

Walnut Park

NEIGHBORHOOD RETAIL CENTER

! GRAND! OPENING



Mayor Vera Katz and Richard Brown were special dignitaries at the Walnut Park opening.



Members of the Humboldt school drill team and choir performed at Saturday's festivities.

Walnut Park: Mayor Says More To Come

Continued from Metro

Oregon lottery funds to partially finance the Walnut Park project.

She recalled the extensive legislative efforts made to win approval.

"Being here with you today is the combination of several years of dogging the establishment to let them know that northeast Portland couldn't take it anymore," Carter recalled.

PDC commissioner and chair of the center's leasing, Carl Talton recalled the controversies that surrounded how the site should be developed to meet the needs of the community.

"But this controversy had a positive effect by elevating the interest, the visibility and the commitment and allowing us to reconfirm our objectives," Talton said.

He added that what should be remembered about the retail park is that seven community business owners have been given a chance to grow and succeed.

Speaking on behalf of the King Neighborhood Association, Fred Stewart observed that the construction of Walnut Park has sent a new feeling of confidence throughout the neighborhood.

"There is a renewed sense that north/northeast is a good place to do business," Stewart stressed.

The city purchased the vacant Walnut Park Fred Meyer store in 1993 and directed the Portland Development Commission to assist its redevelopment.

The Walnut project gulped about \$1 million from the city's Bureau of Housing and Community services and \$1.5 million from the city's general funds.



Rep. Margaret Carter, D-Portland, called the opening of the Walnut Park Retail Center state economic development at its best.



Mother Dear's Tasty Pastries owner Anorvia Hardy of the Walnut Park Center with Lou Boston of the Arena Project.



Attending the celebration were (from left) Carl Talton of the Portland Development Commission, Don Currie and Valerie Currie.

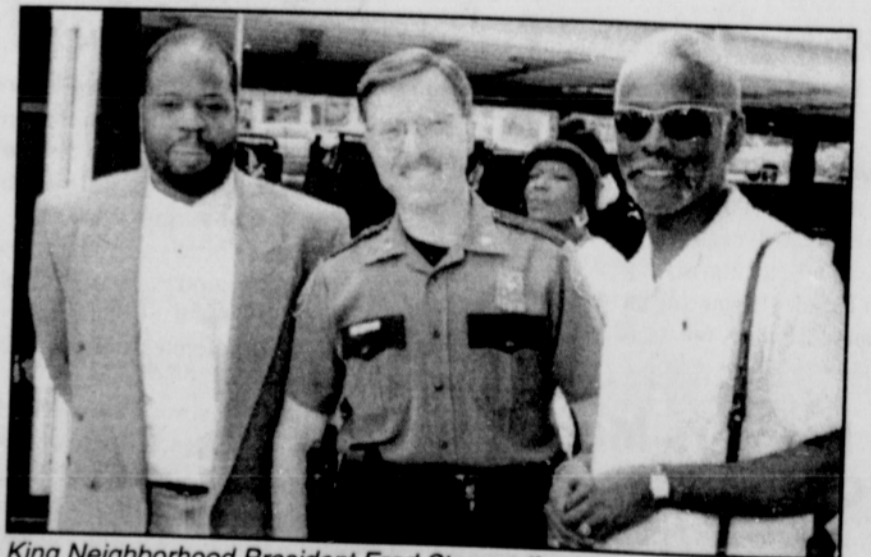
Photos by Duane Lewis



Hundreds of people enjoyed the center's grand opening at the corner of northeast Killingworth and Martin Luther King Jr.



Duane Washington, one of "The Buffalo Soldiers" attending the center's opening.



King Neighborhood President Fred Stewart (from left), Northeast Police Precinct Commander Bruce Prunk and community activist Richard Brown at the opening of Walnut Park.