

Training Programs Link Residents To New Postal Service Jobs

The Postal Service announced the selection of Lloyd Center as the site for a new Remote Encoding Center. However, efforts to link residents to the expected 500 new jobs began a number of weeks ago.

Working in cooperation with the Urban League, The Private Industry Council, Steps to Success and the NE Workforce Center, Portland Development Commission coordinated four, two-week classes at Steps to Success and the NE Workforce Center to help residents of the Enterprise Zone prepare for the Postal Service applicant test. Eligibility for jobs at the center is strictly based on test results. The higher an applicant's score the better chance they have of obtaining one of the \$11 per hour jobs at the new encoding center.

Utilizing a Special Purpose Grant, earmarked for N/NE Enterprise Zone residents and offered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, PDC provided funding for the trainers and for leasing personal computers for the training

session.

Most of the 108 residents attending the training sessions were from the Enterprise Zone and all were from N/NE Portland. The attendees took typing and keyboard drills in a simulated testing environment and brushed up on workplace expectation in the training sessions.

In addition, PDC and the Private Industry Council also held orientation sessions for other Portland residents interested in taking the test and applying for jobs at the center.

Most of the graduates of the training went on to take the applicant test and are now anxiously awaiting the results. PDC will work with other community partners in providing employee retention services as required after the hiring process is complete.

The Postal Service previously announced that Portland was the selected city for the new center but did not name the exact location.

"I am very pleased that the Postal Service chose Lloyd Center," said Mayor Vera Katz. "The siting there

will help Portland continue focusing jobs in the central city. The location is well-served by mass transit and will help revitalize surrounding neighborhoods. This is a wonderful opportunity to help assure that up to 500 new quality jobs are available for unemployed and underemployed Portlanders."

CB Commercial represented both parties in the lease of the Lloyd Center site. The facility is scheduled to open this summer.

Remote Encoding Centers process mail with unreadable addresses. Automated machines at mail processing centers in the Western United States will send the unreadable mail electronically via telephone lines to the Portland Center. The actual letters remain in the mail processing plants while operators at the Remote Encoding center type addresses and ZIP Code information into a computer. The data is returned to mail processing centers, again via phone lines, so that a bar code can be printed on each piece of mail.

Poster Unveiled At First Saturday Boulevard Stroll

A poster created from a drawing by local artist Athena Hampton will be unveiled during the "First Saturday Stroll along the Boulevard" in June. The poster will be seen for the first time in Portland at Steen's CoffeeHouse on Saturday, June 1, from 4-6 p.m.

Hampton's painting, titled "Survivalists," was originally created in an effort to assist JASA House (Just A Sister Away), a non-profit agency in Houston, Texas, providing assistance for victims of domestic violence. She read about the organization in a magazine article and was touched by their efforts. The article prompted her to contact the agency and resulted in her creating a painting which she donated to help them raise funds.

Indeed, last February, Hampton actually traveled to Houston to see her painting unveiled at the fund-raising dinner, auction and dance. "I feel," says Hampton, "that women are natural-born survivors. What I've done is minor compared to what some of these women have accomplished. It's imperative that we support organizations like JASA House since none of us can predict when we might need similar assistance."

JASA house of Texas, Inc. was founded in 1994 to offer housing and other economic security to victims of abuse or homelessness. It is one of the few programs in Houston offering up to two years of on-site, transitional housing to women and children.

A self-taught artist, Hampton's style is best described as works that are moving, vibrant and thought-provoking. Her specialty is acrylic paintings and fabric collages. "Survivalists" is done in acrylics and vividly depicts the strength and energy of her subjects.

Since her trip, Hampton transferred the image to a 20x25 poster. It sells for \$20 and is available by mail order; send check or money order, including \$3 for shipping, to 6426 NE Rodney Street, Portland, OR. 97211. A percentage of each sale will be donated to JASA House. For additional information, contact Hampton at (503) 286-8843.

Steen's CoffeeHouse is located at 2603 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, at the corner of Russell.

Workplace Violence Preperation

The City of Portland, Office of Emergency management, is hosting a conference on "Violence in the Workplace," Tuesday, June 4, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Oregon Convention Center. The conference will address issues such as emergency procedures, risk management, emergency systems and equipment, and employee safety and preparedness.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Chris Hatcher, will address "Beyond the Warning Signs, Responding to Workplace Violence." Dr. Hatcher is a member of the

Hostage Negotiation Team of the San Francisco Police Dept., and serves as a consultant in violent crime and kidnap investigation to the FBI. Additional speakers include Mark Warrington, a recognized leader in industrial security and employee personal safety, and Jung Mattman - national expert on occupational violence.

"The recent KOIN Tower incident has focused our need to insure

that our workplaces are prepared for violence and terrorism," said George Houston, Chief of the Fire Bureau's Office of Emergency Management and Planning. "This conference is intended to raise awareness of effective safety and security programs, and provide resources to building owners and managers, tenants and employees.

For information, call (503) 233-1224.

PDC Selects Development Team For Housing Project

The Portland Development Commission, in conjunction with Tri-Met, today announced the selection of a development team for a 135-unit housing project near Civic Stadium.

The development team consists of SF Property Investments, LLC/Harsch Investment Corporation, SERA Architects, Westwood Swinerton Construction and KPFF Consulting Engineers. The triangular-shaped, half block site, owned by Tri-Met is located between SW 17th and SW 18th, and SW Morrison and SW Yamhill in the Goose Hollow neighborhood, and is adjacent on two sides to the new Light Rail station platforms.

"The team was selected because they shared Tri-Met and PDC's vision of a high-quality, housing project, adjacent to light rail, that

enhances both the neighborhood and the use of light rail," said PDC Chairman Carl Talton. The housing will be mixed with active ground floor uses.

Construction, slated to begin December of 1996, will take nine to 12 months. The Commission staff have begun negotiations on a Memorandum of Understanding that will outline the mutual expectations of the Commission and the development team.

A Disposition and Development Agreement will be executed before the land is transferred to the developer and construction begins.

"Building this project will be extremely challenging. But we're confident that with everyone pulling together - the city, the state, Tri-Met, PDC and ourselves - we can make it happen," stated Jordan D. Schnitzer, head of the development team.

"We're excited about the potential to not only create a national model that integrates light rail, housing and retailing services but, more importantly, to be a part of the solution that is critical to addressing the serious shortage of adequate, affordable housing in our community."

"We couldn't be more excited about the selection of a leading Portland developer to build on this site," said Tuck Wilson, Director of Tri-Met's Westside light rail project. "The Goose Hollow neighborhood envisioned this result a couple of years ago, and now we're almost there."

The Civic Stadium housing project is among the first of eight projects in various stages of development that Tri-Met is promoting adjacent to transit stations on the Westside line.



Phil Keisling presents Rosemary Daniel a plaque for her outstanding community involvement. Daniel is Principal of Brooklyn School.

Birth Announcements

Ronesha Marie Hayes

Girl, May 14, 1996

Mother: Ikesha M. Granville

Father: Ronald L. Hayes

Jamall N.L. Kingham

Boy, Born May 9th, 1996

Father: Jamall Lewis Kingham

Mother: Lashay Antionitte Hardaway

Madeline Suzanne Parra

Girl, Born April 27th, 1996

Father: Darren L. Parra

Mother: Shawna J. Parra

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