

# HOUSING

The  
Portland  
Observer

## Low Income Housing Tax Credit Crisis

Senate Committee Acting This Week On Proposal To Eliminate Credit!

Dear Friends of Housing:

This is an emergency bulletin to let you know that the single largest source of equity for affordable housing in the state is about to dry up if we don't all take action NOW to prevent it. The United States House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee last week sustained Chairman Archer's plan to end the credit in 1997 as part of the House's deficit-cutting budget reconciliation attacking "corporate welfare."

The LIHTC is not "corporate welfare": unlike other tax code provisions, the LIHTC does not subsidize corporations for expenditures they would make anyway (i.e., depreciation and business entertainment), but rather mirrors the charitable dedication which encourages

taxpayers to do good in their community by rewarding them with a tax reduction for helping people in need. Neither should Oregonians be punished for compliance problem that have occurred in other states.

The next step is the Senate Finance Committee. Under House rules, amendment on the floor there to reinstate permanence will be virtually impossible, so the big push now needs to be with the Senate Finance Committee. Please Write to



Senate Finance Committee Chairman Roth (R-DE) And Our Oregon Senators And Tell Them They Must Not Sunset The LIHTC And Must Insist That The Conference Committee With The House Include LIHTC Permanence. Dispite the House rules, it would't hurt to let your Congressman

know of your support for the LIHTC, either -- the issue will eventually reach the House floor.

Thank You For your Immediate Help On This. Please send a copy of your letter to Lynn Partin at OHCS. She has assumed the responsibility for tracking federal legislation. Her telephone number is (503) 986-2017.

Sincerely yours,  
Baruti L. Artharee Director

## ASK JUDD

### Answers to your Environmental questions

(NAPS)—Q: I am supposed to separate newspapers, plastics, and cans from the rest of my trash for recycling purposes. Is this really worth the effort?

A: Recycling has been sold as something of a cure-all for environmental problems. In fact, it is an economic activity in which potentially valuable materials—paper, metals, glass and plastics—are recovered and sold to someone who can use them in making new products. Markets for recycled material vary from region to region. Sometimes there is more material than recyclers and manufacturers can absorb.

Each community's elected officials and voters should decide for themselves whether recycling makes sense to them. For example, a recent study by Keep America Beautiful showed that a typical community of 500,000 residents spends an average of \$2.5 million a year more for recycling than if those materials were land-filled. That's \$2.5 million not available for police, schools or fire protection. Whether that sort of expenditure and priority is desirable can only be answered by the local citizens.

If the community does decide to have a recycling program, its success will depend on active participation from local residents. Proper preparation and sorting of recyclables helps reduce costs incurred in the recycling process.

Consumers can also help "close the loop" by looking for products that are actually made from recycled materials. To obtain a directory of materials made from recycled plastic, you can call 1-800-2-HELP-90.

## HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

### Quick And Easy Fix Ups For Damaged Concrete

(NAPS)—There are four kinds of weather conditions that can wreak havoc on concrete porches, steps, walls, foundations and driveways: hot, cold, damp and dry. If your property has been exposed to any of those, chances are there are places that could use some repairs.

To tackle these problems, there are many sealers and fillers formulated with adhesives designed to bond to the damaged area and fill in those cracks.

"They can make the job quick and easy," says Kerry Lane, technical manager for Red Devil, Inc., a leading manufacturer of home improvement products. He offers these suggestions for sealing cracks and shoring up walls.

- Structural damage needs professional care.

- A patch of new cement applied to an old cement structure will not adhere unless an adhesion promoter such as latex or acrylic polymer is brushed on first.

- Basic concrete mortar can be used for chipped steps, foundations and walkways, and vertical cracks 1/8 inch or smaller.

- Small cracks may also be repaired with a blacktop/driveway repair, solvent-based clear caulk or polyurethane sealant available in cartridge form.

- Widen small cracks into a "V" shape to allow more complete surface contact.

- For cracks 1/4 inch or larger, apply the appropriate sealant after a closed cell polyethylene backer rod has been forced into the crack, up to about 1/2 inch below the surface.

- For vertical surfaces and hor-



If you caulk a damaged walkway now, you may have less need to make major repairs later.

horizontal areas where water does not collect, pre-mixed acrylic patch repair made for stucco and cement is quick and easy to apply in one step with a putty knife.

- Remember, filler can seal a crack but it cannot stop settling, which may cause future cracks.

- A basic concrete mortar repair compound may be used for chips and between bricks and cinder blocks.

- An acrylic-based lightweight concrete repair product may be used on vertical and horizontal surfaces if water is not a problem.

- Fill small driveway cracks up to 1/8 of an inch with a butyl rubber/asphalt formula black top repair product available in cartridges. Use a flexible putty knife to smooth.

- Driveway cracks of 3/16 of an inch or larger should be repaired with a solvent-based clear caulk or polyurethane and plastic backer rod.

Concrete and mortar repairs are easier than ever with the right tools and sealants. If you repair damage now, your property will look great all year and you'll be prepared for the next bout of weather, whatever it may be.

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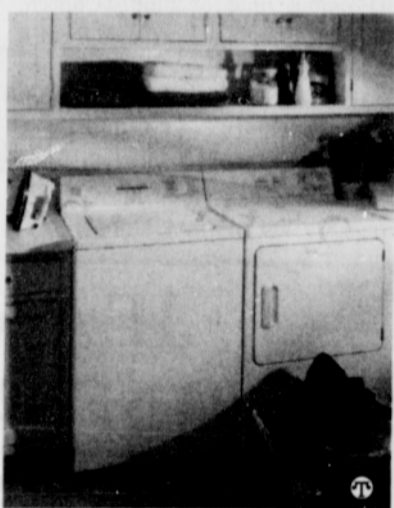
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## Helpful Laundry Hints

(NAPS)—Getting laundry to come clean may require some inside information. These laundry hints from the experts at GE offer a clue.

- Before washing, sort clothes by color and fabric type, empty pockets, mend tears, and pretreat obvious stains.



Judd Alexander is a national authority on municipal solid waste and a former chairman of Keep America Beautiful. Send environmental questions to Ask Judd, P.O. Box 33365, Washington, DC 20033-0365.

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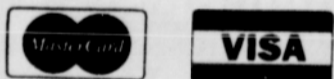
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### Send a Meal-A-Gram!

A Meal-A-Gram is a gourmet lunch hand delivered on Wednesday, October 25th to anyone you choose in the Portland metro area. Your thoughtfulness will help provide meals for local seniors in need.

Give A Gift That's Always in Good Taste!

This year's Meal-A-Gram lunch features:

- Classic Timberline Salad
- Hearty Baked Bread
- Fresh Specialty Fruit
- A Refreshing Beverage
- Gourmet Dessert



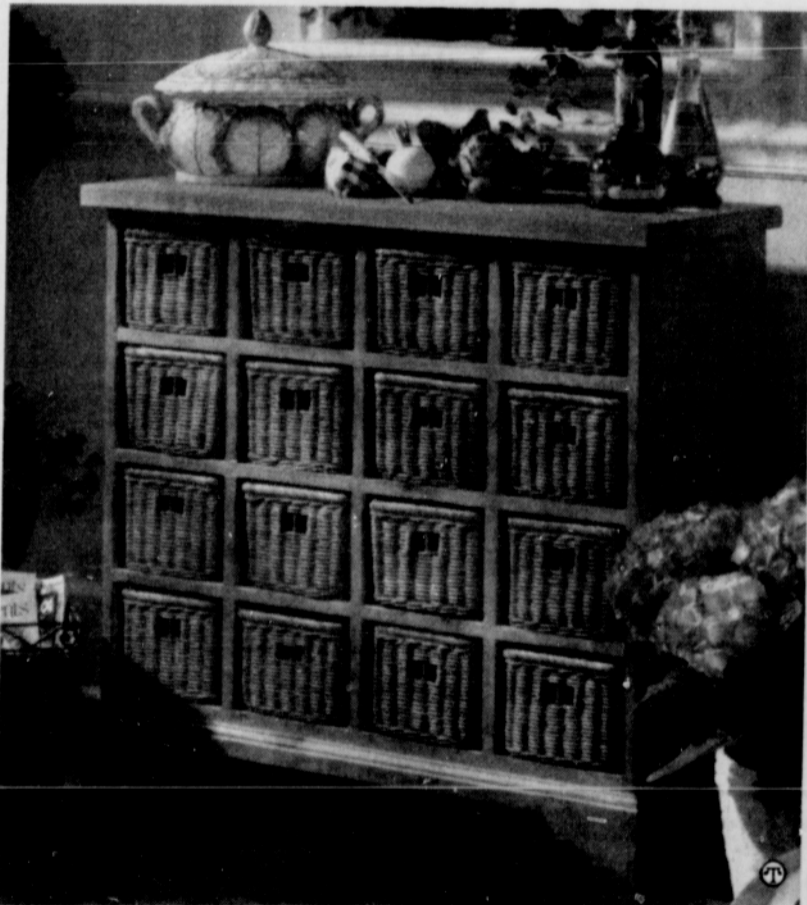
Cost is just \$10 each for two or more delivered to the same location (\$15 each if delivered individually).

Order Loaves & Fishes/The Meals-On-Wheels People At 777-2424. Meal-A-Gram is a fundraiser for Loaves & Fishes/The Meals-On-Wheels People. Proceeds will help provide hot, nutritious meals to local homebound senior citizens.

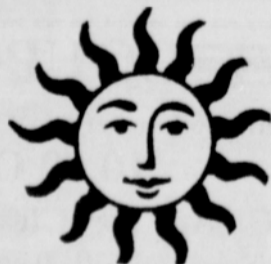
## Your Furniture

HELPFUL HINTS FROM EXPERTS

The "Holds Everything" Chest



(NAPS)—In the kitchen or any room of the house it's always nice to gaze at something pleasant. This lovely "Spice" Chest will not only spice up your kitchen and invite many admiring gazes, it's practical as well. Part of the new Croquet Collection from Pulaski Furniture's designer Leonard Eisen, it traces its roots to mid-nineteenth century England when the advent of croquet clubs helped launch a new casual lifestyle that was to sweep the world. This popularly-priced chest is designed to represent the fantasy of classic image from the past for casual elegance in today's living. It's made of solid pine with 16 wicker basket drawers and a maple butcher block top. The new collection, which consists of approximately 100 pieces of furniture for every room of the house, is available at select home furnishing and department stores across the country.



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