

Housing



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Patrick LaCrosse Resigns As PDC Executive Director

Patrick L. LaCrosse announced his resignation as Executive Director of the Portland Development Commission (PDC) after 12 years in that position, citing a long-standing desire to make a change and a sense of satisfaction with PDC's achievements in the past decade.

LaCrosse's resignation is effective March 31st. Douglas E. Butler, PDC's Deputy Director, will take over as Acting Executive Director on April 1st. LaCrosse who was appointed Executive Director in 1981, has served PDC for almost 20 years. He was PDC housing director from 1973 to 1980.

A decision on a permanent successor to LaCrosse will not be made until after voters decide on the urban renewal local option ballot measure proposed for a June 29th statewide ballot.

288-0033

by Joe Zorc
PM Editorial Services

The following are a few basic maintenance items you should know about your house:

Water — It is important to know a little about the water sources in your house and how they can be isolated in the event of a leak at one of the fixtures or plumbing lines.

It is common to install a shut-off valve before a toilet, sink, shower/tub, etc., are put in place. These usually are just below the fixture, inside the vanity cabinet, or found behind an access panel directly behind the wall of the shower or tub. It is recommended that you test the shut-off valves and inspect them for leakage. Often the packing around the valve needs to be replaced, or a nut needs to be tightened to stop a

Volunteers Needed To Assist Elderly On Mother's Day

Many volunteers are needed to assist in the 1993 "I Remember Mama" Mother's Day Brunch hosted by Volunteers of America Oregon. This special event will provide a free brunch for 200 elderly women who would otherwise spend the day alone. Volunteers are needed to greet women, escort to tables, and assist with brunches from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 9.

"This event is a really nice way to spend Mother's Day if you can't be with your own mother. The women really appreciate the assistance, and its fun to help them," said Jeri Sager, Volunteer Coordinator. Those interested in volunteering for the event should call Volunteers of America at 235-8655.

Zanette Johnson, a senior at Oregon Episcopal School, has progressed to Finalist status in the National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students.

Filing Of Lawsuit To Replace Low-Cost Housing To Be Destroyed

On Friday, March 19 representatives from Northwest Pilot Project and Multnomah County Legal Aid Service held a press conference at the First Congregational Church, 1126 SW Park in Portland. At that time, Northwest Pilot Project and tenants residing at the Hamilton and Lowndale Hotels announced the filing of a lawsuit in Federal District Court against the United States General Services Administration ("GSA"). The suit includes a class action by tenants for a declaratory judgment and injunctive relief challenging GSA's actions in approving acquisition of the Hamilton Hotel block and notifying tenants to vacate prior to evaluating the impact of the loss of low-cost housing on the human environment in downtown Portland. The lawsuit alleges the GSA has failed to prepare a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

as required by federal law. 194 low-cost single residential occupancy (SRO) units at the hotels will be destroyed as a result of the new federal courthouse project. Susan Emmons, Executive Director of Northwest Pilot Project, stated that "this represents the single greatest loss of low-cost housing units in Portland's history at a time when we have an acute shortage of affordable housing in our community. Between 1978 and today there has been a loss of nearly 1,000 SRO units in Portland representing a 20% reduction in this important housing stock. During this period of time the estimated number of homeless people has increased by over 750% from 225 in 1975 to 1,700 in 1992 (including children). The additional loss of low-income units by this federal action will contribute to more hopelessness and place an additional bur-

den on local taxpayers to replace the housing."

Ms. Emmons also stated that "advocates of low-cost housing and the general public were assured by the federal government during the past year that these low-cost housing units would be replaced by federal dollars. Notwithstanding those assurances and even though the federal government has only authorized approximately one-half of the necessary financing, GSA is rapidly moving forward with the courthouse project."

Northwest Pilot Project is a non-profit social service agency serving elderly, disabled, poor and homeless people with a primary focus on promoting decent affordable housing. Multnomah County Legal Aid Services is a non-profit agency providing legal services to low-income people in Multnomah County.

The HANDYMAN

Never try to replace any gas fixtures on your own. A licensed, insured plumbing contractor should be contacted for any gas-related work.

Oil — The same shut-off valves should be located before oil-fed equipment. In addition, a main shut-off valve is located near the oil tank. In the event of a break in the line, turn off the main valve.

Electric — Most houses have one electric panel, located in the basement. Hopefully, the labels indicating the areas served by each breaker or fuse have been filled in. If you are buying a new house, insist that this labeling be completed. In addition to the individual breakers, there is a main breaker usually located at the top of the panel. In the event that you work on any minor electrical repairs, always turn off the main breaker.

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Community College flag follows Unique "Oregon Trail" In April

Oregon's 16 community colleges are celebrating April as National Community College Month with the theme, "Oregon Community Colleges: Roads to Opportunity."

The highlight of the month is a statewide road trip during which students, staff and community college supporters will carry a flag from college to college, presenting it to Governor Roberts at a rally kicking off the national convention of community college educators in Portland on April 28.

Each college is planning unique and innovative methods of moving the flag to the college next on the trail route. Plans are underway for transporting the flag by foot, ski, recre-

ational vehicle, raft, horse-drawn carriage, bicycle, car, hot air balloon, helicopter and raft throughout the state.

The flag depicts a map of Oregon, the locations of Oregon's 16 community colleges and the theme of the celebration.

The start of the road trip will be at Valley Community College in Ontario on April 2. Treasure Valley was selected as the starting point since it is closest to the starting point of the Oregon Trail in Oregon. The flag will travel to each community college in Oregon throughout April, arriving at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City—roughly the end of the Oregon Trail—on April 27.

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Fair Housing Conference Held Here

The ninth annual Oregon Fair Housing Conference will be held in Portland at the Convention Center on Friday, April 2, 1993 from 8:00am to 5:30pm. The conference, which marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the passage of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, is expected to draw more than 400 participants from Oregon and southern Washington. The annual fair housing conference is one of the largest gatherings devoted to civil rights in housing in the county. Representatives expected to attend include urban and rural housing advocates, government officials, housing providers, real estate professionals and members of the financial community.

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 bans discrimination in the sale, rental, finance, advertising, and the brokerage of housing based on race, religion, color, sex, and national origin. The 1988 Fair Housing Amendments Act added non-discrimination protection for families with children and people with disabilities.

The law also strengthens enforcement procedures for fair housing complaints, as well as imposes substantial fines for those engaged in discriminatory housing practices.

The event's key speakers include Hazel Lewis, a member of the National Association of Realtors, a real estate broker and expert in equal opportunity in housing from Arlington, Texas; Stephen Dane, a nationally-recognized litigator and expert on mortgage lending discrimination issues; Judith Chaney, Vice President and Community Investment Officer for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle; Congresswoman Elizabeth Furse, member of the U.S. House of Representatives who represents the first district of Oregon; Judge Michael Marcus, a district court judge for Multnomah County and advocate of housing civil rights; and Rey Ramsey, the Director of Oregon's Housing and Community Services Department.

The conference will also feature panel discussions and workshops conducted by professionals in the hous-

ing and banking industries, public sector and non-profit agencies. Workshop topics include affordable rural housing; fairness in real estate, lending, appraisal and insurance practices; cultural diversity issues; and discussions of legal issues in advertising, accessibility, senior housing, and federal, state and local housing laws.

Sponsors of the conference include the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Portland Community Housing Resource Board, Multnomah County Community Development Program, the State of Oregon Housing and Community Services Department, Clark County Department of Community Services, the cities of Vancouver and Portland, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, Oregon Association of Realtors, Oregon League of Financial Institutions and numerous Portland area banks.

For more information about the conference or registration, contact Carlisle Sprague at (503) 248-3617 or Janet Hawkins at (503)248-3707.

Join Other Portland Homeowners with Neighborhood Pride!

Home improvement loans are available in Piedmont, Woodlawn, Concordia, Sabin, Eliot, Boise, Humboldt, King and Vernon neighborhoods. At 0%, 3% and 6% interest, depending on your income - these are probably the best rates in town. You may qualify to borrow up to \$12,500 from the Portland Development Commission (PDC) and show your neighborhood pride by making your home and neighborhood an even better place to live.

Your chances of qualifying for one of these City loans are good if you own your home, need city-approved repairs or improvements, and have a qualifying income.



Before and after photos of a successful home repair loan project — one more family showing neighborhood pride.



If you have questions, or would like to find out if you qualify for a loan, call PDC's Eastside Neighborhood Housing Preservation Office at 823-3400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Remember, City funds are limited for this program, so call today to begin enjoying the benefits of your home repairs.

PDC is the City's agency for urban renewal, housing and economic development. The home repair loan program is funded through a federal Community Development Block Grant administered by the Bureau of Community Development.

