

Photographer out to prove nothing is impossible

Legally blind, a Tri-Court resident shares his love of photography with the visually impaired

By TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

The images are sharp, the angles interesting, the colors vivid. Everything about the photographs in Robert Wright's portfolio suggest a trained eye behind the lens — and, in fact, Wright is a trained photographer.

But there's one thing about Wright that makes him unique from most photographers: He's legally blind.

His visual impairment hasn't stopped the Tri-Court resident from pursuing a decades-long hobby of photography, one that's seen him through the old days of 35mm film to the new era of digital.

On the way, he's become an advocate for the visually impaired, proving that even a lack of sight is no obstacle to capturing beautiful images.

"I feel that people with disabilities are not given enough opportunities to shine," Wright said. "The message I've tried to convey to the handicap community through all of my work is that nothing is impossible."

A window to "the other side of the world"

Today, nearly every camera — from the large cameras used by photojournalists on assignment to the small point-and-shoot cameras that fit in your pocket — has an auto-focus function. But the technology, first developed by German optics company Leica in the 1960s, wasn't widely available in cameras until the 1980s. It wasn't until 1987, in an off-hand remark from a friend, that Wright even learned it existed. Though the technology was available, it simply wasn't marketed to the visually impaired, a community that Wright said camera makers had long overlooked.

Wright immediately sensed the potential of autofocus for use by the blind community. His own visual acuity — Wright has 20-400



PHOTO BY ROBERT WRIGHT

The Seattle skyline at night is seen in a photo taken by Robert Wright. A Tri-Court resident, Wright is legally blind, but uses autofocus technology to capture vivid images with both film and digital cameras.

vision with eyeglasses — allows him to discern shapes and colors well enough to frame photographs. But correctly focusing the image is virtually impossible — a matter of guesswork when using a manual-focus lens.

But with an autofocus lens to detect the subject of his photograph, Wright can frame the image that he has in mind and get a result that is sharp and clear.

Before discovering autofocus, Wright said he felt limited in what he could do as a photographer. He likened it to being down in a hole — able to see light from up above, but surrounded by darkness. That changed after he acquired his first autofocus camera.

"I found I was on the other side of the world in a sense," he said. "When you finally get out of the hole, you're on the other side of the world."

An accident that changed his life

When Wright was growing up in the 1950s, seat belts in cars were optional — child car seats were virtually nonexistent. In 1955, he went for a car ride with his parents, sitting on his mother's lap in the front seat.

The car skidded on slippery pavement,



Robert Wright

the brakes failed, and the car careened into a gully before striking a telephone pole. The force of impact threw his mother forward, and Wright was pressed between her body and the dashboard. No one else in the car was seriously injured, but Wright suffered

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Seattle Housing taps two finalists for Master Development Partner for Yesler

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

 Seattle Housing Authority today announced that Forest City with Jonathan Rose Companies, and Vulcan Real Estate with Capitol Hill Housing, are the two finalists in the Yesler Terrace Master Development Partner selection process. The Master Development Partner will work in close partnership with Seattle Housing throughout the life of the Yesler Terrace redevelopment project, providing significant financial resources and extensive expertise in planning and implementing complex, long-term projects.

"We are excited to have two major leaders in the real estate development field as our finalists," said Andrew Lofton, Executive Director of Seattle Housing Authority. "There are very few firms that have the resources and deep expertise for an ambitious project such as the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace. Either of these candidates will be an excellent partner."

The vision for a redeveloped Yesler Terrace includes creating a safe, vibrant mixed-income community, supporting economic and cultural diversity, increasing economic opportunity for residents and employing sustainable, green building principles. The redevelopment plan centers on replacing the existing 561 aging public housing units in locations throughout Yesler Terrace. The vision is contained in the Cooperative Agreement adopted by the City of Seattle and Seattle Housing Authority.

"We have worked hard with residents, stakeholders and the City of Seattle to craft a redevelopment plan that ultimately creates greater opportunities for our residents. We expect our Master Development Partner to fully embrace the vision, principles and goals built around social equity and environmental sustainability that have been established for Yesler Terrace," said Lofton. "Both of our finalists are excited by the opportunity to partner with us to realize our vision. This will be a unique public/private partnership that will align the expertise and interests of both parties with the core mission of our redevelopment of Yesler Terrace."

Seattle Housing issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) on June 1 seek-

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Changes on the way for HOPE VI water billing

By TYLER ROUSH
The Voice editor

Water — how it's metered, how it's billed — was on the minds of the hundreds of HOPE VI tenants who attended one of two forums in Seattle Housing HOPE VI communities last month.

The forums — one each at High Point and NewHolly, with a third at Rainier Vista scheduled for January — were intended to present upcoming changes in the housing authority's water billing system in the HOPE VI communities.

The forums are part of an ongoing dialogue that the housing authority engaged in with HOPE VI residents as it moved toward adopting a new water billing system.

Director of Housing Operations Rod Brandon and operations staff explained the particulars of the new system before large crowds, with interpreters on hand to translate. The change sure to draw the most interest: The water/sewer utility allowance will be replaced with a water use threshold system.

The threshold is set based on an analysis of the average of how much water residents actually use, measured in gallons per day per bedroom.

Once the new billing system is implemented, HOPE VI tenants will receive a statement of their water/sewer use every month from Yes Energy Management (a third party who will do the billing for Seattle Housing) and will only be billed for water/sewer use above their set threshold. If a tenant uses less water than the threshold allows, the tenant will receive a credit that can be applied to his or her next water bill.

Every household is different, and the housing authority has strongly encouraged HOPE VI tenants to meet with property management staff to learn how the new system will affect their household. That message was stressed at each of the community forums, where property management staff were on hand to answer specific billing questions or schedule a time for a follow-up meeting.

Brandon noted that because 84 percent of HOPE VI properties are two- or three-

bedroom units, some larger families might receive a water threshold that is too low to meet their expected usage. In those cases, he said Seattle Housing would work with those families to offer higher thresholds on a case-by-case basis.

While the timeline for implementing the new water billing system is still in flux, the housing authority estimates that new submetering equipment will be installed in HOPE VI units by spring 2013. After the submeters are installed, tenants will receive 30-day notices alerting them that the billing changes will soon take effect.

After the 30-day notice expires, tenants in public housing, or those with a Section 8 housing voucher, will be given the water/sewer utility assistance in the form of a monthly gallons threshold, and their rent will be calculated based on the adjusted energy utility allowance (not including water).

When residents are only billed for water use above the threshold, they will see a sharp reduction in their water bills — in

Please see "Water" on Page 3

Content guide

Don't see your neighborhood section? Consult the guide below to find the logos that correspond to your community.

-  High Point Herald
-  NewHolly Notes
-  Rainier Vista News
-  Yesler Happenings

RAC Secretary and music fan Jim Bush gets his satisfaction from serving others

BY SAMUEL ANDREWS
Special to *The Voice*

Jim Bush has steadily served within the Seattle Housing Authority's Resident Action Council since 1998.

"It keeps me busy and they seem to know how irreplaceable I am," Bush said with a laugh while speaking with a *Voice* reporter.

"I moved into Seattle Housing in 1977 because I needed more independence. At that time (Center Park) was the first



Jim Bush

of its kind," he said of the fully accessible community. "Seattle Housing has since made a lot of positive changes. They have modified our kitchens and made our apartments even more accessible."

A huge fan of 1970's music, the positive-minded Bush listed The Mamas and the Papas, Sly and the Family Stone, Paul Simon and Joni Mitchell as the sources of his main inspiration. After being asked what makes a good community, Bush began singing a Mac Davis song that was written for the 70's group Living in Harmony. Bush finds a correlation between positive lyrics and the way a good community should function.

Growing up in the Montlake area of Seattle, Bush recalled that he was accepted by most of the people around him.

"My teachers didn't quite get it at first," he said. "They placed me in special education because of my disability, but nothing was wrong with my mind. My mother and the other parents advocated and went to bat for me."

"That's probably how I learned to advocate for others," he added.

He's not shy about speaking his mind. "There are still times when I get frustrated with people who use public disability restrooms when they really don't need them," he said. "I'm not shy to confront or tell

Q&A with Jim Bush

The Voice: What is your biggest accomplishment in RAC so far?

Jim Bush: There have been too many to recall. Every accomplishment has been a group effort.

TV: What do you know about poverty?

JB: Trying to make ends meet is always a struggle for all people

TV: Do you have any pets?

JB: I don't have any pets now, but I'm a dog lover. Dogs are friendly, and my family had a few dogs when I was growing up. I like cats when they like me!

TV: What is your opinion of the recent election?

JB: I'm really glad that Obama won. I've been a Democrat pretty much since Reagan.

people if I need to."

Bush's late father, worked full-time as a warehouse worker. It was a job that paid all of the family's bills. His mother, who currently lives near Green Lake, has always there for him and his only sister.

Bush is also very fond of his 16-year-old twin nephews, who live 30 miles north of Charlotte, N.C.

"They love my music," he pointed out, adding a proud smile.

When asked why he thinks diversity in resident government is so important, Bush said, "It allows for different cultures, opinions and perspectives to be shared."

Bush then quoted a lyric from Sly and the Family Stone: "Different strokes for different folks."

"A good community recognizes people's needs and accommodates them," he said. "A good community is people living in harmony together."

Tierney recognized by Housing Finance Commission as a 'Friend of Housing'

Former Executive Director was with Seattle Housing for eight years

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF

Tom Tierney, former Executive Director of the Seattle Housing Authority, today received a Friend of Housing Award from the Washington State Housing Finance Commission. The award honors individuals and organizations throughout Washington for their contributions in providing affordable housing to low- and moderate-income residents.



Tom Tierney

Tierney served as Seattle Housing Ex-

ecutive for eight years, leading the agency through the challenges of recession while continuing to increase the number of low-income households served every year in the face of diminishing federal resources. During his time at the agency, the number of households served grew by more than 2,000 which included the addition of new, modern housing units and federal Housing Choice Vouchers.

"Tom's career has exemplified an ethic of service and during his tenure, his priority has always been to serve those less fortunate and in need," said Seattle Housing Executive Director Andrew Lofton. "This is a fitting tribute to his lifelong commitment to improving the lives of others by creating and sustaining low-income housing across the city."

"This award is not mine alone, but belongs to the people of the Seattle Housing Authority and to our valued partners," Tierney said. "I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished together."



Letters to the Editor

Readers of The Voice speak out

Jefferson Terrace needs its security guards

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter prompting Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) not to remove the security guards at Jefferson Terrace beginning Dec. 20, 2012.

Jefferson Terrace is home to at least 280 residents. It has the largest number of residents in any of SHA's residential high-rises. Most of us are elderly and/or disabled. The security guards have given us a sense of security and safety in a way that nothing else can.

I believe that before the decision to remove our security guards was made, public notice of the plan should have been posted and feedback received.

Property management staff have said that no other residential building has security guards. My question is this: If our security guards are a waste of money, why have they been in place for over eight years? Further, what other residential high-rise is so close to a criminal hot spot, like that across from the Harborview Emergency entrance.

If anything the danger has only increased.

Jefferson Terrace is one of the few, if not the only, residential communities that has a medical respite unit for the chronically homeless attached to it. The respite unit was built in 2011. Seventy-five percent of the people on the unit have severe mental health problems and/or substance abuse problems.

Some say the crime rate has gone down at Jefferson Terrace, proving the security guards are not needed. That's like firing life guards at a pool because drownings have decreased.

Property management staff tried to soothe our fears by saying a new foyer would be put on the first floor increasing the ability of residents to identify who's coming and going. We already have such a foyer on the sixth floor and a guard is still needed to check people's identity and keep a record.

Jefferson Terrace needs its security guards. SHA's mission statement says its mission is to provide "safe and sustainable" housing. I believe the word "safe" should now be removed from that mission statement.

Sincerely and Respectfully,
Dennis Bejin, Jefferson Terrace resident

Seattle Housing launches new Savings Match program for residents

BY BEKA SMITH
Seattle Housing Authority

Beginning this January, Seattle Housing Authority will roll out a new Savings Match program to support and encourage households that want to leave subsidized housing. This program will match each household's savings, up to \$4,000, when they are ready to leave subsidized housing.

Both Housing Choice Voucher households and public housing residents will be eligible to participate.

To participate in the Savings Match program, a household must enroll, save money in a bank or credit unit account of their choice, and complete the Ready to Rent course. The Ready to Rent course provides

tips on saving, budgeting, interacting with landlords, and other topics. Households that are more interested in homeownership may choose to take a similar class that provides more specific information about the home buying process.

In addition to the Savings Match program, participants may sign up for the Safety Net Assistance Program, which guarantees that if they should encounter an unexpected financial crisis that would threaten to make them homeless in the first year after leaving subsidized housing, they can return to a Seattle Housing public housing unit.

If you are interested in this program, contact your certification specialist in January for more information and to see whether you meet eligibility requirements.

Yesler

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ing a Master Development Partner with the vision, experience, expertise, financial resources and organizational capacity to partner with Seattle Housing on the final design and implementation of the development plan for Yesler Terrace. Applicants were required to demonstrate the expertise, capacity and track record to implement a comprehensive, phased, mixed-income, mixed-use plan similar in scale and scope to the Yesler Terrace Development Plan.

The RFQ was published broadly and more than 40 individuals representing a wide array of local, regional, national and

international real estate firms attended the pre-submission conference for the RFQ on June 26. In addition to the teams named as finalists, Hunt Companies with Bellwether and Urban Renaissance Group submitted a response to the RFQ.

Both finalists are currently engaged in a due diligence process and final interviews will be conducted in December 2012. Seattle Housing will select one of the teams to enter into an exclusive negotiating period with the expectation that a contract will be signed in 2013. The Yesler Terrace redevelopment project is zoned for up to 5,000 units of housing, up to 900,000 square feet of office space, and up to 153,000 square feet of retail and community space.

About The Voice

The Voice is a monthly newspaper published by Neighborhood House with financial support from Seattle Housing Authority and King County Housing Authority. The Voice is developed and edited by Neighborhood House with help from SHA residents and staff. It strives to provide a forum for objective news and information of interest to low-income people and those living in SHA communities.

If you'd like to submit an article, or if you have a question about anything you've read in this publication, please contact Editor Tyler Roush at 206-461-8430, ext. 227 or by e-mail at tyler@nhwa.org.

All submissions are subject to editing for accuracy, style and length.



Please recycle me



Visit your local library this winter and enjoy free and fun programs for the whole family

BY VOICE STAFF

Your local library is a great place to visit for fun and educational programming. It's also, of course, a great place to find a new book to read.

Below is just a very small sampling of some of the many great programs hosted by the local libraries in the Rainier Vista, High Point and NewHolly communities.

Note: Regular programming may not be offered during the weeks of Dec. 24 – Dec. 30 and Dec. 31 – Jan. 6. Call ahead to confirm.

RV Columbia Branch
4721 Rainier Ave. S
206-386-1908

Hours

1 – 8 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays
11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
Closed Fridays and Sundays

Library events

Homework Help

5 – 7:45 p.m. Mondays and 6 – 7:45 p.m. Tuesdays

Homework Help volunteers will be at this branch to assist students on a drop-in basis throughout the school year, with the exception of school holidays.

Grupo Bilingüe de Juegos / Bilingual Kaleidoscope Play & Learn

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Thursdays

Grupo Bilingüe de juegos para padres y cuidadores con niños entre las edades de Nacimiento hasta 5 años. / Bilingual play group for ages birth to 5.

HP High Point Branch
3411 SW Raymond St.
206-684-7454

Hours

1 – 8 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays
11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
Closed Fridays and Sundays

Library events

Homework Help

3 – 8 p.m. Mondays, 4 – 8 p.m. Tuesdays and 4 – 6 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays

Homework Help volunteers will be at this branch to assist students on a drop-in basis throughout the school year, with the exception of school holidays.

Drop-in Chess

4 – 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays

Come play a game of chess! Children and teens are invited to drop in for fun and

Please see "Library" on Page 4

New sidewalks provide greater mobility at Lake City House



PHOTO BY TYLER ROUSH

Greg Potter, of Lake City House, is thrilled with the new sidewalks on 33rd Avenue NE, outside of his building. The new walkways replace what was once an undeveloped side street with a narrow gravel shoulder.

Water

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many cases, tenants might not receive a water bill at all.

Got all that?

Part of the challenge in explaining the new water billing system is that every household's rent and utility expenses are different. With rents based on income, utility allowances calculated by a variety of factors and water consumption based on actual use, there are a nearly unlimited number of answers to one simple question: How will the new water billing impact my rent?

While it's impossible to answer that question for everyone reading this article, we can explore some of the basics.

First, let's look at the current system. According to HUD guidelines, a public-housing tenant is expected to pay 30 percent of his or her household income as rent. But that percentage assumes a reasonable use of utilities are included, so most tenants also receive a utility allowance, which is deducted from their monthly rent. The utility allowance helps offset the cost of their utility bills, which are paid to a utility company (such as Seattle City Light and Puget Sound Energy).

Today, HOPE VI tenants pay rent to Seattle Housing, and also pay utility bills for their electricity, gas and water/sewer use.

Under the new water billing system, water/sewer usage up to an average threshold is included in your rent. The threshold is based on unit size, building type, the type of heat it uses, and the community in which it is located. In our example below, we will assume a hypothetical three-bedroom unit has a water use threshold of 140 gallons per day.

At least one thing is true for everyone in the new system: The size of their water bills will decrease. After the new water billing system takes effect, households will only pay a water bill if they exceed their daily water use threshold.

That means that if our hypothetical three-bedroom household averages 145 gallons of

water use per day, the family will be billed for five gallons of water per day. The first 140 gallons per day are part of the water threshold, and are already included in the rent.

But what happens if a household uses less than its threshold? In that case, the tenant will receive a credit for the difference. We return to our hypothetical three-bedroom household: This month it uses 135 gallons of water per day. When that household receives its water/sewer statement, it will see that it has received a water bill credit of five gallons per day. That credit will be applied to the household's water/sewer bill account in the following month, because the household didn't exceed its 140 gallon/day threshold.

It's also important to note that the new water use thresholds will replace the water/sewer utility allowance. In essence, what was once a dollar amount to help pay a water bill is now a water amount to reduce the size of a tenant's water/sewer bill. As noted above, households who use less than their water threshold in a given month will not receive a water bill. Those who exceed the threshold will be billed only for the difference.

One substantial benefit to tenants: Because the water credit is measured in gallons instead of dollars, they're shielded from the City's rate increases. Michelle Chen, of the Housing Operations department, noted that the City's water rates locally have increased by 55 percent since 2008, while sewer rates have climbed 38 percent. That's led to an average bill increase of 30 percent to 50 percent for HOPE VI tenants, depending on unit size.

"(Seattle Housing) has no control over water rates," Chen said.

With rent for the majority of tenants calculated annually and protected from increases, the housing authority will foot the bill for most water and sewer rate increases. Tenants will only pay increased rates for their water use that exceeds the prescribed threshold.

"Because the threshold is in gallons,

Positive changes made while discussing a new water billing system

Throughout its dialogue with HOPE VI residents in addressing water billing, the housing authority identified and implemented a number of changes in response to resident feedback:

- Increased customer service – The housing authority has trained property management staff to better assist residents.

- No pay-or-vacate notice – The housing authority will not give residents an eviction notice solely for delinquent water bills. Seattle Housing will send a Past Due Notice that asks residents with delinquent accounts to enter into a payment plan, which could be stretched over a 12-month period. Accounts that still remain unpaid could ultimately be sent

to a collection agency.

- No estimating of bills – Seattle Housing stopped estimating water bills in October 2011. When submeters are not working properly, maintenance staff will physically read the submeter.

- Monthly billing – Seattle Housing has entered into an agreement with Yes Energy Management to provide monthly water and sewer statements to HOPE VI tenants. The monthly billing cycle was requested by some residents to better manage their monthly budgets. Water/sewer billing had previously been on a bimonthly schedule.

- Installing new submetering equipment – Seattle Housing is undertaking a capital improvement project to install new submetering equipment in the HOPE VI communities. The project is expected to be completed by spring of 2013.

(Seattle Housing) absorbs the rate increase," Chen said.

In the course of analyzing the water-billing systems in its HOPE VI communities, the housing authority has identified other changes it plans to implement.

One such change involves replacement of the submetering equipment in the HOPE VI communities. The submetering equipment, which transmits usage for billing purposes, will be replaced with new equipment.

The current submetering equipment was a source of concern for some who attended the forum at NewHolly. A few commented that they believed faulty submeters were contributing to inaccurate water bills.

While acknowledging that there have been problems with some of the submetering transmitters at NewHolly, Brandon explained that the transmitter only transmits usage data electronically — it doesn't track water usage. When a submeter's transmitter fails, water use is checked by manually reading the water submeter. It's the water submeter — not the transmitter — that

gauges water use.

"If anyone believes the equipment in their unit is faulty, let us know right away," Brandon said.

The housing authority also announced it would introduce a monthly billing cycle for water/sewer. Some tenants had expressed frustration with the previous, two-month billing cycle, which meant having to budget for larger bills. It's believed that monthly bills will be easier to budget for.

Brandon also reiterated management will not pursue eviction for late payment of utility bills. And he said the housing authority will continue to provide flexible repayment plans for those tenants who have unpaid bills.

In addition to the community meeting in Rainier Vista, which is scheduled for January, the housing authority will also host a series of smaller language-based meetings in each of the three HOPE VI communities beginning in December. Contact your community's property management staff for meetings times and locations.

Photography
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brain and optic nerve damage. He was 16 days old.

The injury is still with him today, affecting his short-term memory, his tolerance for pain (he has a higher-than-average pain threshold) ... and his sight.

He doesn't blame his parents for what happened — there were circumstances beyond their control, he said. In a way, he's grateful for the timing of the accident.

"Because I had it so early in life, I don't have a point of reference," Wright said. "So that was a blessing."

Though challenged by his injuries, Wright's parents were unfailing in their support for him, encouraging him to pursue whatever opportunities were set before him.

"They never labeled me handicapped — I never knew the word," he said.

In high school in Bremerton, Wright managed the football and baseball teams, carried a briefcase with him to class and was voted homecoming king. He graduated with a 3.55 GPA.

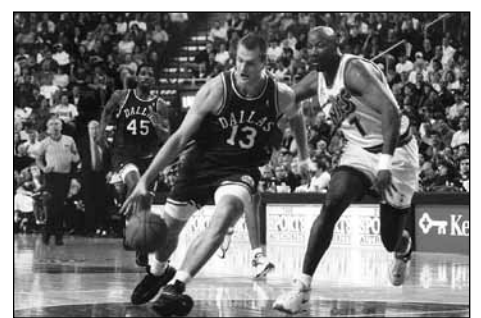
Then came college — 22 years of college. Wright enrolled at Bremerton's Olympic College out of high school, taking a lighter course load to complete the work at his own pace. After completing his associate degree, he enrolled at the University of Washington, and sought admission to the business school. But he was frustrated when he said he was repeatedly denied admission. He persisted for 10 years. When he was finally accepted, his first quarter he pulled a 3.1 GPA.

"All through my life, I've had to go 200 percent to get to 100 percent," he said.

Today he holds dual Bachelor's degrees from UW in business and speech communications.

Photography has remained one of his deepest passions. In his apartment, he has boxes and albums full of his photographs, spanning four decades of his work. One of his photographs — taken with a manual-focus camera — appeared in the Bremerton Sun in 1978. He's also photographed an eye-popping number of celebrities, from local personalities such as John Curley, J.P. Patches and Jean Enerson, to famous actors and athletes — Bruce Campbell, Charles Barkley, Jamie Foxx, even Oprah Winfrey.

"They're hard to get to, so every time I get to (photograph them), it serves as an example that everything is possible for the



PHOTOS BY ROBERT WRIGHT

Robert Wright's photographs cover such wide-ranging subjects as Oprah Winfrey and Elliott Bay, and shapes both concrete and abstract. Sports fans know CenturyLink Field (home of the Seahawks and Sounders) and the late SuperSonics. Local travelers (or fans of the TV show Twin Peaks) will recognize Snoqualmie Falls and Salish Lodge.

handicapped."

Wright isn't satisfied simply with practicing his favorite hobby — he wants to let others who are visually impaired know what opportunities are available to them.

He refers the visually impaired and those with disabilities to resources for accessible photography, travel and services at his websites, www.wrightimages.com, www.travel-ready.org and www.wherewithcanfind.org.

Neighbor Mirriam Simmons, 74, said that Wright practices a giving nature, in actions as well as words.

"He's very conscious of helping other people," said Simmons. "He's always willing to make sure, even with his limitations,

he's always willing to help other people."

He also gives back to his community as president of the Tri-Court Resident Council.

Simmons and Wright share a close bond — she says that he is like a son to her. When Wright makes a trip to the store — he can't legally drive a car, but uses a 21-speed bicycle for transportation — he offers to pick up groceries for Simmons, who lives alone.

Wright said that Simmons, to her credit, is always patient with his tendency for making puns.

"He tries to please everybody," she said. "I try to tell him, 'Everybody's not going to like you, but you like yourself. You love yourself.'"

More photos

To see galleries of Robert Wright's images, visit www.wrightimages.com/photography.html and click the links on the left sidebar.

Wright practices that brand of humility, accepting his limitations without letting them limit what he can do. And he reminds us to turn the lens on ourselves from time to time.

"Is there anything you have to ask for help in doing?" Wright asked. "If the answer is yes, you're handicapped."

COMMUNITY HEALTH PLAN of Washington
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4520 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S Seattle, WA 98108

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EBT Bonus Fresh Bucks
Through December 31st

Use your EBT/SNAP (food stamps) card at these **Neighborhood Farmers Markets:**

for **\$10 Bonus in Fresh Bucks**

Fresh Bucks may be used to buy fruits, vegetables, and herbs.

Fresh Bucks expire December 31, 2012. One transaction per card per market day. You must redeem at least \$10 in EBT to receive the full \$10 bonus.

FARMERS MARKETS

University District
Saturdays, 9am-2pm
University Way NE and 50th Ave NE
Year Round

West Seattle
Sundays, 10am-2pm
SW Alaska St near California Ave SW
Year Round

Broadway
Sundays, 11am-3pm
Broadway near E. Pine
Through December 23rd

SeattleFarmersMarkets.org

Library
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casual games of chess.

NewHolly Branch
7058 32nd Ave. S
206-386-1905

Hours
1 – 8 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays
11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
Closed Fridays and Sundays

Library events

Homework Help
5:45 – 7:45 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays
Homework Help volunteers will be at this branch to assist students on a drop-in basis throughout the school year, with the exception of school holidays.

Holiday library closures

All locations of the Seattle Public Library will be closed Monday, Dec. 24, Tuesday, Dec. 25 and Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013. In addition, all library locations and the book drops at the Central Library will close at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31.