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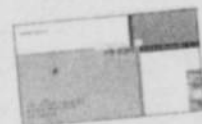
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Home Finder Displaced

Millynn James, a real estate broker with ReMax Equity Group, received a call Jan. 20 while she was showing a house to a client informing her that her office at 2100 N.E. Broadway was on fire. She said that the fire was initially thought to be electrical but that she hasn't heard anything official as to the cause.

"My first response was disbelief. It didn't sink in 'til the following Monday when we were allowed to go back in the building and I realized how devastating all that smoke could be," said James. "My personal office wasn't destroyed, but everything smelled so strong I couldn't stand to be in there. I have to go back in this week and think about removing everything and figure out what will go to the shredder because we can't just discard ruined files that contain confidential information."

James said she feels particularly frustrated by the unexpected delay this fire caused. "I had taken so much time off last year caring for my mother, who has Alzheimer's, and I just had gotten back to work full time again, so this is an unforeseen setback that has slowed me down again."

Though the group of real estate agents will be looking for a permanent space to relocate, James said they would most likely move into the Lloyd Tower at 825 N.E. Multnomah St. on a temporary basis.

"I have been involved in the community since 1970 when I came out," said James. "I have been a political activist since the '60s—both in anti-war and other progressive groups, including the beginning of the gay liberation movement."

James said the Oregon Citizens Alliance's anti-gay measures instigated her pledge to contribute at least 10 percent of her income back into the gay community. As a member and supporter of the Lesbian Community Project, sponsor of the Portland Lesbian Choir and longtime Portland Area Business Association member, she was surprised to find support coming only from the real estate community and not the local sexual minorities community. "Now more than ever, I need the business and support of our community," she said.

Contact Millynn James at 503-330-HOME or millynn@aol.com.

Handled with Care

What do dogs Phinus and Jonah, cats Peanut and Boobers and four aquariums full of fish know about pet care? They know that their dads, Shawn Ryan and Daniel Lioy of SafeJourney Pet Services, provide family-style boarding and lots of individual attention.

Ryan, who is a social worker, and Lioy, who is working toward a doctorate in neuroscience, along with fellow pet sitter Virginia Posey and licensed animal massage therapist Tracey Rienl, offer a wide variety of services. In addition to boarding, they offer pet stops, which are in-home care visits, daily dog walking, animal massage, dog training and aquarium design, transfer and maintenance.

"People tell us that our prices are the best in town and that we have walking and pet sitting packages that are unavailable elsewhere," said Ryan. "Many places refuse to work with difficult dogs, and it is easier to train a puppy. But we service all dogs and believe we can inspire some balance between a dog and its owner." SafeJourney behavior training is unique because training can happen in your home or their home.

SafeJourney staff believes people will choose them not only because of their skills in pet care but also because of their work ethic. "We believe and stand for social and economic justice. Our policies are all environmentally friendly, and our providers are all paid a living wage," Ryan said.

Ryan, who was facilitator for queer youth in New York, said he feels blessed for having a career he would do for free. "It reminds me of the connection to the earth and nature and that with all this intelligence, we're still just animals and not to take ourselves too seriously," he said. He added that Lioy, who was once president of University of Rochester's Pride Foundation, is able to use his background in biology and his creative side to create stunning aquariums.

To learn more about the services SafeJourney offers, visit www.safejourneypetsitting.com.

business watch



Millynn James lost her real estate office to a fire.



Shawn Ryan (left) and Daniel Lioy take a holistic approach to pet sitting and training.