

## Terminated Urban Homestead Program Aided 192 Portland Families; Other PDC Housing Programs Bolstered By New Federal Funds

It was a program that turned the American dream into reality for many low-income Portlanders.

The Urban Homestead Program, a federally-funded effort administered locally by the Portland Development Commission (PDC), made homeownership possible for 192 Portland families who otherwise could not have afforded their own homes.

That number is the final tally PDC staff will provide in its concluding report on the program at the Commission's monthly meeting January 20th. The program upgraded neighborhoods by acquiring vacant homes and transferring ownership to qualified homesteaders who committed to rehabilitating the homes—with the help of PDC home repair loans—and live in them for five years.

The program's final report offered this profile of the program:

- \* 192 vacant and derelict properties in the City were acquired and rehabilitated.
- \* Average homeowner income was \$15,000
- \* Average monthly payment for the homes was \$250
- \* 53% of the homeowners were white; 37% African-American
- \* 46% were female heads of households; 51% were minority female heads of households

Elimination of the program does not end homesteading in Portland. The City formed a companion Portland Homestead Program in 1989,

which continues to operate. The major difference: a three year residency requirement rather than the five-year requirement under the eliminated program.

Also at the January 20 meeting, the Commission voted on acceptance of \$1.2 million in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funds to implement PDC's affordable housing programs. PDC receives its HUD funding in the form of Community Development Block Grants administered through the City's Bureau of Community Development (BCD). This will be PDC's 18th year contracting with BCD to deliver affordable housing to Portlanders.

An adverse Oregon Supreme Court ruling last year on urban renewal bonds, which were the source of 70% of PDC's funding, did not affect the Home Repair, Portland Homestead or Rental Rehabilitation programs. PDC is the City's urban renewal, housing and economic development agency.

"There has been some concern expressed about PDC housing programs, but they are federally funded and do not rely on urban renewal financing as other PDC programs do," said Acting Housing Director Neyece Hunter. "I want to assure our clients and loan customers that we have money to lend and have new programs in place to help Portland's neighborhoods."

PDC will be implementing HUD's

HOME Investment Partnership Program, which will fund deferred payment loans and 3% neighborhood housing loans for the rehabilitation of owner-occupied single family homes; rental housing development loans for non-profit organizations developing affordable rental housing; and deferred payment renovation loans for owners for rental properties who agree to provide affordable rents for a minimum of five years in designated neighborhoods.

The Portland Homestead Program will continue acquiring vacant homes in need of repairs and transferring them to low-income Portlanders. This year the program will renovate 30 vacant properties for new home ownership. There is a one-time \$500 payment applied to taxes and insurance in transferring the property and the average monthly payment is \$375.

PDC offers groups of Homestead homes periodically throughout the year at Homestead Open Houses. Interested homeowners visit each home, and due to the popularity of the program, place their names in a random drawing which selects the owners. Seven homes will be offered at the next Homestead Open House scheduled for Sunday, January 24 from 1-4 p.m.

For more information, contact: Harry Lenhart, PDC, 823-3296.

For Homestead information, contact: Frances Walker, PDC, 823-3412

## An American Ceremony

"Ring out the old, ring in the new." These traditional New Year's words take on special significance in 1993, as Americans welcome Bill Clinton as our 42nd president on Jan. 20.

That date heralds one of our nation's few bows to pomp, pageantry and spectacle — the inaugural ceremony.

America's first president, George Washington, was inaugurated on April 30, 1789. The ceremony was simple. Washington took the 35-word oath required by Article II, section 1, of the U.S. Constitution to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." He then delivered his inaugural address — a ritual that is still the heart and soul of our present-day inaugural ceremony.

The inaugural address is the new president's first opportunity to share his vision of the country's future with the American public. Most Americans, young and old, are familiar with the more stirring presidential addresses. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was able to infuse a Depression-weary public with hope through his words, "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself." And John F. Kennedy's rousing call of "ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country" is one of the most memorable lines of any presidential inaugural address.

Less-than-successful inaugural speeches include Franklin Pierce's vain attempts to be heard over a howling blizzard in 1853 and Rutherford B. Hayes' equally vain attempts in 1877 to drown out boos and catcalls provoked by his disputed election to the presidency.

Probably the most disastrous



The U.S. Capitol building decorated for the Bicentennial Presidential Inaugural ceremony in 1989.

inaugural speech, both personally and professionally, was given by William Henry Harrison in 1841. His speech — the longest on record at nearly 8,500 words with a two-hour delivery time — was deemed "appalling" by his friend Daniel Webster. It also cost the president his life. Harrison delivered the speech in frigid weather without the benefit of a coat, hat or gloves. He caught pneumonia and died within a month of his inauguration.

Chances are Harrison would not have been speaking outside if it had not been for Henry Clay. The inaugural ceremony was held indoors — in the chamber of the House of Representatives — until 1817, when Clay, speaker of the House, refused to allow the senators to bring their "undemocratic" plush chairs into the House chamber for the swearing-in. President James Monroe ended up delivering his inaugural address from the steps of the U.S. Capitol building, where it is held today.

While the oath and speech have remained inaugural constants, the ceremony has evolved over time, and

each incoming president has put his personal stamp on the proceedings. Over the years, ancillary events such as balls, parades and special programs reflecting the style of the incoming administration have become a standard part of the fanfare.

Teddy Roosevelt wore a ring containing a lock of Abraham Lincoln's hair, Jimmy Carter walked the length of the parade route to show his communion with the people, and George Bush introduced a "George to George" theme to his 1989 inaugural — which happened to be the 200th anniversary of George Washington's first inaugural. Flags, seals and music of Washington's era were prominent in the festivities, and Bush took his oath of office on Washington's Bible.

This Jan. 20, the Clinton administration will have the opportunity to present its style and vision to the nation. And as we look to the new year, we will, as Americans have done for the past 204 years, look to our president with hope for a bright future. ■

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### Notice

Girls Polytechnic, James Monroe, Washington-Monroe Alumnae Assn.  
55th Annual High School Reunion  
Theme  
"The School We Left Behind"  
Event  
Annual Reunion Dinner  
Date  
April 12, 1993 (2nd Monday)  
Place  
Our Lady Of Sorrows School  
5239 S.E. Woodstock Blvd.,  
Portland  
Time: 5:00pm - Social Hour  
Doors open at 5:00pm  
6:30pm - Buffet Dinner  
Price: \$9.50 per person  
Paid advance reservations must be received by April 5, 1993.  
No tickets at door due to limited seating.  
Dues: \$1.50 yearly alumnae membership Total \$11.00.  
Welcome: All former students & faculty of girls Polytechnic High School, escorts & friends.  
Adults only.  
Information:  
M.C. Heyermann (Marti)  
774-8814  
5933 SE Harney St.  
Portland, OR 97206  
  
Mrs. Robert Brophy (Linda)  
761-1523  
2605 SE 145th #11  
Portland, OR 97236-2650  
  
Mrs. Keith Fry (Iris)  
4724 NE 90th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97220  
252-4708

## MHCC Hosts Health Fair And Forums

Mt. Hood Community College celebrates Health Awareness Week Jan. 25-28 with a health fair and three health forums.

The Health Fair will be held Jan. 25-26, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., in the Town and Gown room. The theme of the fair will be "Walk Into a World of Wellness," and is intended to offer something for everyone's health interests and needs. Topics will range from drug/alcohol abuse and recovery, to conquering fear, to healthy diets and lifestyles.

A variety of exhibits will provide information about local health resources, interests, activities and providers. Daily door prizes will be drawn including a three-month health club membership, a cookbook, a months supply of vitamins and free body fat testing. All attendees will be eligible for the drawings.

Other offerings will include free food samples, \$7 cholesterol screenings, and \$5 body fat testing using the bio-electrical impedance method. A

variety of health-related organizations will be represented including Wholesome and Hearty Foods and Bungy masters. A variety of campus club representatives will provide health information as well.

Jan. 26-28, selected guest speakers will facilitate free Health Forums, noon-12:50 p.m., in the MHCC Counseling Conference Room (Room 2162). On Tuesday, Jan. 26, Scot Skagerberg from Body Basics will address the topic "Permanent Fat Loss: The Missing Link." On Wednesday, Jan. 27, Jan Barry-Gertz from Psychological Services Center will discuss "Critical Thinking About Stress Management." On Thursday, Jan. 28, Chris Johnson from the Multnomah County HIV Outreach Project will present "EIOH (alcohol) + Sex = A Very Worrisome Equation!" Johnson discusses the role alcohol plays in the spreading of HIV/AIDS.

For more information call MHCC's Health and Wellness Center at 667-7600.

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## MLK Blvd. Business Notice

MLK Blvd. Business Improvement Association announces its agenda for 1993. According to Thomas Boothe, chairman of the association, the priorities of implementation are as follows:

Priority I - The association has already begun to establish a public safety program for the northeastern section of MLK Jr. Blvd.

Priority II - The association will provide business awareness classes to citizens of Portland. Enrollment starts February 1, 1993. Classes will be conducted evenings for the convenience of those who are at work or school during the day. For more information call 288-8569.

Priority III - The association will develop an incentive program to help improve and attract new business to the MLK Blvd. corridor.

The association wishes to thank those who have given us their vote of confidence.

## Catlin Gabel School Announces Joint Admissions Testing For Grades 6-12

Students seeking admission to grades 6-12 for the '93-'94 school year to either OES or Catlin Gabel are required to sit for admissions testing. The first admissions testing session is scheduled for Saturday morning, February 6, on the Oes Campus.

Admissions applications must be submitted prior to the testing date. Please call the OES Admissions Office at 503-246-7771 for more information.

## Toll-free Lines To Department Of Revenue Available

Taxpayers with questions about filling out their income tax returns can call the Department of Revenue toll-free. These lines are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and have recorded information about taxes. You can also reach department staff weekdays from 8am to 5 pm.

These lines will be open through April 29, 1993. The phone number in Portland is 243-2833. Spanish speakers can call 373-0876 and leave a message. A staff member will call them back.

The TDD number is 373-1826. This is not for voice use.

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## PCC Announces Financial Aid Forms for 1993-94 Now Available Applications for federal financial aid to attend Portland Community

College for the 1993-94 school year are now available in the Financial Aid offices at Sylvania, Cascade, and Rock Creek campuses, and the Southeast Center.

The academic year begins summer term 1993 and ends with spring term 1994.

Corbett Gottfried, director of Financial Aid at PCC, said, "We encourage students and potential students to apply now to be considered for maximum assistance."

Applications received before March 1 will be considered for maximum financial assistance. Those received later are handled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Please pick up an application at a campus close to you. You may call the following Financial Aid offices for more information:

Sylvania -- 244-6111, ext. 4394;  
Cascade -- 244-6111, ext. 5278;  
Rock Creek -- 244-6111, ext. 7216;  
Southeast -- 244-6111, ext. 6254.

## Portlander Recognized For Service To Youth

On January 26, 1993, Rebecca Black, founder of a non-profit organization dedicated to re-connecting Portland gang members to the community, will receive the 1993 National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) Lewis Hine Award for Professional Service to young people.

Black will receive \$1,000 from this year's Award Chairman, Paul Allaire. Black, who was nominated for the award by Portland Mayor J.E. Bud Clark, began her work with gang members shortly after the city's initial bout with gang violence in 1988.

Shortly after establishing a job-referral desk at a Portland neighborhood center, Black created the non-profit youth organization Oregon Outreach, Inc. (OOI). Through OOI, black began forging collaborations to provide services for dropouts and youth involved in gangs or the legal system.

Black says, "I see children who need us to do something now. If old methods do not work, we must dare to make fools of ourselves by trying new things, which may or may not work. Our youth have not been lost to us; they are just waiting for us to help."

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