

White Center News

Wednesday, June 9, 1993

Vol. 77 No. 23

50 cents

BOOKSHELF

Library can help take terror out of travel

—A6

BAD TIMES

Local man visits Holocaust Museum

—A4



University of Washington School of Architecture

Architecture student working under Professor Michael Pyatok drew this vision for White Center community plaza.

White Center report mailed out

By Ann Holiday
STAFF WRITER

The next step toward the future of White Center has been taken with the delivery of a report to 11,000 homes in that area of King County.

The report grew out of a series of public meetings at which area residents identified the major issues for White Center.

Through the publication, the county hopes to draw more comments on its plans for the future of this unincorporated area between West Seattle and Burien.

By the end of the year, it hopes to send to the County Council a plan to guide land use, zoning, public improvements and

community development activity in White Center over the next six to 10 years.

The report is illustrated with drawings of an urban village as envisioned by University of Washington architecture students and photographs of community activities in White Center, many of which first ran in the White Center News.

A second printing in English is planned, and another version, in Khmer, Vietnamese and Spanish, will explain the project to the Cambodian, Vietnamese and Hispanic ethnic communities. It is to be distributed by the Park Lake Neighborhood Center this week.

The report explains a draft

vision statement supported by community strategies for attaining the vision.

According to the vision statement, by the year 2000 White Center will have the following characteristics:

- An urban village is centered on 16th Avenue Southwest is the heart of White Center.
- New development is well designed and contributes to the identity of the urban village.
- It is an attractive community without litter and where public and private property are well maintained.
- There are strong schools and family support systems.
- The population is healthy.

- The community continues to be an ethnically and economically diverse area.
- The residential neighborhoods have been strengthened and are places where people choose to stay.
- All neighborhoods are stable, safe and friendly.
- The community strategies grew from the vision meetings and fall under three basic categories, according to Joshua Goldfinger, community planner.
- They are youth and families, neighborhoods and urban village.
- A citizens task group was formed for each and the groups generated more than 100 community strategies to achieve the vision.

Some are listed in the report. They include:

- Encouraging cultural diversity.
- Centralizing government services.
- Encouraging employment and fostering economic development.
- Increasing safety and visibility.
- Promoting White Center.
- Beautifying White Center.
- Increasing life options for youth.
- Supporting parents.

Residents are asked to read the Draft Vision Statement and

See Vision, page A2



Photos such as this from last year's White Center Jubilee Days are in plan being distributed in four languages.

Lightning strikes out 3 kids, coach at Riverview field

By Dan Madden
STAFF WRITER

Scott Meaker thought sure there were dead kids on Riverview Playfield.

He'd just seen a shard of lightning knock a coach and three Pee Wee Baseball game last Tuesday.

"They fell just like they'd been shot," said Meaker, West Seattle Pee Wee Baseball vice president.

"It scared the daylight out of me."

Besides a little terror and a dazed look in their eyes, the coach and players knocked down by the bolt came away from the strike unharmed, but the same couldn't be said for Meaker.

As soon as he saw the lightning strike, Meaker, who is trained in CPR, started running from the parking lot to get to the downed kids.

"I thought we had some little hearts that had stopped out there," he said.

He tried to hurdle a chain-link fence between the parking lot and the field but caught his leg on the fence and wound up hanging upside down by the jeans he was

wearing.

He kicked his leg free and tumbled over the fence. But by the time he reached the baseball field 100 yards away the children and coach were getting up off the ground.

Only then did Meaker realize it wasn't just his jeans that had caught on the fence. He had a deep gash in his inner thigh that required eight stitches.

Meaker said the children on the field were crying and everyone was pretty shaken by the lightning.

"When it hit it sounded like an atomic bomb," he said. "You hear it coming down, there's a sizzling sound. Then when it hits the ground it cracks, making a boom like a stick of dynamite."

Bert Stalker, a coach standing across the field from where the lightning hit, was wearing a gold bracelet at the time. And the hair on his arm around the bracelet was singed by the blast.

"There were 125 kids out there playing baseball and that many and more adults," said Meaker. "We're lucky no one was hurt or killed."

'Bookpacker Club' starts with readings on reptiles

The King County Library System has two summer reading clubs, "Be a Bookpacker" for children ages 6 to 12 and "Library Loto 2" for those 12 to 18.

"Be a Bookpacker" will be kicked off at the White Center Library Wednesday, June 16, at 1 p.m. with the Fascinating World of Reptiles.

Scott Petersen will guide a journey through one of the most feared and misunderstood realms of natural science.

There'll be a 12-foot king cobra hissing and striking, a hypnotized alligator and a six-foot

diamondback rattlesnake striking balloons.

There'll also be a hands-on experience at the end of the show. All ages are welcome.

The Burien Library will have its kickoff at 7 p.m. June 16 with a juggling act.

Each week, Bookpackers will explore a new theme, from Aquanaut to Naturalist. Artist to Globetrotter. Free activities are planned around these themes all summer in conjunction with the King County Parks Department.

"Library Loto 2," the summer reading program for teens, is called "READiscover Planet Earth."

Local merchants and friends of the White Center Library will pledge 5 cents per item — book read, CD heard, video watched — toward adopting an acre (or more) of tropical rain forest.

Teens also can turn in tickets at the library each week to win prizes. Free activities including

Prosecutors consider 'tilt' of arcade owner

A 17-year-old Seaview boy is in satisfactory condition after being shot by the proprietor of an Admiral video game arcade June

treatment. He was carrying a screwdriver when he was apprehended. Homicide detectives