

H O U S I N G The Portland Observer

What A Difference A Door Makes

Homeowners will spruce up their current surrounding rather than make the move to another home that includes all the features they want, indicates a recent Census Bureau report on U.S. geographic mobility. Local home products retailers have already witnessed the trend.

"We've seen more do-it-yourselfers purchasing replacement products that offer significant style enhancements without the need for structural changes," said Dave Culver, President, Pella Window & Door Co. of Oregon Inc., a local distributor of Pella Wood Windows and Doors. "Re-

placing older aluminum patio doors with swinging or sliding French-style wood doors is a hot trend."

In addition to the French door's ability to transform the style of a room, Culver said the increase in door replacements may be due to recent endurance, security, and energy efficiency improvements demanded by homeowners.

"Today's wood French doors can endure 155 mph winds and leakage in driving 50 mph winds," said Culver. Energy efficiency has been improved with techniques such as argon-filled pane spaces,

and coated and insulated glass which helps control heat, cold and fading.

The American Society of Testing Materials gave its highest security rating to the multi-point locking system which secures French doors at the side, bottom and top with one handle. Culver said another popular option is blinds mounted between the glass to improve energy efficiency and protect the blinds from dust and damage.

For a free informational package about selecting windows and doors for the home, call 1-800-847-3552.

Information Just a Phone Call Away

The Associated Landscape Contractors of America can help you increase the value of your property by 15 percent through effective landscaping. For a list of local ALCA members or to learn which licenses and certifications a landscape contractor should have, call 1-800-395-ALCA. (News USA)

The Maalox Moments Club was designed to help 80 million Americans who suffer from acid indigestion and heartburn find the humor in their everyday moments of stress. To join the Club, call 1-800-MAALOX5. (News USA)

Are you a person seduced by the sea and on the lookout for gifts with a nautical theme? There's a store located just outside Washington, D.C., that sells ship's bell clocks, barometers, lanterns, decorative harpoons, ship's wheels, lamps and mugs, and baseball caps embroidered with the name of a naval ship and its hull number. For more information, call the Ship's Hatch at 703-691-1670. (News USA)

Do you have the washday blues? When stains on favorite clothes get you down, you might write to Wisk for help. The hotline is staffed by laundry experts who provide advice on removing difficult stains and tips on the correct way to launder all types of clothing.

Fire Bureau Gave Safety Tips With Movie

The Portland Fire Bureau provided four segments on earthquake safety during the June 19 airing of the movie "Earthquake" on KPDX, Fox 49.

The presentations, running about five minutes each, offered viewer ideas as to what they can do to prepare before, during and after an earthquake.

What to do during a major earthquake, featured everyday situations such as driving, sleeping, etc. It showed the best actions to take to avoid injury. It also discussed how to escape a tsunami if you are at the coast.

How to prepare for a major earthquake, showed what to put in a 72 hour survival kit and ways to retrofit your home for maximum earthquake safety.

What to do after a major earthquake, showed viewers when and how to turn off utilities, how to maximize telephone communications and how to best avoid injury from debris.

Net involvement, called for viewers to join neighborhood emergency teams and explained how the training and preparation works. It also showed the teams in action from earthquake drills at Hayden Island and at All Saint's school.

The movie, starring Charlton Heston, Ava Gardner, George Kennedy, Lorne Green, Genevieve Bujold and Richard Roundtree, depicts the effects of a major earthquake in Los Angeles on the lives of several of its citizens.

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Jantzen Beach Hosts Safety Show

Have you ever watched police dogs in action, climbed on a fire truck or looked inside an ambulance? Your opportunity has arrived! Jantzen Beach Center is hosting its third annual Safety Show on Saturday, June 25, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Experts will be on hand to teach children and adults about safe habits for home, work and play. The show is free.

A variety of exhibits are scheduled for the event including Smokey Bear (who is celebrating his 50th birthday), American Ambulance, D.A.R.E. cars from Tualatin and Sherwood, Clark County Utilities, Operation Life Saver by Union Pacific, Team Oregon Motorcycle Safety, and much more. Also, don't forget to sign up with the city of Portland's new car theft prevention program "Combat Auto Theft" with pre-registration forms available at the Customer Service Center.

Jantzen Beach Center is located on Hayden Island, off Interstate 5, Exit 308.

Energy Help Booklets Available

Pacific Power has put together a series of four pamphlets providing information about energy use, energy bills, heating and cooling and electrical safety. The pamphlets are free and available to Pacific Power customers.

"Over the years, our customers have told us they want in-depth guidebooks on energy-related topics -- something they can turn to and trust that contains the right information," said Carl Talton, Pacific Power manager. "These four pamphlets address the topics most often requested by our customers."

The pamphlets, available by calling 1-800-222-4335, are:

• "Assessing Your Home's Energy Use." This booklet helps people understand how their homes use energy, and how

they can control energy usage. Beginning with a few basic facts about electricity production, the pamphlet shows how to read an electric meter, calculate actual energy use, audit a home's energy performance, buy efficient household appliances and lighting fixtures, and protect sensitive electronic equipment from power spikes and surges.

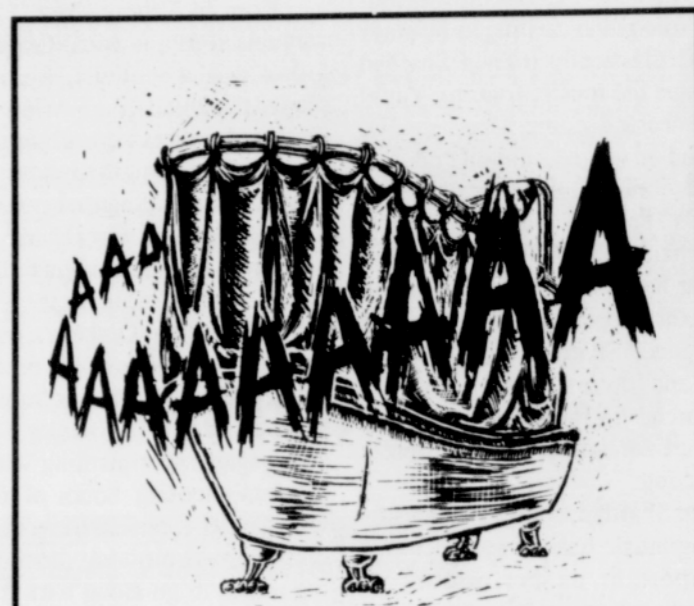
• "Managing Your Home's Energy Bill." The easiest way to save big on household energy bills to take advantage of the inexpensive tips in this publication. It's the right pamphlet for people who want quick savings.

• "Improving Your Home's Heating and Cooling." Heating and cooling systems can account for as much as 60 percent of the energy bill in an uninsulated home. The

guide highlights how mechanical systems operate, tells customers how to weatherize a home and keep equipment at peak efficiency, and provides tips that can help reduce a home's heating and cooling needs.

• "Maintaining Your Home's Energy Safety." The most important part of using energy wisely is using it safely. This guidebook offers ways to help protect families and homes from problems -- maybe even a tragedy -- that can result from carelessness around electricity.

"The more people understand about energy, the more they will be able to control their usage and save money. With the help of these new pamphlets, all of us can use electricity wisely and be around it safely," said Talton.



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Conference Helps Investors Hold Onto Their Dreams

(NU) - They epitomize the American dream -- business entrepreneurs who build something lasting, something to give to the next generation.

In a society of increasing litigation and regulation, however, some think the dream has become a nightmare. One such person is investments advisor Sean McCarthy, who says society's most enterprising souls often lie awake wondering how to pass on what they've created to their heirs "without the government and the lawyers getting most of it."

"Business people long for the good old days when they could simply open their doors and take their chances against their competition," says McCarthy. "But those days, if they ever existed, are gone."

Today, success means having

weathered struggles with bankers, lawyers, customers, employees, suppliers, contractors, family, fatigue, themselves, government agencies, bureaucrats and the Internal Revenue Service.

McCarthy is one of the session leaders in a four-day conference for business people, professional and would-be professional investors, to be held the July 4 weekend near Washington, D.C.

The event has been aptly titled "Freedom Conference," intended to evoke the conference's aim to help people counter a world of "frivolous lawsuits, draconian and voracious tax policies, and over regulation of business affairs by government."

Sponsored by the National Association of Real Estate Investors, the

conference will emphasize real estate investing but with angles appropriate for all business or professional people.

Seminar topics include the use of corporations, trusts, limited liability companies and partnerships; tax and estate planning; and asset protection. Many of the presenters will be attorneys and CPAs.

Each topic area is designed to meet business and professional peoples' main concerns today, such as how to protect assets while guarding against lawsuits; how to lower tax burdens and the chance of being audited; the wisest, most-effective way of establishing a company or venture; and being fair to employees without "giving away the store," McCarthy said.

Also featured are pension and benefit planning, estate planning and management, and development of a business plan.

Participants who preregister for the \$395 conference will also be admitted to a special course, "Finding Deadbeats and Other Missing Persons," which focuses on special techniques for finding disappearing scoundrels as well as the genuinely lost. To register, call 703-659-5496.

NAREI also offers information on real estate investing. Send a self-addressed envelope and \$2 to cover postage and handling to National Association of Real Estate Investors, Dept. NU, P.O. Box 361, Triangle, VA 22172.

Public Meetings Prove Partnership Effective

Michael R. McCallum, the director of government relations for the Oregon Restaurant Association speaks out on a proposal to change the commission percentage video poker retailers receive for providing the games at their establishments.

McCallum says the Oregon Lottery deserves a thanks for holding seven public meetings across the state on the issue. The purpose was to receive input from the public on the proposed change in the public/private partnership retailers have with the state. More than 1,200 people participated.

McCallum says the valuable listening sessions provided the following facts:

- The public/private partnership between retailers and the state established and approved by the Legislature in 1991 has proven to be the most successful partnership of its kind ever launched in Oregon.
- Twenty-five hundred jobs were created because of the existing com-



Michael R. McCallum missions paid to retailers.

- The partnership exactly as it is today, produced a net profit in 1992-1993 to state government (video poker alone) of nearly \$88 million.
- State income tax paid on video poker commissions in 1993 came to approximately \$5.7 million.
- State income tax paid by employees added as a result of video poker in 1993 -- \$800,000.

- When comparing commission rates among all lottery games, video poker -- at 3.91 percent is the lowest of all. Megabucks and Keno pay 6.14 percent. The average commission paid among all lottery games is 4.2 percent.

- Retailers provide a ready-market and a conducive atmosphere for video poker to succeed. They are a key ingredient.

- Number of establishments in Oregon with video poker: 1,356.

Retailers' commissions make direct local economic development possible. Most have used their commissions to hire additional employees, pay for health benefits, upgrade their establishments, buy additional supplies, and more -- returning significant revenue back to the local community. These dollars reinvested in the community provide the purest form of economic development, which is the primary reason the Oregon Lottery was established.



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