

Ideas That Work For Cities At CityFair, July 3-12, Seattle Center

While there'll be parades in New York, barbecues in Atlanta, and rodeos in Omaha, Seattle will greet the 4th of July with a new tradition appropriate for the 1980's — CityFair.

Slated for July 3-12 at the Seattle Center, CityFair celebrates innovative ideas for better urban living in the areas of Energy, Food, Health and the Environment. CityFair's many exhibits, workshops and commercial products demonstrate how people can take matters into their own hands to improve the quality of city life.

"What I like about the project is the philosophy beneath it: that we can do things for ourselves," observes Ann Carlson, chairwoman of the CityFair executive committee. "It's the best spirit

of citizen activism." This year CityFair assembles some 50 exhibits that highlight community projects from the Puget Sound area and across the country. Each project stresses low costs and self-reliance to solve urban problems.

For example, the Northend Housing Rehabilitation Co-op neighbors together to refurbish each other's homes as they share tools, knowledge and time on the job. The Wallingford Wellness Project aims at maintaining good health among the elderly through preventive measures integrating physical, mental and environmental awareness.

The Western Sun Solar Design Winners show how solar technologies can be adapted to new or remodeled homes for a moderate price. The Boe-

ing Company demonstrates how it heats the largest building in the world by burning its garbage. These are just a few of CityFair's ideas, along with neighborhood gardens, crime prevention block watches, homesharing for seniors, and much more.

CityFair also introduces the Pacific Northwest to citizen-action projects from all parts of the United States. Exhibits will show how the entire city of Davis, California, reduced its energy use by 35%; how the elderly poor, youth offenders and the handicapped operate a solar greenhouse in Cheyenne, Wyoming;

how private citizens in the South Bronx, New York, are working with an insurance company to reclaim their neighborhood from urban

blight. Each exhibit is the work of volunteer designers working under the overall direction of Seattle designer David Strong, who has created the CityFair superstructure and this year's central theme exhibit. U.S. Navy SeaBees, from Reserve Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 18, will build CityFair in the Seattle Center Exhibition Hall. CityFair exhibits will include computers, video, informative displays, and art, all designed to involve visitors actively in the fair.

Along with exhibits, CityFair offers almost 150 workshops over the course of the exposition. The workshops consist of practical, "hands-on" instruction on subjects ranging from Stress Management to How to Avoid Consumer Rip-offs.

A new aspect of this year's event is the CityFair Trade Fair, a trade fair that marches to the tune of grass roots self-sufficiency. Staged at the Flag Pavilion, the Trade Fair features commercial products that help people help themselves, reduce the cost of living, and enjoy life more. Trade Fair visitors will see do-it-yourself aircraft, electric cars, toys, tools, kites, kits, boots and books. 90-100 businesses will participate in the Trade Fair.

In the spirit of a county fair, CityFair offers ten days filled with fun and entertainment, too. Concerts, dance, theatre, mime troupes, sports, games, a city-wide relay race, and an electric car rally are among the scheduled highlights that run non-stop from the opening ceremony to closing time on the Center Stage in the Exhibition Hall and around the Seattle Center grounds.

CityFair represents a great volunteer effort of individuals and local groups working together to stage a civic event. Some 2,000 volunteers — carpenters, artists, actors, ticket takers, broadcasters, cooks, bankers, shopkeepers, lawyers, on and on — have contributed their talents to CityFair.

Central Area Housing Alliance At First AME Church

The First AME Social Concerns Committee will host another exciting forum on Wednesday, July 1 at 7:30 p.m. Central Area housing is this week's topic.

The Central Area Housing Alliance will be the featured group, and Horace Foxall, program chairman, commented, "Displacement has been a hot issue for some time, and we feel that we should look at this issue in a form that not only discusses the problems, but proposes some realistic solutions."

"We know that we cannot solve all of the problems, associated with housing, its a long process, but it's important to continue the dialogue

until we put together the right combinations." The specific topic will be "The Housing Crisis: Problem with no solution?". A 25-minute slide presentation will be featured on the conversion of inner-city neighborhoods (largely minority and low-income) into middle and upper-middle class communities (largely white), a practice known as "gentrification".

Two aspects of gentrification in the Central Area will be addressed: the rapid conversion of the community from largely single-family units to condominiums and luxury apartments; and the phenomenon of a comparatively large

amount of vacant urban renewal land in the neighborhood, which is slowly being sold off to private developers. Leroy McCullough, Concerns Committee Chairman, also mentioned, "What's happening to the Central Area in Housing isn't as obvious as something like police brutality, but the affects of it has an enormous impact on where and how Blacks and other displaced people live. We must begin to be astute enough to recognize all of the various forces that can destroy a community, whether subtle or blatant." First AME is located at 1522 14th Ave. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m.

ASK WENDY

I would like to volunteer in a women's programs office. Where can I locate one that needs me? (K.C., Shoreline)

United Way has a Volunteer Bureau with listings for agencies throughout the county. There is a Volunteer Bureau in the Lowman building in Downtown Seattle and one in the Good Neighbor Center in Renton.

You might call the Shoreline Community College Women's Center to find out what programs are offered in your area and where the various women's service offices are located. Sometimes there are programs for women offered through the YMCA. The Shoreline YMCA provides child care services.

There is a YWCA located near Northgate, and a Senior Center in Lake City. The services of capable volunteers are always needed. It may take you a while to find just the right place for your work, but it will be worth it.

With the economy in flux, finding jobs has been hard for everyone in the past few months. Women, especially, may find barriers to their own employment. A recent report on the State's Displaced Homemaker Program included interviews with 500 of the women in the project.

The following nine barriers were noted by a majority of those questioned: (1). lack of vocational training; (2). lack of awareness of the woman's own marketable skills; (3). lack of a clear employment goal; (4). lack of

knowledge on how to go about looking for a job; (5). lack of knowledge of resources available; (6). lack of self confidence; (7). lack of recent paid work experience; (8). lack of formal educational; and (9). lack of funds for training.

You might consider some step by step problem solving in your efforts to find work. First, begin reading the jobs listed in the classified ads to understand where areas of high demand are and which companies are hiring. Then, read the business page in your paper to note which companies are expanding. Use local Chambers of Commerce for listings of successful corporations. Make a list of all of your friends, where they work, and ask each of them for contact names.

Keep a card file for each individual person you see. Look at retraining in technical areas such as drafting, computers, or accounting. Try to get a contact name from each person you see. Use the Yellow Pages to get names of industries in particular business areas. Think of your talents and skills in the broadest areas possible. For instance, if you have been trained as a social worker, you might be a good sales person.

Think of corporations as small cities where there are print shops, cafeterias, media centers, in-house publications, managers, production people, custodians, and marketing types.

If you have a question for Ask Wendy, write to King County Office of Women's Programs, 420 Smith Tower, Seattle, WA. 98104.

Storing Extra Gasoline At Home Not Wise

The extra gallon or two of gasoline stored in your garage or car trunk is an invitation for trouble, says Joanne Ross, Washington State University's Pierce County Extension agent.

Most containers used for gasoline don't seal very tightly. Even in an upright position, the gas cans leak explosively flammable vapors. Trapped in an enclosed space, vapors need only a small spark to set off a tremendous explosion.

Storing gasoline in the car trunk has even more hazards, Joanne says. A hard turn or stop will make the can tip over; gasoline can spill out. Liquid gas turns to vapor very quickly; it can soon fill the trunk compartment and even the passenger area. Again, only one small spark is all you need for an explosion.

If you must store gasoline, keep it in a cool, dry spot, away from direct sunlight. Also, be sure there is plenty of ventilation so vapors can't accumulate. You may need to build a small, locked, well-ventilated special shed for flammable materials.

The current gas shortage means lines at the pumps, uncertain supplies, and rapidly rising prices. It is tempting to try to beat the shortage by storing some extra gas. Don't do it, Joanne says. The saving of time and money won't mean much if the gas explodes.

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