THE PORTLAND OBSERVER • APRIL 20, 1994



Jobs Move To Portland From California

Housewares Importer Comes To Town

Development Commission, Portland and new jobs on March 10.

Richards Homewares, Inc. is a 55-year old manufacturer and imboth the Los Angeles and New York City areas, Richards deals in closet storage and home organization products, as well as protective covers for outdoor furniture and barbecues imported from Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The company employs 15 people at its Long Beach, California office. Annual sales are in the \$4-5 million range.

Needing a much larger facility for his growing company and no longer satisfied with the quality of life in Los Angeles, Robert Freelander, owner and president of Richards Homewares, West Coast location.

Reports Freelander, "It is important for an import company to be near the Pacific Rim. We started to look at our options.

Freelander contacted the Portland Development Commission to learn more about Portland. As for any

With the help of the Portland business, the skills of the workforce were important, and Richards was will welcome to town a new company especially interested in the quality of marine, truck and air transportation 35,000 square-foot building located in the region.

PDC worked closely with the Albina Industrial Area. porter of housewares, with offices in company over a lengthy period of make available to businesses coming with more soon to follow. to town.

Inc., began in 1991 to look for another over, and we decided Portland was way.

the place for out company." Richards Homewares needed two things to move, and Freelander again turned to PDC.

First, the company had to have a home. PDC provided industrial property inventories giving Freelander a feel for the Portland market.

Freelander worked with commercial broker Norris Beggs & Simpson to find a building, Richards purchased a at 3810 North Mississippi in the Lower

time, answering questions and ad- high-skilled employees. Five signed a full Disposition and Develdressing concerns. PDC forwarded members of his current staff are opment Agreement-an important step information of the North/Northeast joining Freelander on the move toward the construction of a new PGT Portland Enterprise Zone and on the north. So along with Freelander corporate headquarters at the south loan programs PDC and the Oregon and his company comes jobs for end of RiverPlace in the South Water-Economic Development Department Portlanders, five or six at first, front Urban Renewal Area.

But Mr. Freelander was also in- for his business, Freelander turned to terested in the quality of life in Port- PDC's JobNet program. JobNet links land. "The more I learned about Port- new and expanding companies to land, it seemed like a great place for qualified workers from the Portland my employees to settle down and area. Freelander reports that he is raise their families, "Freelander raves. very pleased with the skills and char-"My whole staff talked it over and acter of the people JobNet has sent his

One Stop Shopping **For Energy**

The Department of Energy now provides one-stop shopping for people who need information on energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

The newly-named Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clearinghouse (ERC) now handles inquiries ranging from simple requests for fact sheets, videos, and brochures, to complex technical inquiries at one toll-free number, 1-800-523-2929.

The clearinghouse resulted from the consolidation of the Conservation and Renewable Energy Inquiry and Referral service (CAREIRS) and the National Appropriate Technology Assistance Service (NATAS).

In addition to general information inquires, the clearinghouse pro-

Agreement With PDC Brings Pacific Gas Transmission Company Headquarters One Step Closer To Construction

Pacific Gas Transmission company (PGT) and the Portland Devel-Second, Richards needed opment Commission (PDC) have

The new building, valued at \$21 To recruit top notch local people million, will be the first major headquarters to locate in the Central City in over a decade and will be a great boost to the entire downtown business community and RiverPlace development. Full execution of the agreement remains contingent upon final finance and construction documents being negotiated which are expected by next month. Construction is expected to begin in June with occupancy scheduled for summer 1995.

building will be developed and owned in to the development phase," said

Lindberg will join Portland General Electric to celebrate their partnership in weatherizing low-income apartments. Ten thousand lower-income apartment units are more comfortable and affordable because of the City's partnership with PGE and other utilities. A tree was presented to apartment owner Martin Shore and planted by Lindberg on Thursday, April 7, at 10:30 a.m., at the Place Avanti Apart-

ments, 3602 SE 29th Place, Portland

-- the complex which marks the Commissioner Lindberg pointed out.

by Gerding Investment Company, PDC Executive Director Jan designed by the architectural firm of Mackenzie/Saito & Associates and built by Hoffman Construction Company. All three are Portland firms.

PGT is currently headquartered in San Francisco. The company owns and operates an interstate pipeline in Idaho, Washington and Oregon that primarily transports Canadian natural gas to the Northwest and California. The company is moving headquarters north to Portland to be closer to its facilities and serve its customers with maximum efficiency.

As the city's agency for urban renewal, housing and economic development, PDC led the city's effort to bring PGT to Portland and negotiated the development agreement. "We are extremely pleased that plans for The eight-story, 170,000 sq. ft. PGT's new headquarters are moving

Burreson. "PGT will make an excellent new corporate citizen. The public investment in new roads and infrastructure at RiverPlace is paying off now and will continue to do so as additional development comes to the South Waterfront."

PGT has agreed to comply with the Commission's Emerging Small Business (ESB), Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and 'Women Business Enterprise (WBE) programs in awarding its construction contracts. PGT has also entered into a First Source Hiring Agreement with PDC's JobNet program assuring a percentage of new jobs go to residents of North/Northeast Portland. JobNet has already begun to fill some entry level positions. It is anticipated that PGT's presence here will translate into some 170 jobs and a \$9 million annual payroll.

City Helps Cut Energy Bills For 10,000 Families

City Commissioner Mike 10,000th apartment unit to be completed.

Energy bills for the 10,000 apartment units have been reduced by more than \$500,000 annually as a result of weatherization improvements. "Thousands of families have more money in their pockets because of this weatherization program. Energy efficient apartments cost less to heat and the money saved on utility bills can be spent on other needs,"

The City of Portland Energy Office houses a one-stop-shop for apartment owners to assist in upgrading the energy efficiency of their properties. The program helps owners receive cash rebates and tax credits that pay up to half the cost for upgrades like attic insulation and energy efficient windows. Owners in the Portland area have spent \$8.5 million improving their properties through the City's program. The goal of the program is to weatherize 20,000 units by the year 2000.



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Target Partners With Habitat For Humanity

To Build A House In Portland

Wonderful Life" Program to Portland

help build a house for a local family in need this summer in Northeast Portland as part of a national partnership between Target Stores and Habitat for Humanity.

This project was made possible through Target Stores' nationwide "Building a Wonderful Life" program, which provides funding and people power to build homes in Target store communities throughout the country. In 1994, Target has pledged to build a new home in metropolitan areas where it will open new stores -- with a total of 38 Habitat homes in 17 states this year, including the home in Northeast Portland.

Construction of the house located at 1142 NE Dean Street will begin in May and is scheduled to be completed life." in July will team with employees from surrounding Target stores to help saw boards, hammer nails and raises walls of the new home. Target volunteers will work side-by-side with Habitat for Humanity and the partner family for this project.

"Habitat for Humanity is based on the concept of people helping people in need," said Ben Schonberger of Portland Habitat for Humanity. "Through this partnership, Target employees will show what can be achieved when people work together

Target Brings Its "Building a to help each other. Habitat for Humanity is very excited to be working Target employee volunteers will with Target on the 'Building A Won- He was involved in street crimes and derful Life' program."

lected by the Portland Habitat for and destroy properties. And now he Humanity. Families are qualified pastor the Portland Victory Outreachbased on need, income, character, overseeing drug-recovering programs their ability to repay a loan and their all in northeast Portland. He is hispanic willingness to invest hundreds of hours American. He is Max Garza. He has of labor to help build the house.

"Target has made a long-term commitment to work with Habitat for encourage the gang members to adopt Humanity, a program that helps families who are in need of decent, affordable housing," said Gail Dorn, direcsupport programs that strengthen the accent. family environment. We especially financial disadvantage a new start in

The "Building A Wonderful Life" program was inspired by the key messages of philanthropy and community giving found in the classic holiday movie, It's a launched by Target last holiday season.

Stores is a quality retailer with 567 stores in 32 states coast to coast. It is the largest division of throughout inner-cities of America. Dayton Hudson Corporation, one of the nation's leading retailers.

All-Star Group Of Musicians Gather To **Celebrate Earth Day**

regional musicians are set to lend folk to rock, country to world beat. their voices in support of Earth Day grace the main stage during the two in the country.

A diverse group of national and day event, representing stylers from Friday night's program will '94. Over a dozen performers will showcase The Philo 20th songwriters Benson High School from 8:30pm in

vides tailored responses to technical inquiries and business assistance on financing for energy-related businesses.

Plans are in the works to add service for the hearing impaired and communication through internet, a world-wide computer communication network.

Pastor Max Garza: From Gangs To God

by Promise King

He had strolled the street of Los Angeles with gangsters and with guns. crack. He relied on his martial arts to The partner family will be se- perpetuates his whims. He burgled a mission- to bring hope to those who have been ravaged by illicit drugs. To

a better positive lifestyle. "The alternative we offer is a better lifestyle. We offer this because we are for the tor tradition of volunteerism and we Lord", said Garza with slight hispanic

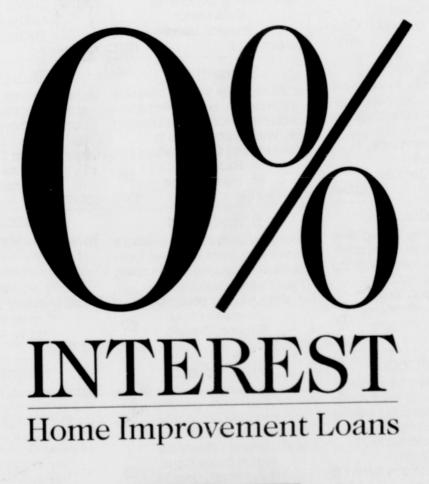
Garza, himself got into a recovlike this program because it gives ering process twelve years ago and hard-working families who are at a today he says." I wanted to get out, I didn't know how to get out until I was threatened to death", Garza confessed. "I saw myself without purpose, without destiny then I stopped and say I need to get out of these mess, " he explained.

The pastor church is sponsoring Wonderful Life. The program was a drug and gang prevention drama called "Ain't No Sunshine In The Hood". It's a stage drama that will Minneapolis-based Target portray the life styles of young men and women caught in the web of drug addiction, gang violence, and crime "The purpose of this drug and

gang prevention drama", pastor Garza explain "is to bring awareness to parents and youth of the terrible effects of gangs and drugs."

"We hope and pray that through this drama many young men and women will have a complete turn around in their life", Garza prayed.

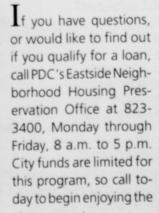
The drama is schedule to hold at the evening on Friday the April 29th.



City of Portland home improvement loans are available at 0%, and 3% interest, depending on your income. If you are a homeowner, you may qualify to borrow money from the Portland Development Commission (PDC) to make your home

and neighborhood an even better place to live. At these rates, you can't afford not to call and find out about your eligibility.

Your chances of qualifying for one of these loans are very good if you own your home, need city-approved repairs or improvements, and meet our income quidelines.



benefits of your home repairs.

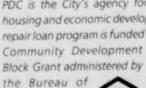
PDC is the City's agency for urban renewal, housing and economic development. The home repair loan program is funded through a federal

Community Development Block Grant administered by









Community

Development