

News Around Town

Health care for the indigent

Several alternatives to traditional health care services exist here in Portland. Patients need not go untreated

by Stephen E. McPherson,
Special Correspondent

History has demonstrated quite convincingly that if you are unemployed and reside in the lower northeast sector of Portland, the consequences can be devastating if you become ill without adequate medical coverage. Many persons caught in such a situation have presented themselves to emergency rooms of local hospitals only to find that they could not avail themselves of medical care because of their impecunious state.

Such a condition alone probably accounts for the fact that as a part of a subculture here in the United States, African-Americans have received the least amount of medical care and attention when compared with the general population. It is probably for this reason that we are at greater risk to heart attacks, stroke, diabetes, obesity, low birth rates, the consequences of chemical abuse, liver diseases and certain treatable sexually transmitted diseases. It is a given fact that people who lack financial resources defer medical advice until after having satisfied certain other urgent necessities.

The commissioners of Multnomah County have responded to this problem. Not only have they established a number of convenient health centers throughout the city but also have made certain kinds of health information of peculiar interest to teenagers available in all of the high schools.

Of particular interest to the African-American community is the Northeast Health Center located at 5239 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. (formerly Union). Appointments are required. Telephone 248-5183.

In addition to these services another unique type of health care program functions on a sliding scale payment schedule for the indigent. They are staffed by personnel who volunteer their services. They include physicians, dentists and support services. Special arrangements have been made with local pharmacies to service the poor. The interesting thing about this concept is that their services are available at night. Of interest to African-Americans is the Neighborhood Health Clinic located at 4842 N. E. 8th. They also utilize the county health facilities at night. Appointments are required. Telephone 288-5995. One other such service is the Mariah Taylor Pediatric Clinic located at 5311 N. Vancouver. Telephone 284-5239.

It is very apparent, therefore that the indigent need not despair just because they have been refused service at one of the larger hospitals. There are alternatives available, and if need be they can get you through the back door of the very institution where service was refused in the first place. In any case, medical help is just a telephone call away.

Thriftway's Gift to Area Kids

Offering free admission together with carnival rides to young people on opening day at the Oregon State Fair

Thriftway stores, co-sponsors of Opening Day at the Oregon State Fair, Aug. 25, are the exclusive distributor of 100,000 free admission coupons for children aged 6-12 years. Additionally, from 10 a.m. to noon on Opening Day, Thriftway is offering free carnival rides to "kids" of all ages.

Each child entering the fair with a free admission coupon, must be accompanied by an adult, aged 13 or older, who holds a paid admission ticket. No coupon necessary to gain admission to the free rides during the specified time.

Thriftway will also be sponsoring a feature horse race on the evening of Aug. 25. A Thriftway corporate representative will place the blanket on the winning horse.

"Thriftway stores are part of the community," said Jim Robinson, Thriftway president. "We are always looking for ways to extend our support to the community and the State Fair is a great way to reach people from all over Oregon."

KGW-AM is also a sponsor of Opening Day at the fair. Thriftway is one of the largest group of independent grocers in the Pacific Northwest. There are currently 59 independently owned and operated Thriftway supermarkets in Oregon and Southwest Washington

Mayor applauds Northeast Community Development Corporation Application for Nehemiah Grant

Mayor Bud Clark announced today that Northeast Community Development Corporation has submitted a major grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing Urban Development that could become "the keystone to neighborhood revitalization in Northeast Portland."

The application to the Nehemiah Housing Opportunity Grant Program would bring \$3.75 million in federal dollars into the community. As part of the grant application, the NECDC gained the cooperation and commitment of the city, state, country, and many public and private organizations including the banking community. These partners have agreed to financial contributions that would make the total amount of money available to reclaim targeted Northeast Neighborhoods over \$15.6 million.

The Mayor applauded the efforts of the Northeast Community Development Corporation in preparing the grant application that will assist low income families in becoming first-time homeowners.

"This application does more than just say we're interested in getting money. It is an unprecedented commitment by public agencies and businesses in Portland," said Clark. The commitments --ranging from financial contributions to grants of vacant property, according to Clark, "will help this community to address the vacant housing problems in Northeast Portland."

Ronnie Herndon, Chairman of the NECDC Board, said a very strong community spirit was apparent in the application. "The entire community recognizes the value of providing good homes for Northeast Portland's current residents," Herndon said.

The grant application submitted by NECDC shows commitments for over \$4.75 million in contributions and construction and homeowner mortgage financing. All of the loan funds are offered by banks and the State Housing Agency at below market rates.

Up to 130 tax foreclosed properties from Multnomah County were provided to the project. The City of Portland will waive the cost of building permit fees. Mortgage financing will be provided by the State Housing Agency and interim financing from 6 local lending institutions.

The Nehemiah Program will provide funding for 250 homes in the Boise, King, Humbolt and Vernon neighborhoods. Homes will be affordable to families with incomes of \$14,500 and will have monthly payments of which could be as low as \$305. Don Neurether, Executive Director of NECDC, said that homes in the Nehemiah Program "would cost more if they were financed conventionally." The application illustrates that if Nehemiah funds are not provided by HUD, the cost per month of a home would be as high as \$545.00. The same house, under the Nehemiah program, would cost \$366.00 per month.

Portland's Nehemiah program will provide a combination of rehabilitated vacant houses and new homes to fill in vacant lots.

Portland was cited as a city which could benefit from Nehemiah grant finds. Congressional representatives and City officials have worked closely to gain commitments from public and private organizations which would support NECDC efforts to win the grant. The Mayor noted that Portland's application will have to compete with about thirty other cities. "We are very lucky to have had the strong support of the entire Oregon Congressional delegation." Clark said that all of the members have been very supportive, and that the application contains a letter of support signed by all 7 members of the state's congressional delegation. Grant awards are expected before the end of September.

OREGON TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION ELECTS OREGON'S FIRST WOMAN BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

At the annual convention of the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association held at Sun River, Oregon, Portland attorney Judy Danelle Snyder assumed the office of President of the Trial lawyer group for the coming year. Ms. Snyder, a former deputy district attorney, is a partner in the firm of Hoever, Snyder, Neuberger and specializes in personal injury and family law.

The OTLA convention was attended by the largest number of trial lawyers in the history of the organization. Former CBS law correspondent, Fred Graham, spoke to the attorneys on recent changes and trends in the United States Supreme Court rulings involving abortion, civil rights, flag burning, and numerous other issues. Graham opined that the long-expected conservative Reagan court has nearly arrived, a development generally feared by most trial lawyers.

Also addressing the Trial Lawyers was Harvey Rosenfield, architect of California's historic insurance reform movement "voter revolt." Rosenfield succeeded in passing Proposition 103 rolling back insurance business practices in California. Rosenfield's group spent substantially less than half a million dollars on Proposition 103 while the insurance industry spent nearly \$80 million to defeat it. Rosenfield urged Oregon Trial lawyers to take on similar battles in Oregon and not to become split from consumer causes as California Trial Lawyers had done.

PCC Appoints New Associate Vice President

The board of directors of Portland Community College has approved the appointment of Shirley Meckley as associate vice president for human resource management, effective on or before October 16.

Meckley formerly was personnel director at Washington State University, Pullman. She also worked previously as a lecturer in the School of Business and Public Administration at Mitchell College of Advanced Education in Australia.

Meckley earned a bachelor's degree in government and master's degree in organizational communications, both from Florida State University. She will replace Barbara Ellison, who retired from PCC in June.

COUNTY TO PROVIDE PROPERTIES FOR NORTHEAST HOUSING PLAN

Multnomah County gave a big boost to a plan to provide 250 new or rehabilitated houses to home owners in Northeast Portland at the Board of County Commissioners meeting Thursday (August 10)

The board approved a resolution committing to the transfer of county tax-foreclosed properties to the Portland Development Commission, to be passed on to a local non-profit community group applying to the federal government for \$3.75 million to improve and sell the properties.

The county may transfer up to 130 vacant lots and empty houses to the Northeast Community Development Corporation if it is successful in its application to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. The development corporation is applying for a grant under the Nehemiah Housing Opportunity Program which was designed to improve large residential areas.

Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury, who proposed the resolution, noted: "This is the first step toward what I hope will be a cooperative effort between the various public and private interests to reclaim these houses and make them available to families who want to own their own homes and live in safe, stable neighborhoods."

The director of the Northeast Community Development Corporation testified at the board's meeting that the county's transfer of properties will significantly strengthen the application for the \$3.75 million.

Only owner occupied, first time homebuyers or families who have not owned a home for the past three years are eligible. It is expected that the program would target families with income close to \$15,000 annually. The downpayment will be approximately \$1,000, with a total monthly payment at about \$300. Nehemiah funds will be a mixture of HUD dollars, state bond funds, and private financing and will permit construction and/or substantial rehabilitation of homes.

PORTLAND WOMAN CLAIMS \$1.5 MILLION IN MEGABUCKS!

Portlander Dorothy McGee, 46, and her teenage daughter rode in a taxicab to the Salem Lottery office today to claim the August 12 \$1.5 million Megabucks jackpot prize. "My car needs some repair work, and I didn't trust driving it down here," said Dorothy. But she needn't worry about the repair costs--she'll receive an annual check for \$60,000 after federal withholding taxes under the 20-year annuitized payment plan.

Dorothy, a regular Oregon Lottery player, bought her \$3 quick pick winning ticket two Saturdays ago in the afternoon at the Plaid Pantry #22 on North Killingsworth in Portland. She learned she was the big winner that evening after watching the drawing at her sister's house. "I wrote the winning numbers down, and checked my ticket when I arrive home. When I realized I held the winning ticket, I got so excited I couldn't sleep that whole night!" But it took a week before Dorothy arrived at the Lottery office to claim her prize. "I needed time to think about it," said Dorothy. "That's a lot of money!"

Dorothy, a divorcee, said she'll continue to work but plans to "Take a whole lot of vacation trips!" She'll use some of her winnings for her daughter's education and some to help her mother. "I want to take my mother back to her native Alabama to visit," said Dorothy.

CBCC LAUNCHES LOAN FUND

Launching of an Oregon Resources Technology Development Corporation loan fund to assist growing businesses in Northeast Portland which are associated with the Cascade Business Center Corporation.

CBCC Incubator, 4134 N. Vancouver Avenue. The loan fund has been financed by ORTDC with an initial principal investment of \$40,000. In addition, the Northwest Capital Network, a non-profit business/investor referral service, has six referral "scholarships" sponsored by Pacific Power & Light Co., Portland General Electric and Tektronix, Inc. The scholarships will go to incubator member businesses seeking capital infusions.

Contact:
John Beaulieu, ORTDC president, 282-4462
Tom Hampson, Cascade Business Center Corporation executive director, 284-3830
Leslie Brown, Community Relations, Portland Community College, 244-6111, ext. 4378

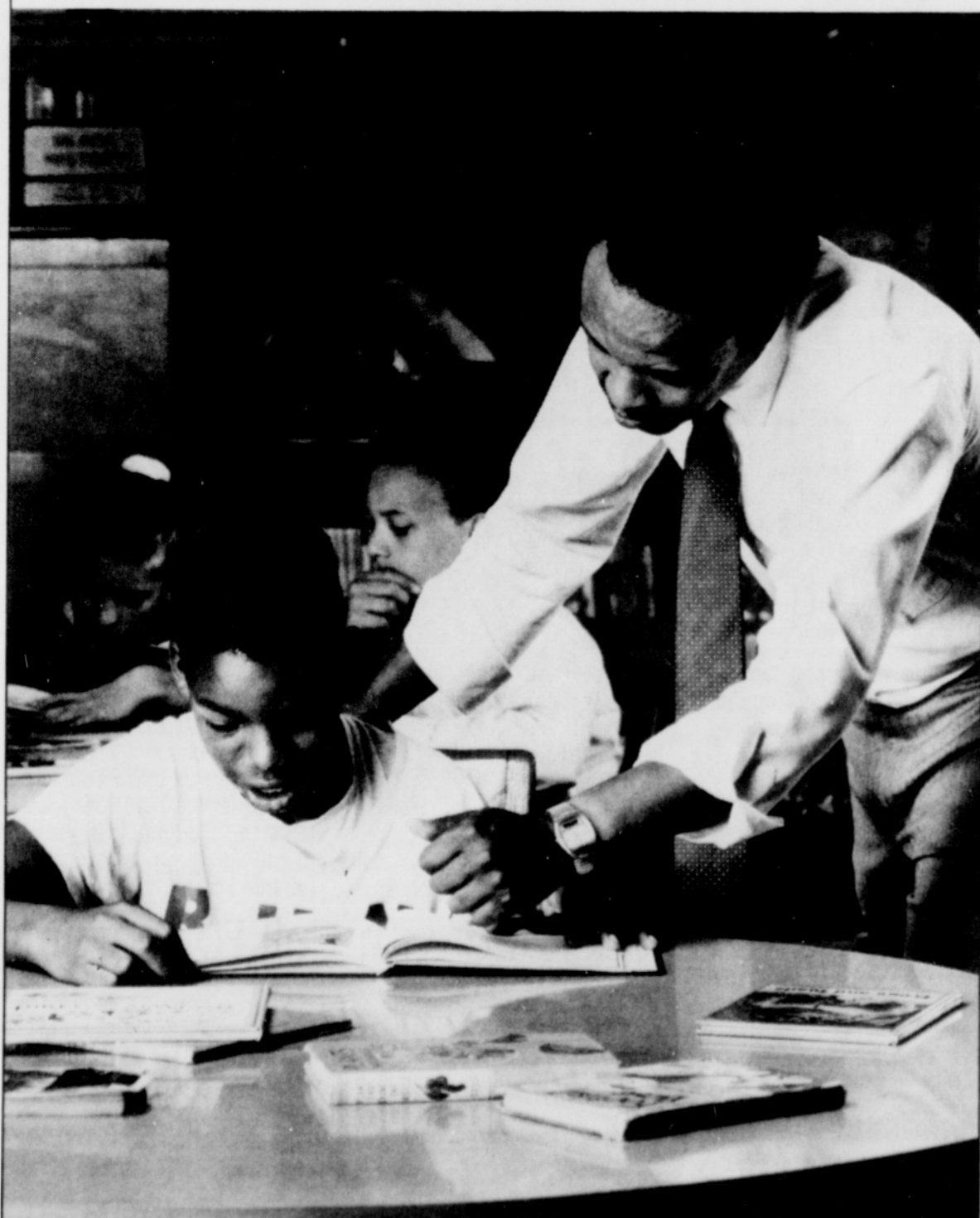
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