

# Programs planned for N.E. Senior Citizens

by Gladys McCoy, County Commissioner

Senior Citizens continue to be on the move! In May, 1982, I expressed my excitement about the movement the Northeast Senior Citizens were making in regards to the open house and the planning programs and services to be provided in their new building located at 4128 N.E. Union Avenue, Portland. Once again, I am excited! Both the programs and services being planned for Seniors at the University Park Community Center in North Portland are moving right along.

The plan for this Senior programming goes back three years when I implemented a North Portland Task Force for a Senior Center location. After a year and a half of meetings, the possible sites were narrowed to the St. Johns Community Center, Columbia Park, and the University Park Community Center. The last

meeting before the University Park Community Center remodeling started was in March, 1981, when Project ABLE, Housing Authority of Portland, Loaves and Fishes, City, County, and Task Force members were present.

More recently, the remodeling project at the University Park Community Center is proceeding close to schedule and the opening date for full activities will be in early November, 1982. The building will be very attractive and inviting with zones for maximum uses by all age groups. One section is particularly arranged to provide an array of comprehensive programs and services for Seniors with a handicapped access ramp that can be conveniently separated from other activities in the building.

An Ad Hoc Committee represent-

ing Project ABLE, City Park Bureau, the Housing Authority of Portland, Loaves and Fishes, the North Portland Community Action, Area Agency on Aging, and the County have been meeting since June to finalize plans to provide recreation, education, legal services, health services, food services, and classes in conjunction with Loaves and Fishes and a volunteer corps. Subcommittees are being formed to see that these programs are in place for the Fall Term, with the understanding that more specific Senior needs will be identified during the Fall Term and implemented during the Winter Term.

It is acknowledged that the University Park Community Center Director is responsible for programming for all age groups; however, my primary concern is for Seniors.

There will be programs and services, not just for Seniors in Columbia Villa and Tamarack, but for all Seniors in the North end of the City. The effort will be to avoid duplication of services unless it is necessary and to emphasize coordination and cooperation. The goal, as in the Northeast, is to enhance the quality in the lives of Senior Citizens.

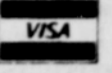
I encourage my constituents to be aware of the Senior activities planned for this facility; become active through participation. Private transportation will be provided for those who are unable to take the bus. For those of you who are able to use public transportation, Tri-Met Bus #4 Fessenden services the community center.

Look forward to the Open House for the remodeled Center in November!

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# Michael Stoops: A hand to man

(Continued from page 1 col 2)

Avenue, in 1980 because the need was there: "Some of the hotels wouldn't rent to the women who were on the streets," he says. "I thought the women should have a choice. Some were selling their bodies to get a place to sleep... It's a combination shelter/hotel. We (the Burnside Community Council, of which he is chairperson) give shelter to a maximum of 132 women a night during the winter months."

Moreover, Stoops and the Council were responsible for initiating the Hobo Parade which was recently held for the second year. He says every neighborhood needs a parade and that theirs, the Hobo Parade, "got national attention."

Moreover, in his continued endeavor with the Skid Road Community, Stoops was instrumental in the formation of Project Jackroll: "assisting people involved in the criminal justice system"; providing winter patrols for residents of the community who fear venturing from their dwelling places; recycling wine bottles at a penny each (because of the litter problem they create as well as the fact that they can be used as weapons); and the Hobo News. Formerly The Pipeline, the Hobo News, a quarterly, "is written by Skid

Road people."

Classifying himself as a "full-time activist since 1969," Stoops is responsible for inviting Curtis Sliwa, founder/president of the Guardian Angels, to come to Portland and look into the possibility of setting up a chapter of the Angels in the city. The Guardian Angels, originated in New York City, serves as a deterrent to the city's crime problem.

Stoops says he took a risk when he invited Sliwa to come to Portland because he didn't know if he would come across as a "tough guy" or not. Moreover, he says, "There is a cultural difference between Portland and New York City."

And that "cultural difference" may be why his concern is so acute.

Explaining that he has already interviewed many possible candidates for a possible Guardian Angels chapter, Stoops says that although most expressed a genuine concern for the community, he is adamant about being involved in every facet of the implementation — if a chapter is formed in Portland. His conception of the first use of such a group in Portland would be "along the Transit Mall and the Burnside area."

And then we come to why he invited Sliwa to Portland.

Stoops admits to not being a fan of Mayor Ivancie — in fact, he says he goes through each of the Mayor's proposals with a "fine tooth comb." Therefore, when the Mayor announced his "War on Crime," Stoops thought it was off the mark. "If there is going to be a war on crime," he says, "let's all get involved." He adds that the Mayor's attack on parks is directed towards the North Park Blocks and possibly the South Park Blocks. Although the latter, which in a sense can be called University Row, is questionable. Students are a lot different from "bums," he adds.

While being a self-admitted "non-fan of the Mayor," Stoops says if the Mayor had proposed bringing Sliwa to Portland there probably would have been opposition to the idea from the Urban League, the Black United Front, himself, and some other coalition groups.

With those things set aside — accomplishments and instigations — the room at the Butte Hotel is closing in on Stoops. He says he is "good for another five years" but the urge to "ride the rails, hop freight trains, camp out in hobo jungles, live from day to day, share the 'culture' of hobo life and record a history that is almost as old as the

country itself" has set in, and he also wants to write a novel about the experience of hobo life.

And then, if he decides to run for mayor, he will announce his candidacy in May of '83. He feels that he can "garnish off 20 percent of the vote and at least force a runoff." He is not particularly overwhelmed about the Mayor's job and his decision whether or not to run is contingent on who opposes the Mayor if he seeks reelection in '84. A Democrat, Stoops sees the City Council as a place where he could serve well and he says that Commissioner Charles Jordan, among one or two others, is the kind of person he could support for the position of Mayor.

Stating flatly that "I don't want Ivancie to get it again," he sees the 1980s as an anti-tramp era and comments that the Mayor's "War on Crime" is going after the wrong kinds of crime." He adds that "it's a kind of window dressing."

"I want to help people, I am dedicated and I want to have an impact," Stoops says. "... I want to help the people on Burnside."

Mild mannered and mostly soft spoken, he says, "If I am killed on the streets, I want to be a part of the action. It's important to me to practice what I believe in."

# Elderly face tough housing decisions

Deciding where to live can be as tough for the elderly as it is for younger adults, but where young people may be looking for ways to purchase a house of their own, the elderly are often looking for ways to get out of houses they have owned and lived in for many years.

It's a common dilemma, says Marilyn Lunner, Clackamas County Extension agent. Upkeep of sprawling yards gets more challenging every year. Utility and upkeep costs may also be high. And trudging to the basement to do laundry may be a real hassle.

"In spite of these drawbacks, staying at the ol' homestead may be feasible if disadvantages can be minimized," Marilyn says. "Maybe some remodeling can help."

All rooms, including the bathroom and laundry facilities, might be located on the first floor, for ex-

ample. Another option is to turn part of the house into a rental unit. The tenant could take care of yard and house maintenance in exchange for lower monthly rent.

"Moving to a retirement village is one option that may be more costly than other choices," says Vicki Schmall, Oregon State University Extension gerontology specialist. "The older person may not want to live around only older people. Also, if moving to another community is necessary, the question of adjusting to new surroundings and making new friends comes up."

Selling the home and moving to an apartment is a favored alternative for many older people. Giving up open spaces, especially if favorite hobbies require lots of room, can be a disadvantage, and so can sharing common walls with neighbors.

On the other hand, a smaller space takes less housecleaning, re-

sponsibilities for maintenance are reduced, and all rooms, including laundry facilities, may be on the same floor.

The question of living with grown children also may come up, but this usually isn't the first choice of older people. According to Schmall, most older adults want to live near, but not with, their children. Four out of five people over age 65 live within a half-hour's drive of at least one child, she says.

Whatever housing arrangement you're considering, Schmall recommends minimizing the risk of making a wrong decision. Try out the situation before making it permanent. Maybe you can stay in a retirement village for a week with a friend — or spend an extended time in Florida to see what it's like moving that far from familiar haunts.

Do not make a decision based on what others have told you or what you have seen on a short vacation, Schmall urges. Experiencing a situation as a "tourist" is often quite different from experiencing the same situation as a "resident." What will it be like living in that environment year after year?

"Finally, remember that selection of housing — no matter what your age — must be a very deliberate decision," Schmall says. "If it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't. Listen to your innermost feelings, instead of discounting them."

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