGIVING FRIENDSHIP LUNCHEON: You are invited to dine with us and other community members as we give thanks and celebrate friendship. Turkey, with all the fixings. Some vegetarian and gluten-free options also available. \$6 for adults, \$4 for children. Noon – 2 p.m., Wallingford Community Senior Center, 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N.

FRIDAY – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 – 19

EVERGREEN HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR: Two day craft fair both days open at 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. 25 crafters, American doll clothes, wood crafted items, quilted, fabric, knit and crochet items, holiday wreaths and much more. Evergreen Heath Galleria, 12040 NE 128th St., Kirkland.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

SILVER BELLS CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: This is an annual holiday bazaar supporting local businesses and animal shelter/rescue. We will have over 50+ vendors, espresso, face painting, and magic show. Admission is free with one quality pet food item (can or bag) for donation to our local animal shelter! 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Station House 726, 427 N. Meridian St., Puyallup.

HUGE 7TH ANNUAL PRE-BLACK FRIDAY HOLIDAY BAZAAR – SPONSORED BY KEY BANK: Bring your family and friends for a fun-filled day of free door prizes, raffles and quality vendors – many with special pricing for this event. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Renton Technical College, 3000 NE 4th St., Renton.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

SEWARD PARK AUDUBON CENTER ANNUAL NATIVE BOOK AND GIFT FAIR: Come shop a unique selection of locally-made and sustainable items, toys and outdoor adventure and nature books for both children and adults. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Seward Park Audubon Center, 5902 Lake Washington Blvd. S.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

HOLIDAY STAR LIGHTING CEREMONY: The Macy's Holiday Star celebrates its diamond anniversary. The star lighting happens in conjunction with the annual lighting of Westlake Center's tree and the Downtown Seattle Assoc. carousel at Westlake Park at 5 p.m. Also included is a firework display (weather permitting). 5 p.m. – 6 p.m., Westlake Plaza, 4th & Pine in downtown Seattle.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

SANTA BREAKFAST: Enjoy pancakes, eggs, bacon or sausage, juice, coffee or tea. Visit with Santa. Every child receives a candy cane, raffle of wreaths and other gift items. Please bring a can of food to donate. Adults \$6, children \$4, children under 12 eat free. 8 a.m. – noon., Port Orchard Marina Park, 707 Sidney Pkwy, Port Orchard.

SATURDAY MOVIE MATINEE: "HUGO": Come and join us for an afternoon showing of "Hugo." Please come early to make sure you get a great seat. This is a free library event. The library will provide all the popcorn. 2 p.m. – 4:05 p.m., Magnolia Branch Library, meeting room, 2801 34th Ave. W. Seattle.