

H O U S I N G The Portland Observer

Free Spring Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Events Slated

Bring old paint, pesticides and other toxic trash to one of three free household hazardous waste collection events in April and May. The first event takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 13, in the JCPenny east overflow parking lot at Washington Square in Tigard. An April 27 disposal event is planned for east Multnomah Greyhound Park, Northeast 223rd and Glisan, in Fairview. The third event takes place in Aloha from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at Tualatin Vally Fire and Rescue, 206654 SW Blanton.

Product accepted for recycling or safe disposal include pesticides, paint, solvents, automotive fluids, aerosols, batteries and pool, spa and hobby chemicals. Labels on hazardous products generally list warning words such as danger, warning, cau-

tion and flammable. Waste must be generated by a household and cannot exceed 35 gallons per customer.

Items should be left in their original containers and packed in sturdy cardboard boxes. Leaking containers should be sealed in secondary leak-proof containers. Containers larger than five gallons, commercial waste, asbestos, explosives, ammunition, compressed gases, radioactive materials and infectious waste are not accepted. Containers cannot be returned. Household hazardous waste collection events have been very popular in the past, so customers should come prepared to wait in their cars for up to one hour. For complete details, call Metro Recycling Information, 234-3000.

Household hazardous waste can also be disposed at Metro's house-

hold hazardous waste facilities at Metro Central Station in Northwest Portland or Metro South Station Oregon City from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Disposal fees range from \$5 to \$10 for household quantities of waste up to 35 gallons.

Consumers can reduce the hazardous waste they create by reading product labels carefully and choosing the least-toxic products available; buying only as much as they can use within a year; and sharing leftover products with someone who can use them.

Two free booklets, "The Hazardous Home Homebook" and "Common Sense Gardening: A Guide to Alternatives to Pesticides," are available from Metro Recycling Information, 234-3000.

Habitat For Humanity Will Take Applications

Portland Habitat for Humanity is holding its annual meeting this week to report on the 1995 successes. Habitat will have built 8 homes by December, their best year ever. With so many homes being built, Habitat has space available for new homeowner applications.

Habitat is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian organization that builds homes in partnership with low-income families. Habitat homes are built with volunteer labor donated materials and are sold the family at no profit with a no-interest mortgage. Often the mortgage payment is less than the rent for their previous apartment. Families must invest 400 hours of volunteer labor as part of their down payment on their home.

Interested parties should attend a meeting held twice monthly. The next informational meeting is April 23 at 7 p.m. - a Spanish translator will be present. Habitat volunteers will assist in filling out applications and answer any questions Families may

apply as often as they wish. The meetings are held at the Habitat Home Building Center on the corner of Northeast 15th and Killingsworth (1478 N.E. Killingsworth). Call 287-9529 for more information.

You Can't Remodel A 60-Foot Tree

Sometimes home buyers find, much to their surprise, that when their new house is finished and it's time to landscape, their wallet is empty. They spent their money on extras or, in many instances, didn't budget anything for landscaping.

Owners should plan and budget carefully when landscaping their property, says Mike Snyder, chair of the Oregon Landscape Contractors Board. One reason is financial. Snyder says 10 to 15 percent of a property's value is in its landscaping. "Spend \$5,000 on landscaping a \$50,000 piece of property and you'll get it back in resale." Not only that, but heating and cooling costs can be reduced with the right trees and tree placement. An automatic irrigation system will pay for itself in water savings and resale.

Besides a general contractor, people building a new home should consider hiring a landscape contractor. A landscape architect will help with the crucial decision of where the house is placed. Do owners want the house hidden or exposed? What's the best view? Is view the top priority? What

about a large play area for children? How can existing trees be saved? Proper house placement can also lessen drainage and access problems.

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Portland Community Design invites you to join the MLK MAIN STREET MASTERPLAN SUMMIT WORKGROUPS

Each workgroup meeting will focus on issues to revitalize MLK Boulevard into a mainstreet. Guest panelists will join in discussions of topics including mixed use development, the median strip, and celebrating the spirit of Albina.

All workgroup meetings will be held Thursdays at noon at Metro in Room 370, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland. Please bring your own lunch; coffee will be provided.

For more information call Laurel Lyon at Portland Community Design, 281-8011.



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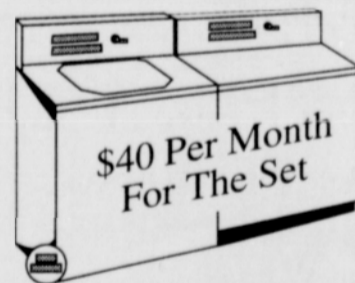


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