

Events & Announcements

Black Panther Premier in Columbia City

The Ark Lodge Cinemas in Columbia City premiered the highly-anticipated superhero film "Black Panther" to sold-out audiences on Feb. 15, the night before the official release of the film, and on Feb. 16. Both nights were organized by 4USCollective as a way to bring Seattle's Black Community together in a community theatre located in Seattle's south end. Some of the money from the screening will go to the Seattle Chapter of the Black Panther Party's 50th Anniversary Celebration in April. Pictured here outside the Ark Lodge Cinemas are Elmer and Aaron Dixon, two of the original members of the Seattle Black Panthers stand outside the Ark Lodge Cinemas in Columbia City before the premier of the film Black Panther. Some of the money from the screening will go to the Seattle Chapter of the Black Panther Party's 50th Anniversary Celebration in April.



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Seattle News Briefs

Major Jenny Durkan Announces Pilot Program to Reduce Energy Bills for Seattle Seniors

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan today announced a new innovative joint pilot program by the Seattle Office of Housing and Seattle City Light to help senior homeowners stay warm while reducing their energy bills. Under the pilot program, senior homeowners with electric heat already receiving help with their utility bills will be notified that they can now automatically qualify for energy efficiency upgrades to their home that provide additional utility bill savings, freeing up resources to pay for other important household needs.

As part of the pilot, the Office of Housing and Seattle City Light will notify almost 800 senior homeowners who participate in the Utility Discount Program about their eligibility for energy-saving improvements to their home. The improvements, such as insulation and new heating systems, are made available through the Office of Housing's HomeWise weatherization program.

Seattle City Light will pay for 100 percent of the energy efficiency upgrades for homeowners eligible for this pilot program. On average, a low-income household receiving energy efficiency improvements can save \$270 a year off their utility bill before utility discounts are applied.

Since 1980, the Seattle Office of Housing, in conjunction with Seattle City Light, has offered energy efficiency upgrades, helping thousands of neighbors decrease their energy bills and increase their comfort and safety. Office of Housing staff perform an audit to identify energy efficiency opportunities, hire and manage the contractor, and perform a final inspection to ensure quality work. Energy efficiency improvements are contingent upon an audit to determine upgrade needs. Some homeowners may not qualify if weatherization work is not needed or if other repairs need to be done first. If additional repairs are needed, the Office of Housing offers home repair loans and grants to help.

The Utility Discount Program provides income-qualified households a 60 percent reduction on their City Seattle Light bills and a 50 percent cut on Seattle Public Utility bills.

For more information on Office of Housing energy efficiency improvements, contact (206) 684-0244 or homewise@seattle.gov. For more information on the Utility Discount Program, contact (206) 684-0268.

City of Seattle Launches Community Input Survey to Kick Off Public Outreach for New Permanent Police Chief

Seattle (Feb 20) – To help select a permanent Chief of Police to lead the Seattle Police Department, the City of Seattle is kicking off public outreach by launching an online Community Input Survey to allow Seattle residents to provide their input during the search

process. Seattle community members can visit <http://www.seattle.gov/policechiefsearch> to complete the survey. In the upcoming weeks, a series of community events and workshops will be announced to allow Seattle residents to share their thoughts in person on the personal characteristics and professional experience that are most important for the individual leading our police.

"The next police chief must be able to lead our rank and file and be committed to an accountable, diverse police department focused on meaningful and lasting reforms and building trust in the community they serve," said Mayor Jenny Durkan. "To find our next police chief, our Police Search Committee is committed to listening to all our residents, including those in communities that have the greatest distrust of police and the criminal justice system. The input and leadership from Seattle neighborhoods and communities is critical to helping recruit the right Chief, so I hope our residents will take this quick survey to ensure their voice heard."

"The next police chief will be critical to the City's ability to continue advancing critical public safety initiatives and police reforms, as well as, continuing to build trust with historically underrepresented and over-policed communities. Members of the Chief of Police Search Committee care deeply about the public safety and reform priorities of our community members. I strongly urge people from all backgrounds to complete this survey and tell us what you want to see in your next police chief," said Councilmember M. Lorena González (Position 9, Citywide).

The 25 member Police Search Committee is comprised of a broad range of community leaders, including many with extensive and unique experience in criminal justice reform and policing. Led by four co-chairs, this diverse Search Committee is leading a national search process to find the best candidate for Seattle's next police chief and is working with a national search firm, Public Sector Search & Consulting, to gather and screen applications. Following the community engagement process, the Police Search Committee will conduct interviews with applicants, the Search Committee will submit their recommendations to Mayor Durkan.

Seattle Introduces Community Resource Hub

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods announces the Community Resource Hub (<http://www.seattle.gov/resourcehub>) – an online portal of City resources, information, and tools to help community members connect and engage with city government and with each other. The site features "how-to" documents, videos, websites, tip sheets, links to discounted City resources, and more.

"To create opportunities and broaden accessibility, we are constantly striving to make improvements," said Kathy Nyland, director of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. "The city has so many valuable resources available that we wanted to create a "one-stop shop" to make it easier for community members. Their requests are what inspired the Community Resource Hub."

The portal is divided into three sections:

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

FAMILY – FRIENDLY LEARNING EXHIBIT: Visitors will receive a firsthand look at the Reggio Emilia approach to education which provides visibility to the values of its experience. 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. One Convention Place, 701 Pike St. Floor 9.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

MORNING TREATS AND TWEETS: Are you interested in learning about birding? Join Naturalist Ed Dominguez for a casual birding experience aimed at beginning and intermediate birders. We start off by filling our cups with hot tea or coffee and a donut! Cost is \$7.00 ages 8 and older. 10 a.m. – noon, Seward Park Audubon Center, 5902 Lake Washington Blvd. S.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

LEARN ABOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD MARCHING FUND: A program of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, is hosting this workshop for those interested in applying to the fund. Neighborhoods and community groups interested in the fund are invited to attend. 6 P.M. -7:30 p.m., Columbia City Library, 4721 Rainier Ave. S.

GOSPEL CHOIR CONCERT: The SPU Gospel Choir's will present an evening of prayers, black spirituals and ecumenical readings as they honor Black History Month. This concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. in First Methodist Church, located across the street from the SPU campus at 3200 3rd Ave. W.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

COUNTDOWN TO ZERO OPENING CELEBRATION! Join us for the opening celebration of our special exhibit "Countdown to zero: defeating disease in the 21st century". Featuring musicians Tiffany Wilson and Sohoyini West, African music and dance, connect with local organizations and much more! 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Visitor Center, 440 5th Ave. N.

SATURDAY – SUNDAY, MARCH 3 – 4

JOSEPHINE'S REDEEMED REVIVAL VINTAGE MARKET: Come shop, wander and leave inspired at this once a year vintage market! Find that treasure for your home! Located in the heart of Kitsap County! This event is worth the drive. Over 100 vendors, food, music, fun and more! 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Kitsap County Fairgrounds, 1200 Fairgrounds Rd. NW. Bremerton. Admission is \$7.00.

GET INFORMED provides the basics of government, along with information on City resources and opportunities.

GET ENGAGED shares useful web tools to help people connect and engage with government and with each other.

GET ORGANIZED provides City resources for those ready to organize their neighborhood or community. Here are a few highlights of the new Community Resource Hub:

- The Community Connector website is a crowd-sourced list of community and not-for-profit organizations to help Seattleites connect with organizations that share their interests.
- Our Accessing Government video series shares information on how government works, how to access it, how to connect with it, and how to use your voice within it.
- The Add Your Voice webpage is where you can find opportunities to give your input and feedback on a variety of City plans and projects.
- Get Informed Toolbox provides links to information, workshops, and resources that are free or discounted.
- Get Organized Toolbox has tip sheets and templates for organizing a neighborhood/community group, such as successful meeting tips, recruitment ideas, and publicity tools.