

PDC's Rental Housing Rehabilitation Program Sets New Record

The Portland Development Commission (PDC) announced that its Rental Housing Preservation Program (RHP) has loaned \$5.3 million since July 1, 1993 toward repairing sub-standard rental housing in the city and has run out of funds. This represents the repair of 527 rental units for low-income individuals. With new funding expected in January, the Commissioners approved a \$700,000 increase in a private lender agreement with Bank of America to provide additional rehabilitation financing.

PDC Housing Director Neyle Hunter indicated this is the first time in the RHP program's history that such record levels were achieved so quickly. "What this really means," said Hunter, "is we have succeeded very early in the fiscal year in putting more than five million dollars to work in the community."

In addition to the private funding agreement through Bank of America, Portland's RHP program receives federal dollars through the Community Development Block Grant Program administered nationally by the Bureau of Housing and Community Development.

PDC's Rental Housing Preservation Program offers low-interest loans to acquire and rehabilitate multi-fam-

ily housing. Since 1981 the RHP program has succeeded in repairing over 4,000 units of rental housing. It is a requirement of the RHP program that properties qualifying for rehabilitation remain affordable to low- and moderate-income households.

The RHP program combines low-interest federal funds with funds from Bank of America (known as a Private Lender Participation Agreement, or PLPA) to yield a monthly payment for borrowers that is below current market rates. PDC is currently involved in negotiations with Bank of America for a new PLPA agreement and several other area banks have indicated an interest in joining with PDC in the program.

Currently the RHP program marries public/private dollars to achieve a 3-10-1 investment ratio. In other words, for every dollar of public money used in an RHP project, three dollars of private money is invested. This ratio helps preserve the use of precious public dollars so they can be put to use on other projects. The RHP program's use of federal and private dollars has left the program basically unaffected by PDC's loss of tax increment money.

PDC traditionally utilizes loan dollars from PLPA program on

smaller projects to allow the federal dollars to be concentrated on larger, more complex projects. The success of the RHP program includes the following current major rehabilitating projects:

- **Villa de Clara Vista** (formerly the Galaxy Apartments) 178 units; PDC loan totals \$2.5 million
- **Dresden Apartments and San Marco Apartments** 54 units; PDC loan totals \$400,500
- **Colonial Park Apartments** 48 units; PDC loan totals \$1.3 million
- **Glisan Street Shelter** 40 SRO units; 121 beds; PDC loan totals \$407,000
- **Cathedral Park Apartments** 40 units; PDC loan totals \$189,900
- **Grand Oaks Trio** 145 units; PDC loan totals \$901,350
- **Morrison Park Apartments** 60 units; PDC loan totals \$390,000

PDC is the City's agency for urban renewal, housing and economic development.

Third Annual Solidarity Committee Work-A-Thon

The Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC) and The Ben Linder Construction Brigade will be hosting a Work-a-Thon on Sunday, October 24, 1993, in Hillsboro, Oregon.

This year, Work-a-Thon participants will paint and repair playground equipment at the Migrant Head Start facility in Hillsboro as well as build a garden space. Migrant Head Start is a childcare center which provides education and social services for migrant workers and their families. Participants will be weatherizing low-income housing.

The Work-a-Thon, the third annual, will raise funds to give support and humanitarian aid to El Salvador and Nicaragua. The funds will also be used to aid women's groups in El Salvador as they prepare for the most

important election in the history of El Salvador which takes place in March, 1994.

Joining the workers will be Marian Isabela Morales, an electoral candidate in the election and the founder of El Salvador's Melida Anaya Montes Women's Movement (MAM). She will be speaking on the critical role of women in El Salvador's upcoming election. Her lecture begins at 5:30pm.

Marian Isabela Morales founded MAM in July of 1992 to respond to the need of women as the country tries to build economic and social justice. Today MAM has over 4,000 members in El Salvador.

The elections in El Salvador are the first to occur since peace accords were signed between the government of EL Salvador and the Farabundo

Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) in January, 1992. In the election, the people of El Salvador will be voting to elect a new president, a new national assembly and new municipal governments.

People wishing to participate in the Work-a-Thon are meeting at 9am at the Centro Cultural in Cornelius. The Centro Cultural is located at 1110 N. Adair Street in Cornelius, Oregon. Car poolers are meeting at 7:45am at the Liberty Tree Coffee House at 344 N.E. 28th Avenue (near N.E. Flanders) in Portland.

To volunteer for the Work-a-Thon and for more information, please contact Grace Taylor at (503) 236-7916. For more information, about the Ben Linder Construction Brigade, please call (503) 230-9427.

Sisters In Support (SIS) Seeks Help From Community

There is a disease which plagues our community, its tentacles touching us in many ways. The disease is the violence which is so pervasive throughout northeast Portland. We all hear it every day; it is rampant and relentless. We feel vulnerable and helpless, and we fear for our children, who are affected the most.

All of us have felt the effects of this disease in some way: As a relative, a neighbor, a church member or a co-worker. We, Sisters In Support (SIS), have come together because we have been touched by the crisis in the life of one of our own, Jean Drew-our neighbor, our co-worker, our friend. Jean's only son, Jomo, was ac-

cused, tried and convicted of manslaughter, as a result of an altercation earlier this year. His plea was self-defense. A single parent, Jean has depleted her limited resources in her valiant efforts to keep her son from going to prison. She is going through "----", in her words, physically, emotionally and financially.

While we all feel a sense of personal loss for the other family involved, SIS is hosting this special luncheon to support Jean. Please join us Friday, October 22, from noon to 1:30pm at the OAME/Cascade Plaza, 4134 N. Vancouver (corner of Skidmore). Our guest speaker, Rev. Alcena Boozer, principal of Jefferson

High School, will talk about the need for women to support each other in these difficult, trying times.

Cost is \$15 per person. You may RSVP by calling 284-6354 or 255-5482. Please call early as seating is limited. If you are not able to attend but wish to be involved, you may send your donation payable to: Account for Jean Drew, c/o American State Bank, 2737 NE MLK Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97212.

Jean needs our support, and we should do what we can to help her. What has happened to Jean's family could happen to any one of us at any time. We want to help each other when we can, however we are able.

Grass Roots Campaign Gains Momentum

Local grass root efforts to gain a yes vote on Ballot Measure 1 are continuing at full speed, despite a Marion County judge's ruling that the measure is unconstitutional.

Jane Ames, who is co-chair of Portland Citizens for Oregon Schools, said that Judge Ablin Norblad's ruling was not a surprise. "We knew something like this might come up, but we fully expect it to be overturned by the Oregon Supreme Court," Ames said. She said that drafters of the measure worked closely with the Attorney General's office to make sure that it was constitutional.

"There are a few technical legal issues to be worked out, but that's not distracting us from the real issue here--and that's school funding for our children," Ames said. "We're moving ahead as planned and educating

voters about the importance of voting yes on Measure 1 in order to back up Oregonians' stated commitment to education."

According to Ames, Portland Citizens from Oregon Schools has more than 20 events scheduled during the next two weeks, including presentations at in-home coffees, schools, youth care centers, neighborhood fairs and service clubs. "With the election drawing near, we're picking up momentum as more people see the positive impact Ballot Measure 1 will have," she said.

"There is a silver lining to Judge Norblad's ruling," Ames said. "It will make people look more closely at the ballot title, and we know that the more people read exactly what Measure 1 is, the more yes votes we have."

Packwood Gains Support To Reduce Foreign Tariffs On U.S. Forest Products Exports

Oregon Senator Bob Packwood gained wide-spread support for his efforts to eliminate foreign tariffs on forest products. He expressed disappointment that these barriers have not been eliminated in on-going international trade negotiations. "The

forest products industry has been a consistent performer for Oregon and the nation, in part, because of exports. That growth simply cannot continue if U.S. exporters face high tariffs overseas while their foreign competitors have unlimited access to our mar-

kets," said Packwood.

The market access agreement announced at the Tokyo Economic Summit last July successfully eliminated tariffs for many products but not wood and paper products.

Most Valuable Partner Awards Dinner

Roosevelt High School held its first Annual Most Valuable Partner Awards Dinner on Tuesday, October 19, 1993. The presentation was given to private sector businesses that are working with schools in a business education partnership.

The speaker for the occasion was Tim W. Ferguson, Business World columnist and member editorial board, The Wall Street Journal.

The Business Youth Exchange is a private, non-profit organization affiliated with the Portland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce whose goal is to assist at-risk youth in their successful completion of high school and transition into the workforce.

New Urban Bicycle School Begins With "FundRide" Parade & Prizes

Mark off Saturday October 30 from 2-5pm to grab your costume and your bike, and join the FundRide '93 Pledge Parade at Sabin Elementary School, 4013 NE 18th (4 blocks North of Fremont). A new bike tops the list of prizes you could win. Pick up your FundRide '93 pledge sheets now at local bike shops and schools. This family event offers great food, music, bike games and races, safety and obstacle courses, and other community resource information. The grand finale is a leisurely 5 mile parade and a scavenger hunt through the neighborhood. Remember, the more pledges you make, the more you can win!

All this fun supports start up costs for the Community Cycling Center. The Center teaches urban youth how to fix bicycles donated from agencies for low cost sale to low-income residents. The Center also advocates cycling for transportation, health and fun.

Volunteers are needed now to make FundRide '93 even better! Call the Center's message number @ #727-5480 or #771-9087.

Contact: Director Brian Lacy at (503) 727-5480 or at the Community Cycling Center, Box #163, 2600 NE MLK Blvd., Portland, OR, 97212.

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THE OREGON ASSOCIATION OF URBAN BANKERS

Presents Its...

Third Annual Awards & Scholarship Banquet
"Investing In Our Community"

Thursday, October 21, 1993

Shennanigan's on the Willamette
4575 N. Channel, Portland
Tickets: \$35 person in advance

Keynote Speaker: Ray Leary
Executive Vice President
Self-Enhancement, Inc.

Schedule for the evening:
6 to 7pm No Host Reception
7 to 9pm Dinner (Program to follow)

Please join us in celebrating our accomplishments & presentation of our annual OAUUB scholarships. For ticket information, contact June Clarke, 340-5613.

Environmental Services Recommends Caution For Recreational River Use

Due to the most recent rain storms, Environmental Services is advising the public against some types of recreational activity in the Willamette River and Columbia Slough.

In Portland's sewer system, sewage mixes with storm runoff in what is called a combined sewer system. When the combined sewer system receives too much storm runoff, it overflows into the Willamette River and Columbia Slough. These combined sewer overflows (CSOs) are contaminated with bacteria from untreated sewage.

Environmental Services is advising the public to avoid the Willamette River and the Columbia Slough for recreational activities--such as water skiing or swimming--in which water could be swallowed. While the health risks from combined sewer overflows are unknown, these precautionary measures are being taken to protect the public

health. Combined sewer overflows do not typically present any serious environmental concerns for fish and aquatic life. People who fish should wash their hands following contact with the water. Fish are safe to eat as long as they are cooked to kill bacteria.

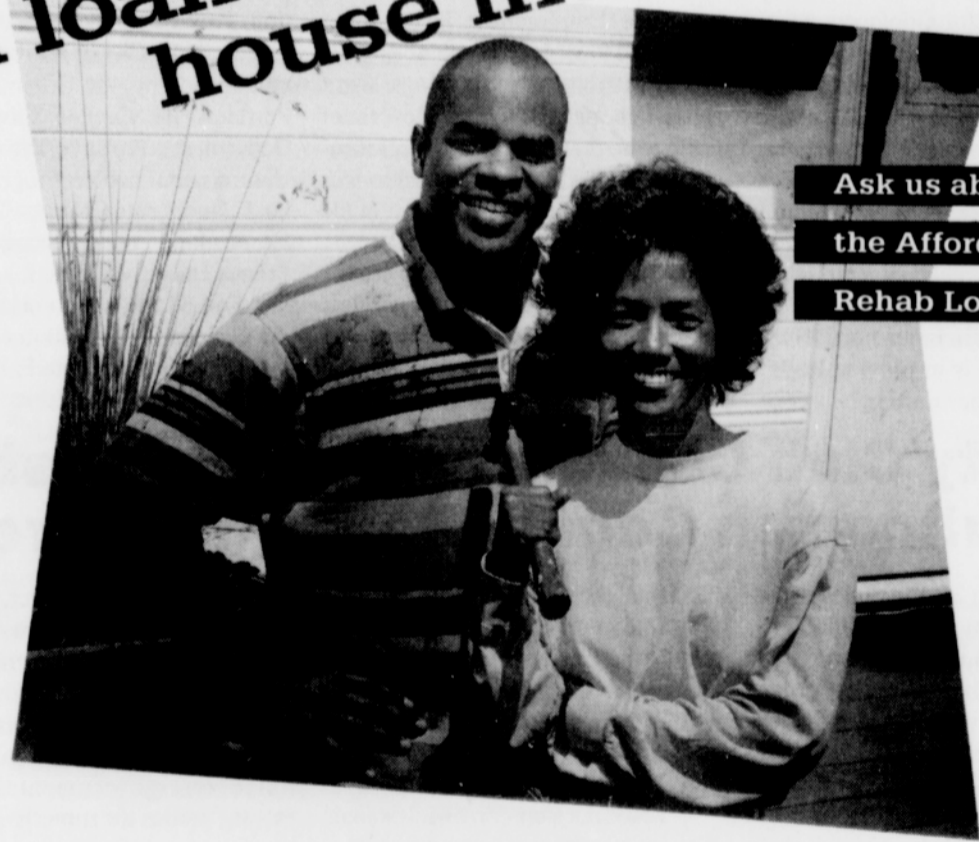
Portland is undertaking an ambitious 20-year program to improve the city's sewer system. Until the program is complete, overflows of untreated sewage and stormwater will occur during rain storms, although the frequency of overflows and number of outfalls will diminish as the program progresses.

The Bureau of Environmental Services provides city residents with water quality protection, sewage treatment, wastewater collection, sewer installation, and solid waste collection, and oversees recycling services.

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United Way of the Columbia-Willamette 228-9131

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