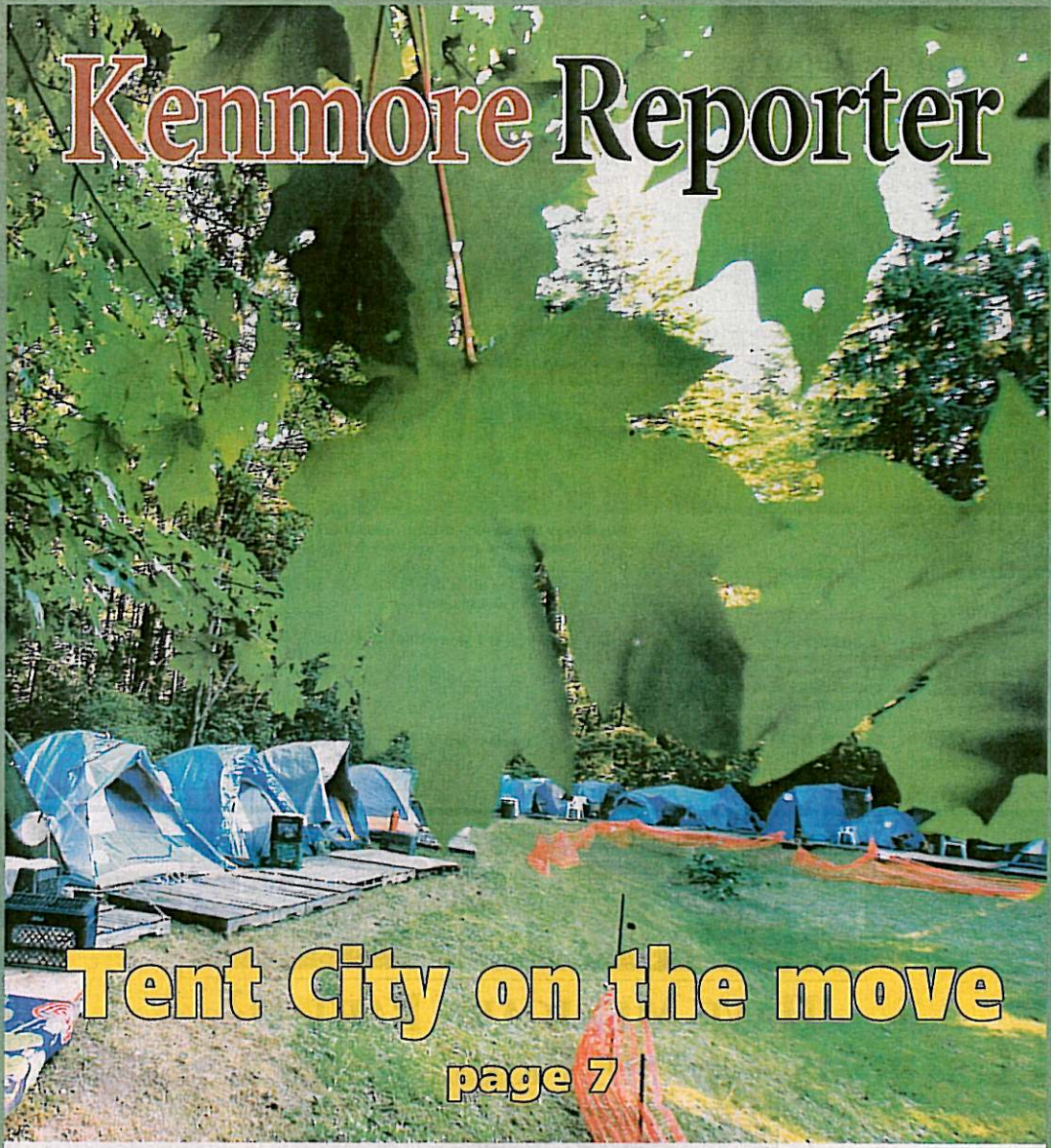


Kenmore Reporter



Tent City on the move

page 7



**Chalet Cadeau
Gifts & Home
Decor**

*Check out our
Lolita Line
See Page 5*

7330 NE Bothell Way, Kenmore
425-489-0509

SPOTLIGHT

IHS grad ready to spread his firefighting wings
page 2

SCHOOLS

District reaches out to those struggling with the WASL
page 4

BUSINESS

Chamber of Commerce continues to grow
page 12

COMMUNITY

Few veterans clubs seeing increased membership
page 13

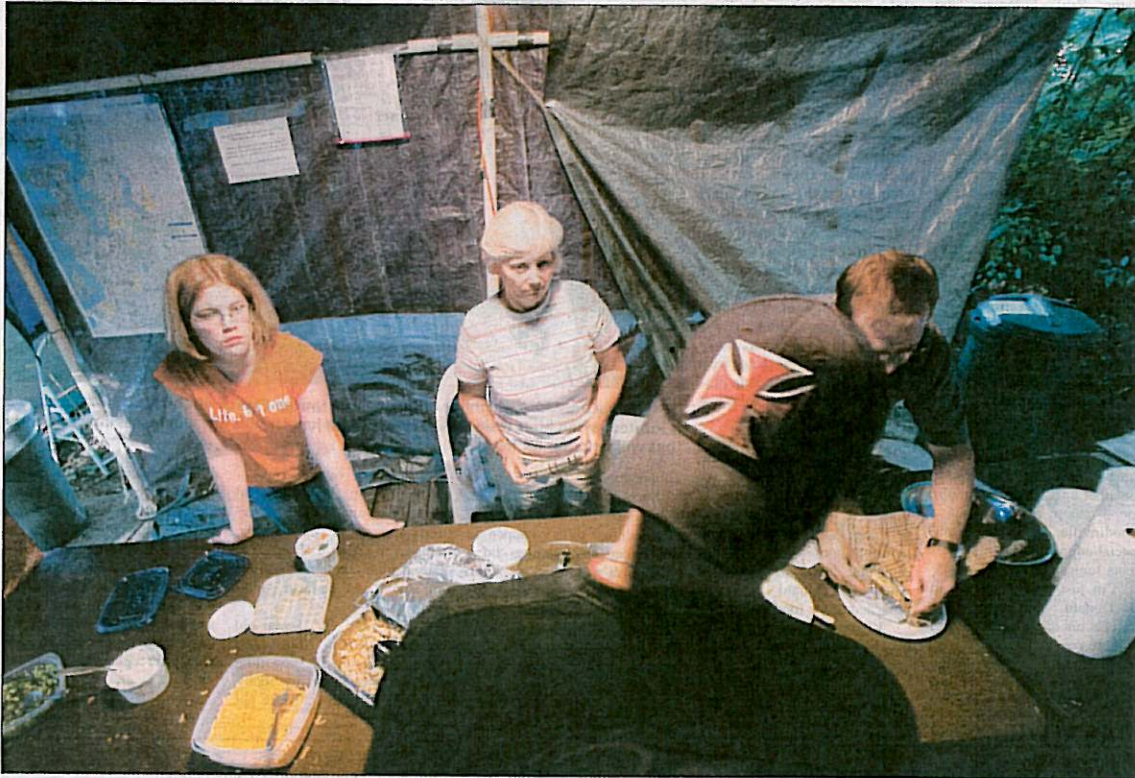
SPORTS

Bothell man is thunder on the water
page 22

CALENDAR

Rain City Riff Raff keep the toes tapping
page 24

COVER STORY



A Tent City 4 resident waits as Bob Stanbary, right, prepares a baked potato for him. Leslie Scholfield, middle, and Courtney Fisher also help serve dinner at the homeless camp last month.

Life in Tent City

A nomadic shelter that plans to pitch camp in Bothell will put city's permitting rules to the test

The city of Bothell was caught off guard when the Tent City 4 homeless encampment moved to St. Brendan Catholic Church in 2004.

As a result, the City Council organized the Transitory Accommodations Advisory Committee to help develop a permit process for future occurrences. The committee represented an array of interests, from residents to church representatives.

Based on recommendations by the committee, regulations were adopted last December for temporary encampments such as music festivals and car and motorcycle rallies, as well as temporary homeless shelters.

On June 5, Bothell's First Evangelical Lutheran Church put the permitting process to the test for the first

time by submitting an application to host Tent City 4 in August. The city has declared the application complete, and a 21-day comment period is in effect until July 19. Community Development Director Bill Wiselogle will decide whether to grant the application based on advisement from residents, city officials and the police chief.

Tent City 4 is currently in Woodinville at Northshore United Church of Christ. A court battle ensued after the Woodinville City Council rejected the church's request to host the nomadic homeless shelter. State Appeals Court Commissioner Mary S. Neel reversed a decision by a King County Superior Court judge that would have forced the camp to vacate Northshore United's property. With

Neel's decision, it is likely that the camp will remain at First United until Aug. 12.

The next stop for Tent City 4 is scheduled for Bothell's First Evangelical Lutheran Church on 183rd Street. A tour of the Woodinville site revealed what Bothell residents can expect if First Evangelical's permit is granted.

The people of Tent City 4

The tour started at the security gate, where residents must check in before entering and exiting the camp. It ended with a visit to the food line, where baked potatoes were served with chili, cheese, diced chicken and the works.

While visitors were speaking with

Story by
Joshua Adam Hicks



Photos by
Katherine Ganter

• ON THE COVER: Tent City, currently located in Woodinville, could be coming to Bothell in August. Photo by Katherine Ganter.

TENT CITY — page 8 ►

► TENCITY CITY - page 7

Pastor Paul Foreman and Church Moderator Jim Albers in the food tent, a woman approached. As they continued to talk, she stood looking without saying a word and then disappeared outside the tent. She repeated this process several times, as though apprehensive about disrupting the conversation. She wore clean, casual clothes. Nothing fancy, nothing filthy.

At one point, the woman reappeared with two cans of Pepsi, which she offered. Her hands trembled as though she were about to give the first speech of her life. It appeared that she was a resident of the camp and, judging from her shaking hands, perhaps a recovering alcoholic. As it ended up, Geanie MacDonald, or "The Garage Sale Lady" as she has come to be known at the camp, is neither a recovering alcoholic nor a camp resident, but a Woodinville homeowner and special-education instructor at Leota Junior High.

"I'm just shy, period," said MacDonald. "I'm surprised I even get out of my car here with all these people around."

MacDonald mustered the courage to talk because she had something to get off her chest.

"I just want everyone to know that there's a woman who works with children and has children of her own, who lives next to the camp, and has found no better way to spend my summer than with these (Tent City residents)," she said. "I haven't met anyone I wouldn't introduce to my family. I've brought my kids here, and the residents have been in my home."

MacDonald got her nickname because of a penchant for garage sales. She stops by the camp frequently to see if any of the residents want her to keep an eye out for a deal.

On the day of this visit, MacDonald was looking for someone to fix her car. She's asked residents for help with other projects, like stacking firewood for her husband, who has a bad hip.

"I don't know who's gotten more out of this relationship, the residents or me," she said.

As MacDonald understands it, there is a thin line that exists between being homeless and being a homeowner. It's the same line that appeared blurry when MacDonald first approached in the food tent.

"If something happened to my husband, where would I go?" she asked. "I'm very lucky because I have a supportive family in the area, but other



Geanie MacDonald, a neighbor of Northshore United Church of Christ, where Tent City 4 is located, often hires residents to do work for her. On this day she is seeking somebody that will help her fix her car.

people don't."

Such is the case with Tent City resident Mohria Chochola. "Something" didn't happen to her husband; many things did.

Mohria's husband, Alan, worked for years as a 9-1-1 dispatcher, a security guard and a volunteer for King County Search and Rescue. He also worked at The Boeing Co. for 21 years.

Mohria said he can't work

now because of a series of health problems, including a bad hip, a heart attack and a condition known as pancreatitis, which, in Alan's case, was caused from taking medications for asthma and his heart condition.

"We have a 3-year-old daughter. When Alan can't work, the burden of supporting the family rests on my shoulders," said Mohria. "We're not

able to support the family on my income."

Alan's relatives have refused to help, and Mohria's live in Arizona, leaving the family homeless. Rather than brave the streets, the Chocholas moved into Tent City two months ago, and their daughter was placed in foster care while the two save money for a place to live.

► TENCITY CITY - page 9

No One Sells More Homes In Bothell Than RE/MAX Northwest Realtors!

RE/MAX Northwest Listings Sold In Bothell:

2005 Actual	239
2006 Goal	260
2006 YTD	96

- With 103 of Bothell's top agents no one even comes close.
- We'd love to show you a comparison!
- Help us reach our goal for 2006.



- Owner
- 10 Times The Production Of Average Agent
- Top 1% of Realtors Nationally
- CRS-Certified Residential Specialist
- ABR-Accredited Buyer Representative
- Team With Combined 33 Yrs Experience
- Over 2,500 Satisfied Customers



BOTHELL - Luxurious 4BR, 2.75BA, 3600+ SF Home on private level greenbelt lot in quiet cul-de-sac. \$735,950

RE/MAX Northwest Realtors
Vince Grant & Associates
22232 17th Ave SE #207, Bothell
425-487-9689
www.VinceSellsSeattle.com



"15 Years experience saving buyers and seller headaches time and money."

► **TENT CITY** - page 8

Tent City is commonly thought of as a bastion for the chronically homeless — panhandlers, drug addicts, alcoholics and the mentally ill. Tent City advocates, like Foreman, contend that most camp residents are employed, either permanently or temporarily.

"Statistics from chronic homelessness are used to paint a picture of the situationally homeless," Foreman said.

Rev. Sanford Brown, executive director for the Church of Greater Seattle, points out that 30 percent of homeless people are veterans, 89 percent of which received honorable discharges from the military.

Tent City coordinator and resident Bruce Thomas refers to the residents as "the working poor." Most work in day-labor or jobs that could eventually lead to permanent employment. Some save money in the free shelter and pool their savings to rent housing with other residents.

'Affordable housing of a canvas nature'

Driving by Tent City 4 in Woodinville, there's a chance you'll miss it. Its roughly 65 residents are situated near a wooded section of the church's property, and the scene is as quiet as a state-run campground.

Residents of Tent City agree to

a strict code of conduct that prohibits drugs, alcohol, weapons and any form of harassment or violence. Offenders are asked to leave, depending on the severity of their offense.

Decisions for the camp are made by a five-member executive committee comprised of Tent City residents. Everyone is required to attend weekly community meetings and perform at least one task a day for the camp.

Tent City "litter busters" patrol the area surrounding the camp to ensure that it is free of refuse.

For security purposes, there is a single entry/exit point that is staffed around the clock. Potential residents must have valid photo identification so the King County Sheriff's Office can check everyone for outstanding warrants and sex-offender status. For those offenses, police are notified to determine an arrest status or method of escorting the person out of the area.

In addition, two security workers are on duty at all times to patrol the homeless site and adjacent neighborhood areas.

"I have never heard of an incident of violence in which a neighbor was ever in physical danger," said Brown. "There have been no incidents of violence in any of the Tent City camps."

Tent City was created by a nonprofit group called SHARE/WHEEL, which stands for Seattle Housing and Resource

Effort/Women's Housing Equality and Enhancement League. It is intended to provide a safe place for the situationally homeless to spend the night and keep their belongings.

Unlike SHARE/WHEEL's Tent City camps, the average Seattle-style shelter is full of chronically homeless people, and conditions are considered less safe.

"Women constantly express gratitude for the ability to sleep for the first time in months at the camp," Foreman said. "One man told me he always had to sleep with a weapon in the shelters."

Shelters traditionally have a 7 p.m. curfew, which prevents homeless people who work later shifts from having a place to stay at night. Tent City, on the other hand, is open 24 hours.

Tents give the residents privacy and dignity, a luxury not afforded by shelters.

"I like to refer to it as affordable housing of a canvas nature," Foreman said.

Each night, a hot meal is donated and served by volunteers, and the food tent is stocked with goods supplied by Starbucks and other charitable corporations.

Residents have access to public transportation, and bus routes are determined using a computer located in the security tent. Some residents carpool to work using the few cars they have. Others use bikes supplied by

SHARE/WHEEL.

For sanitary and hygiene purposes, the camp includes a portable shower and several portable toilets. Blankets are cleaned every week using a service donated by an Everett laundry service.

Setting a precedent

Before the comment period for First Evangelical's transitory accommodations permit even began, Wiselogle had already received two letters from residents. One, he said, came from a supporter. The other came from Leigh Brink, who owns Alexa's Catering in downtown Bothell.

In her letter, Brink questioned how displaced parking would affect local businesses, which she says are already stretched to the max accommodating the parking needs of patrons.

"It's like a water balloon," Brink said in an interview. "If we put one more strain on parking, it'll burst. Our businesses have grown, and there's no parking."

Representatives of the church have proposed using private parking lots to replace the 37 church spaces that would be displaced by the camp.

Bothell Funeral Home, Bothell Community Health Center, Youth and Family Services and Law Office Properties of Bothell have donated a combined 61 spaces to accommodate the church's parking needs during Sunday services. In

addition, 43 spaces have been donated for evening use, according to church officials.

In its Tent City permit application, the church also noted that on-street public parking within 1½ blocks of the site provides 83 spaces. During checks April 10-21, the area reportedly had 21 to 43 spaces occupied at any one time from the hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Brink states that's misleading because students and parents were on spring break.

When the dust settles in the battle between Woodinville and Northshore United Church of Christ, there will still be the matter of creating regulations to help the city deal with transitory housing.

"I hope in maybe two years, we will have an ordinance that works and is fair so that these people have a place to stay where they're safe and they can get back on their feet," Albers said. "Maybe by the time we're done, we'll clarify points of law and other cities can use Woodinville as an example so Tent City 4 is not so much of a big deal any more."

Barring a court battle over Tent City 4's right to exist for 90 days at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, the precedent will have been set in Bothell.

Joshua Adam Hicks can be reached at josh.hicks@reporternewspapers.com or (425) 453-4613.



Cell Towns

smart choice · smart savings

Great Deals in Town

Bluetooth Give Away!



Free Bluetooth with RAZR V3

Motorola RAZR V3
Bluetooth
Digital Camera
Video Playback
Speaker Phone

\$79.99 after \$120 instant rebate and \$50 mail-in rebate.
MSRP \$249.99



Motorola H500, MSRP \$129.99

Limited time offer; subject to change, while supplies last; at participating locations only.



Free Camera Phone

Samsung D415
Slide Style
Built-in Digital Camera
Video Capture
Instant Messenger

Free after \$300 instant rebate.
MSRP \$299.99
Activation of rate plan \$39.99 or higher required.

Get More[®] **1500 National WHENEVER Minutes[®]**

\$39⁹⁹ per month

Long Distance and roaming included

1500 GET MORE PLAN offer expires 7/31/06.

Limited time offer. Now activation required. Rate plan offer requires minimum 1-year agreement. Phone offer requires 2-year agreement. Taxes and fees not included.

Federal Way (Main Store)	Bellevue	Mill Creek	Edmonds	Seattle	University Way	Lakewood	Tacoma
Next to Old Country Buffet 1812 S. 322nd St. Federal Way, WA 98003 T. (253) 529-5905	Across from DAV 545-A 156th Ave SE Bellevue, WA 98007 T. (425) 643-3727	Next to Hollywood Video 1018 164th St. SE A12 Mill Creek, WA 98012 T. (425) 877-9450	Seoul Plaza 23850 Hwy 99 N. #117 Edmonds, WA 98026 T. (425) 775-5321	Columbia Tower 3rd Fl. 701 Fifth Ave. Suite #303 Seattle, WA 98104 T. (206) 381-0707	Next to KIKU 5010 University Way NE Seattle, WA 98105 T. (206) 729-6622	Next to Market Place 6111 Lakewood Trl Bldg #C Lakewood, WA 98499 T. (253) 588-8771	Next to Kyoto Restaurant 6718 S. Tacoma Way #C Lakewood, WA 98499 T. (253) 584-1300

Additional restrictions apply; see printed materials and T-Mobile's Terms and Conditions, viewable at www.t-mobile.com, for details. Limited time offer and subject to change without notice. T-Mobile is a federally registered trademark, and the magenta color is a trademark, of Deutsche Telekom AG. © 2006 T-Mobile USA, Inc.