

Othello Neighborhood Banners To Say Hello In 40 Languages Along MLK Way

During the first week of August new banners will appear along the light rail line above Martin Luther King, Jr. Way greeting passers-by in 40 different locally spoken languages. The banners will display the neighborhood logo O! hello Othello in 40 different languages. The Rainier Valley Festival Weekend, a Seafair sanctioned community event, will culminate Sun., Aug. 16 with the Othello Park International Music and Arts Festival (OPIMAF) featuring a procession to welcome new banners along Martin Luther King Way.

The Festival is an occasion for many ethnic groups of southeast Seattle to come together as one community and share gems of their various unique cultures. Besides booths, art projects, and music, the Festival emphasizes fun for children of all ages in the



form of participatory dance, playground facilities including Seattle's longest sliding board.

Neighbors have spent well over a decade planting and growing Othello's unique identity. In 1998, the Seattle City Council approved a neighborhood plan to develop a pedestrian friendly town center identity along the car oriented stretch of Martin Luther King Way between Holly Park and Brighton. The original version of the plan was called the MLK @ Holly Neighborhood Plan because there was no name for the whole neighborhood. Because it is difficult for a nameless place to have an identity,

the neighborhood plan stewardship committee surveyed the citizenry to obtain their input into a name for the neighborhood. "Othello" emerged out of a long list of suggestions as the most popular contender.

Since then several neighborhood organizations have sprung up from Othello's grass roots to grow the now blooming concept of a neighborhood called Othello whose Link light rail station is the only one sitting at ground level in the heart of a business district with immediate access to local stores and

restaurants.

On Board Othello (OBO) is a coalition of those and other community groups working with developers to ensure that transit oriented projects built in Othello are just, equitable, attractive and compatible with the community. The Othello Park International Music and Arts Festival is presented by the Othello Park Alliance (OPA).

Everyone is invited to this free public celebration.

UNCF Seeking Students And Mentors For 2015-2016 Portfolio Project

The UNCF in partnership with the YMCA Black Achievers Program, YMCA Minority Achievers Program, YMCA Multi-Cultural Achievers Program, and Leisure Hour Golf Program will host their 10th annual UNCF Portfolio Project.

The Portfolio Project, which aims to increase the number of minority and low-income college and scholarship applicants from states of Oregon and Washington, is an 11-week program designed to assist 11th and 12th grade students through the college and scholarship application process. Ultimately, the program strives to ensure

these students create a portfolio that will support their efforts in getting accepted into college and receiving the necessary financial assistance to become successful college graduates.

This free program consists weekly sessions that begin in August. The sessions are held at four locations across the Pacific NW — Seattle, Marysville, Portland and Tacoma. In addition to the sessions, Portfolio Project students will have the opportunity to apply for the Portfolio Project Scholarship and attend the UNCF Black College Fair in October.

Since 2006, Portfolio

Project students have been able to clarify and become confident in post-high school plans and choices. The mentorship and guidance that has been provided from this program has not only produced a 92% student acceptance rate into a college, but has also helped students procure thousands of dollars to attend college.

For more information about the Portfolio Project, visit www.uncf.org/portfolioproject or contact Vonzell McDowell via email at uncf.portfoliopproject@gmail.com.

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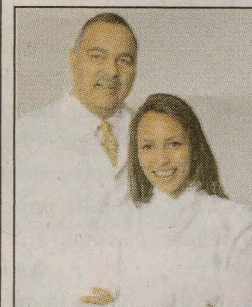
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County To Mail Out Primary Election Ballots July 15

King County Elections will mail ballots July 15 for the August 4 primary election. Voters' pamphlets are mailed separately and may arrive on a different day than ballots.

"Seattle voters will elect their council members by district for the first time in the August 4th primary election. For those of you outside the city- not to worry, as you will have a variety of county races and measures awaiting your votes also," said Sherril Huff, Director of King County Elections. "So go for it, be a first day to vote, informed voter!"

There are a total of 165 candidates and 45 offices on the ballot, with 27 jurisdictions participating in the primary. Forty-seven candidates are running for nine Seattle city council seats. Seven of the nine seats are being elected by district, the remaining two will be elected at large (citywide). There are five measures on the ballot from three jurisdictions. Options for returning ballots

Voters should read and follow directions on their ballots, sign the return envelope, and get ballots back before the Aug. 4 election day deadline. Mailed ballots need a first-class stamp; postage is now 49 cents. Voters also have 24 locations to return ballots without a stamp by 8 p.m. on Aug. 4, including permanent drop box locations, scheduled ballot drop-off vans and Accessible Voting Centers.

In-person voter registration deadline

Citizens not yet registered to vote in Washington state have until July 27 at 4:30 p.m. to register in person at the following locations: King County Elections Headquarters, 919 SW Grady Way, Renton, WA 98057; and King County Voter Registration Annex, 500 4th Avenue, Room 440, Seattle, WA 98104

Voters who don't receive a ballot by July 20 or who have questions should call King County Elections at 206-296-VOTE (8683).

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