

Children's Learning Fair, Walkathon Benefit School Antidrug Programs

Prevention of drug and alcohol abuse by youths themes the sixth-annual Children's Learning Fair and a companion walkathon next weekend.

The fair runs next Saturday and Sunday (October 6 and 7) in the Memorial Coliseum Assembly Hall under sponsorship by Portland Public Schools. Doors open both days at 11 a.m. and close Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 6 p.m.

Just prior to the fair's formal Saturday opening, Portlanders will "walk away from drugs" in a fundraising sponsored by Meier & Frank.

The walkathon, starting at 8 a.m. and ending at 11 a.m., stretches from Holladay Park near Lloyd Center to the coliseum, where participants receive free breakfasts and fair admissions.

Proceeds from both the fair and the walkathon's entry fees go the drug- and alcohol-abuse prevention programs in Portland Public Schools.

Portland-area McDonalds restaurants will donate the breakfasts. Other fair co-sponsors are Z100 Radion, Fred Meyer and KPTV.

The Oregon Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth, along with

PayLess Drug Stores, Oregon Oil Heat Commission, Thriftway Stores, and Channel 12, is participating by encouraging children to wear a "My Choice - Drug Free" fed ribbon and sign an anti-drug pledge sheet during the fair.

Originated and coordinated by Portland Public Schools, the fair features more than 70 nonprofit and commercial exhibits with education-related products and services for children.

Designed partly as a fun event for children, the fair primarily focuses on helping parents help their children to learn.

Several Portland teachers will demonstrate science, physical-education and language-arts projects for children and consult with parents about instructional programs in public schools.

Fair exhibitors include hobby, book and toy stores featuring educational toys, games and materials as well as model railroads, rockets and robots. A music school will provide rhythm instruments for children to use and Multnomah County Library will demonstrate its new computerized card-catalog system.

Mascots for commercial exhib-

itors will provide hugs and photo opportunities, a live cheetah will be on display and medical institutions will help children learn about poison dangers and good nutrition.

Children also may have casts put on fingers, taste healthy food, use computers, make personalized books, take home growth charts and learn proper tooth brushing and flossing.

Stage shows several times each day will feature young fashion models and dancers, good-nutrition skits, and local broadcast personalities. Four students from Roosevelt and Wilson high schools and Jackson Middle School, who perform as an anti-drug rap group, will be on stage several times each day.

Fair adult admission is \$5. Admission for youths aged 6-17 is \$3.50. Children under age 6 are admitted free.



Commission Meeting

Date: October 10, 1990
Place: Portland Building
1120 SW Fifth Ave., 11th Fl.
Portland, OR
Time: 9:30 a.m.

Commission meetings are open to the public. A complete agenda is available at PDC. Call 796-5300.

PDC is the City of Portland's urban renewal and economic development agency.

BUREAU OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS ACHIEVED STAFFING

Commissioner Dick Bogle today announced that the Bureau of Emergency Communications (9-1-1) has achieved full staffing for the first time in eight years, and that over the past six months, minority staffing has jumped to 15.7 percent from less than one percent.

"When Mayor Clark assigned BOEC to me a year and a half ago, he handed me a number of challenges," Bogle said. "I'm very happy to report that I have met all those challenges, and many more that weren't envisioned then."

As an example of a new challenge, Bogle pointed to the Enhanced 9-1-1 system approved by voters in June, 1989. E-9-1-1 is expected to be on line in January, 1991, "\$200,000 under budget and right on time," he said.

BOEC now has a staff of 102, the number of positions requested and authorized for full staffing, Bogle said. Of the 102, 16 are minorities—nine African-Americans, three Hispanics, two Asians and two Native Americans.

According to Bogle, the increase in minority hiring reflects the bureau's commitment to Affirmative Action.

Sam Brooks and Associates, a local consulting firm, was brought in a year ago to recommend ways of increasing minority participation, he said. Since

then, the bureau has intensified its recruitment efforts.

"What I'm most pleased about is the great boost in morale in recent months," he said, adding, "The new employees are fitting right in, and there's a new-found spirit of cooperation."

Morale was at a low ebb when he took over BOEC, Bogle said. Working conditions in the old bomb shelter on Kelly Butte, and overtime demands caused in part by heavy personnel turnover, were among the reasons cited.

Bogle said he hopes the current nationwide search for a new BOEC director will draw a number of qualified minority candidates. Clay Durbin, the bureau's director since December, 1989, left Sept. 13, giving as his reason a "desire to live and work in a more rural setting."

Bogle praised Durbin's performance, saying that over the past nine months, they had worked together successfully to:

- Return BOEC to civilian control, phasing out Police Bureau personnel.
- Establish a 7-digit non-emergency number to free 9-1-1 lines for emergency use only.
- Reduce calls from alarm companies by 3,000 per month, through administrative action.
- Reduce calls from the public by

5,000 per month, both through a public information campaign, and by initiating a policy of hanging up on nuisance calls—people asking for the time, weather, or directions.

-Install equipment to deal with false calls, reducing volume by an additional 200,000 calls per year.

-Develop and internal recruitment and selection program, including outreach to minority candidates.

-Reorganize entry-level training, and cut training time in half.

-Develop a Master Street Address Guide (MSAG), in support of the new E-9-1-1 system.

-Rewrite the Standard Operating Procedures for BOEC, and develop new procedures, including employee performance evaluations, internal investigations, and discipline.

-Resolve a backlog of 20 grievances and keep new ones to only three in nine months.

-Establish a community education program on 9-1-1 for schools, neighborhood associations and other groups.

-Develop a standardized response procedure for all police agencies using Portland's 9-1-1 system, eliminating confusion.

-Develop a Police response Triage Guide for medical emergencies.



Popular "227" Star Stresses Family Values at black family reunion Celebration

Hal Williams, known as Lester Jenkins on the popular sitcom "227," was a main attraction at the National Council of Negro Women Black Family Reunion Celebration recently held at Exposition Park when he participated in the 50-minute "Bounty Hour: Strengthening Family Bonds," sponsored by Bounty Paper Towels. Williams discussed ways of resolving family conflict and increasing family ties with Dr. Mary Elizabeth Hargrow, a local psychologist in private practice.

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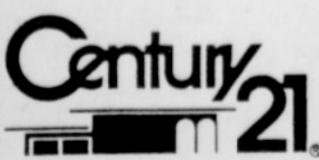
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