



Neil McFarlane, a staff member of the Committee on Conventions, Trade and Spectator Facilities, featured speaker at the North-Northeast Business Boosters meeting last week.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

## Convention and Trade Center to Bring Benefits to Northeast Portland

By Bob Lothian

A new convention and trade center planned for Northeast Portland will attract nearly \$140 million in new business to the region by 1994, according to an official involved in the planning process.

Neil McFarlane, a public facilities analyst with Metro, and a staff member of the Committee on Conventions, Trade and Spectator Facilities, was the featured speaker at the North-Northeast Business Boosters meeting last week.

vention and trade show industry, he said. The industry is growing at the rate of 11% per year, according to McFarlane.

"If you compare that with other sectors of the economy, that's outstanding," he said.

By 1994, he said, a projected 130,000 delegates per year will be using the facility. That will add up to a direct economic impact of \$59 million, plus another \$78 million in indirect benefits, for a total of \$137 million in "new business to the region," McFarlane said.

"Clearly, the North-Northeast community has a lot to gain by it," he said.

McFarlane projected 3,400 new jobs related to the center, and increased hotel, restaurant and retail business.

"It has a tremendous impact for minority business and particularly black-owned business," said Sam Brooks, president of the North-Northeast Business Boosters. "The potential will be great."

According to McFarlane, construction on the \$85 million convention and trade center will begin in 1988, pending voter approval of a bond levy, and opening is scheduled for late 1990. It will be located on Northeast Union Avenue, between Holladay Street on the north and the I-5 freeway ramp to the south, and the I-5 freeway to the west.

"The project is an investment in the community, more than any other I've experienced," McFarlane said. "It's a way to build the regional economy."

The new center will be able to attract "mid-sized" conventions and trade shows so that Portland can reap the benefits of nationwide growth in the con-

Many of the new employees will come from North-Northeast, Brooks said. "It makes sense to utilize employees who are relatively close to where the business is."

Brooks advised minority business owners to get in on the ground floor. "They need to make sure that they're involved in things at the policy stage or they'll be left out," he said. "Don't wait until decisions have been made and expect to be in on it."

McFarlane said that healthier business in the area would probably mean "less social problems" like prostitution. He described the center as a "serious business-oriented facility." The image of convention delegates as "guys in party hats" is a stereotype from the past, he said.

"Because of that, I think the social problems that people have in mind are less likely to occur," McFarlane said.

A special attraction of the site is its

location along the light rail line, he said. A light rail station built near the center on Holladay Street will provide a "direct link with downtown Portland," said McFarlane.

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## Camp to Promote Multicultural Understanding

by Jerry Garner

In an effort to promote racial awareness, the YMCA of Columbia Wilamette and the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon announced the John W. Garlington, Jr. YMCA Race Relations and Multicultural Leadership Camp. The Multicultural Camp will take place for one week each summer at Camp Collins in Gresham, Oregon. Garlington, who was the pastor of Maranatha Church and a member of the Metropolitan YMCA Board, was killed along with his wife in a tragic automobile accident in January.

The Camp will unite some 50 high school students from Portland's four-county area who will be selected by their leadership ability, ethnic background and a commitment to becoming more aware of their vital roles in a multicultural society.

Gary Meddaugh, Executive Director of camping, said, "our main intent is to create an environment that encourages Portland area youths to examine their attitudes toward members of other races and culture." "Prejudice usually stems

from ignorance and misunderstanding. A meaningful, positive interaction by young people of diverse racial and ethnic origin should be a powerful force in establishing humane and accepting attitudes," said Meddaugh.

Besides the YMCA Camp Branch Board of Management, the new Multicultural Camp Program was designed with the help of Nick Barnett, Director of Evening Operations at Portland Community College; Rodney Page, Executive Director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon; and John Garlington III.

Barnett, who is a member of the YMCA Camping Branch Advisory Committee, said the Multicultural Camp is something that has been needed for a long time. "There has long been a need to provide a social and recreational opportunity for potential young Black and White leaders, in a setting that has the dual purpose of focusing on leadership skills development and sharing of multicultural experience."

Meddaugh said he hopes the camp experience will prepare youngsters to assume strong leadership roles back in their own communities. "This theme is central, not only to the Garlington Camp, but to the whole new direction we are taking in the Y's century-old program."

## Learn First Aid Problems Associated with Summer Fun

Summertime is here, school's out and a young man's fancy may turn to clover patches. Walking through them sounds like fun. It can also result in a bee sting.

Walking through clover patches, going fishing, camping and hiking are all fun activities for you and your family. Providence Medical Center can show you how to handle common first aid problems associated with summer fun in a free two-hour presentation called, "Summertime First Aid." It will be held on Thursday, June 26, from 7 to 9 p.m. and Kathleen McAuliffe, M.D., family practitioner, will be the speaker.

"Summertime First Aid" is open for everyone interested in preventing and treating insect bites, bee stings, cuts and sunburn. Dr. McAuliffe will also prepare you to make the decision on when to use home remedies and when to seek medical attention.

Other topics will include fractures, water safety, poison and burns.

"Summertime First Aid" will be presented at Providence's health conference center, amphitheater. The amphitheater is located on the B level of Providence Hall, which is located directly across from the hospital parking structure.

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