

# Observing

## Fannie Mae Foundation honors local housing organization

The Fannie Mae Foundation yesterday announced a \$20,000 grant to the Community Housing Resource Center (CHRC), a local non-profit housing organization.

The grant, the largest ever made by the Fannie Mae Foundation in the Vancouver area, was presented to CHRC at the Vancouver City Council meeting last night in support of their efforts to promote affordable homeownership opportunities to low-, moderate-, and middle-income families in Clark County.

The Fannie Mae Foundation's \$20,000 grant will be used to support general operating expenses for CHRC's homeownership program. Specifically, the grant will be enable CHRC to conduct certified home buyer education classes in Vancouver and rural areas. CHRC will use the funds to conduct post home-buying seminars to help new owners handle the responsibilities associated with homeownership. In addition, CHRC will offer intro-

ductions to home-buying for Vietnamese and Russian families, and will co-sponsor an annual housing resource fair in Vancouver.

"The Fannie Mae Foundation is pleased to support the successful efforts of CHRC," said Sue Krake, representing the Fannie Mae Foundation. "The Foundation is always looking to help groups expand educational opportunities to help more families achieve the American dream of homeownership. This grant will allow CHRC to continue developing homeownership opportunities throughout Clark County."

CHRC is a private, non-profit organization, incorporated in 1994, with the purpose of providing assistance and information on purchasing a home and serving as a resource for housing-related needs in the Clark County area. Last May, CHRC was honored by the Foundation with a "Partners in Housing" award. CHRC's services include pre-purchase counseling and information

about the role of real estate agents, special service providers, and public agencies, as well as how to select these providers. CHRC sponsors "Home Buying Made Simple" seminars through the city's Department of Parks and Recreation and makes neighborhood presentations on homeownership.

"The CHRC is delighted to accept this grant, and we thank the Fannie Mae Foundation for its continued support," said Heidi Powell, chairman of the Community Housing Resource Center's board of directors. "Over the past two years, our staff has worked diligently to develop a quality home buyers education program which has successfully helped low-moderate-income families realize the dream of homeownership. The grant today by Fannie Mae Foundation helps the CHRC continue to deliver necessary education and aid to families seeking homeownership opportunities."

## Φirst Anniversary of the Rise Award

Ten low-income single moms were honored today at the first annual "Women on the Rise" luncheon hosted by the Vancouver Housing Authority's (VHA) Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

Recognized for their hard work and determined to move off public assistance, each mother received a small monetary award to help overcome immediate financial hurdles.

"I've never seen people so committed to fulfilling their dreams," said Glenda Galaba, VHA Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator and luncheon presenter. "It's really uplifting to see women from very oppressive backgrounds rise above enormous setbacks and disappointments to finish school or get a job. This award recognizes their hard work and makes it a little easier for them to get where they're going."

Working with the VHA's Family Self-Sufficiency program, the "Women on the Rise" award was established last year by three anonymous sisters on behalf of their late mother. Throughout her lifetime, the mother gave away anonymous sums of money to women who had action plans for achieving their goals, but lacked the monetary means at a crucial time for reaching them. Her last wish was for her daughters to continue this pursuit after her death.

"This award is unique in that it meets very practical needs," said Galaba. "Things like car failure and lack of professional clothing can be real obstacles for women struggling to find jobs to feed their children. There are very few grants that help women in such a tangible way."

"You can't even imagine what most of these women have been

through," continued Galaba. "They're survivors. They haven't given up and now they're finally being recognized."

An annual award, "Women on the Rise" aims to help meet the critical and timely needs of disadvantaged women who show strength of character and determination in reaching a goal.

The Vancouver Housing Authority's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program helps low-income families obtain the education, job training, and life skills necessary to move toward financial self-sufficiency. Established in 1993, families in the FSS program establish a five year plan with the final goal of getting off all forms of public assistance. These families are committed to making the changes necessary to improve their lives.

## County plant nursery needs your pots

Clark County's Mabry Nursery is looking for more than a few good pots.

The offender-run nursery, which is part of the Clark County Corrections Offender Industries program, is seeking donations of plastic pots

## Board of equalization begins assessment appeals

The Clark County Board of Equalization began formal hearings on January 21 on property assessment appeals filed in 1996 that have not been resolved.

There were 1,622 appeals filed and there are 1,112 petitions still in review.

Every effort is being made to complete the review process by the time the first half property tax payment is due April 30.

Property owners who have filed timely appeals that are under review should pay their property taxes when due.

A property owner who obtains an adjustment to value after the first half tax date on April 30 will be mailed an adjusted tax statement by

for transplanting plants and cuttings. "Our greatest need is for pots in the two gallon and up sizes, but we also need smaller pots and will gladly accept all sizes," said Lynda Harper. "All donations will be greatly appreciated."

the county Treasurer for second half taxes payable October 31.

The three member local citizen board schedules hearings by "Neighborhood" or "Property Type" after review of the appeal by the Clark County Assessor.

This allows the board to compare market and geographic data presented by the taxpayers and appraisers in similar market areas.

In 1995, 2,476 appeals were filed with the Board of Equalization.

"The review process is working well," said Myrna Weaving, Manager/Clerk of the Board. "1,598 appeals were able to be resolved outside of a formal hearing."

Appeal filing deadlines are July 1 of any assessment year or 30 days

Pot donations can be dropped off at Mabry at 8101 N.E. 117th Ave. in Orchards between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

Corrections is unable to pick up pots from private residences, however.

after a change of value notice is mailed by the county Assessor. There are only limited reasons for the 1996 Board of Equalization to reconvene to consider assessments when a petition form was not filed by the statutory deadlines. One reason is if a new purchaser bought a property after July 1 and before December 31 of the 1996 assessment year and the sale price was less than 90 percent of the value assessed by the county.

People with questions can contact Weaving at (360) 699-2337, 1013 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington, 98666-5000; fax: (360) 699-2457; e-mail: mweaving@co.clark.wa.us; TDD (360) 737-6032.

## Jurors break for readings

Continued from front

More than half of the jurors scribbled notes as court reporter Gina Chavez read aloud testimony given by Simpson in November in a tense examination by plaintiff lawyer Daniel Petrocelli.

Superior Court Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki told jurors they had requested a lot of testimony - nearly 200 pages - and he urged them to interrupt at any point if they had heard enough.

Jurors wanted that part of Park's testimony that focused on Simpson's activities from 9:45 p.m. to 11 p.m. the night of the killings.

A central issue in the case is whether Simpson would have had time to kill two people at Ms. Simpson's condominium, dispose of a weapon and bloody clothes, return home, change and meet a waiting limousine at 11 p.m.

Jurors were particularly attentive

when Park's time line testimony was read.

Park, who drove Simpson to the airport the night of the slayings, is notable because his was the only testimony the criminal trial jury asked to hear again before it acquitted Simpson of murder 16 months ago.

The young limo driver was a virtual human time clock for the case because he noted every minute of his activity via cellular phone records, a car clock and his own watch.

At least six of the jurors took copious notes as Park described where he drove his limousine, his failure to see Simpson's Bronco when he pulled up and his efforts to get an answer as he repeatedly rang the buzzer at Simpson's gate. The foreman, assigned to seat No. 12 in the jury box, wrote down every second of Park's account.

The jurors listened to more than an hour of Park testimony before the foreman, signaled by two other ju-

rors, raised his hand and said they had heard enough.

The jury then heard a brief snippet of audio tape from Simpson's police interview the day after the killings. In the segment, he claimed that Ms. Simpson was the aggressor in the 1989, fight that resulted in spousal abuse charges against him.

"She hit me," Simpson was heard saying. "I didn't punch her or anything. I wrangled her."

He also told police: "Nicole was a strong girl. She was one of the most conditioned women I knew."

The spousal abuse incident was a focus of the plaintiffs' case as they tried to show a building atmosphere of rage before Simpson and his wife separated and after they were divorced.

Simpson told jurors he took responsibility for the bruises Ms. Simpson received in the fight but swore he didn't hit, strike, slap, kick or beat her.

## Three Famous African Sons of France

Continued from Metro

served and maintained this chateau as an important historic landmark.

A great conversationalist and known over Europe as "a great lover and outrageously good cook and host," Dumas pere was welcomed into the homes and affairs of royalty and the temples of culture. George Sande, the Grande Dame of French letters and famous in her own right,

was an intimate associate of Dumas as their massive correspondence indicates. In many letters to him (and others) she deplores the fact that he chooses younger women for his mistresses. He always refers to her as "mama."

There has been none like this man to date: who could seize life on its own terms and come out master. His son, Alexander fils was no slacker in this families

exiting romance with life. He wrote the celebrated "La Dame aux Camelias", later made into an opera, Verdi's, "La Traviata."

There is so much more to be learned about Black History when one goes to the source literature of the countries where the black actors were on stage. No American racism or censorship. Teachers may call for citations of authoritative translations, 284-7080, Fax 284-0484.

## Police News

### Murder-suicide Police investigation

On Saturday, January 18, 1997, at approximately 8:00 a.m., Portland Police responded to a house in southwest Portland. A female at that location had called 911 when she was disconnected from the phone. Police responded and were contacted by a family friend who had just left the house. She explained that the married couple in

this house had an argument and that when she had heard what sounded like three gunshots.

Police attempted to contact the residents of this home by phone without success. SERT and HNT were called to the scene to continue the attempt to safely locate and contact the two people in the house. After almost six hours of unsuccessful

communication attempts, SERT made entry into the home and found both residents deceased.

It appears that the 55-year-old husband shot and killed his wife, who was in her mid-40s, and then shot and killed himself. This investigation is continuing and has been assigned to Investigative Sergeants K. Perry and K. Taylor.

ASK AN ENERGY EXPERT

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SEE A DOWNED POWER LINE?

First and foremost, don't touch a downed power line. Ever. Assume every fallen line is "live" and immediately call PGE.

**Why downed lines are dangerous.** Electricity always seeks to "ground" itself and will use whatever is in its path—including you. It could cause serious injury or death. Even standing near a fallen line, you're in danger because electricity can travel through the ground.

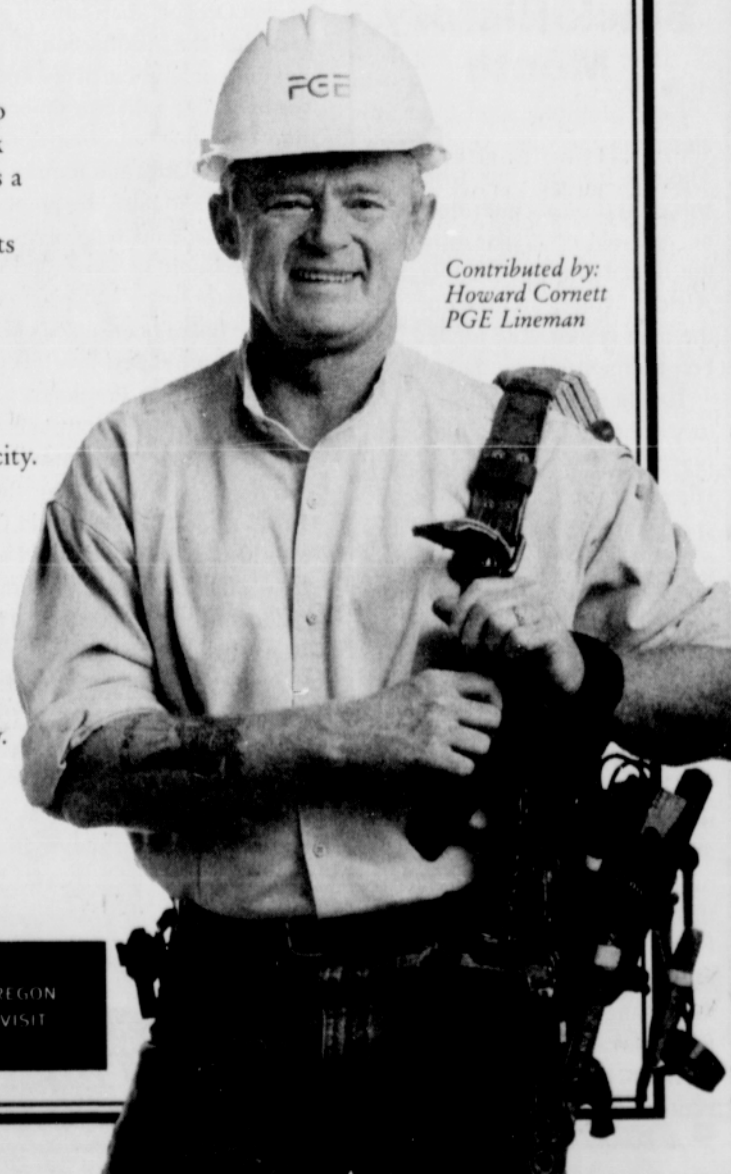
**What to do if a line falls:** Don't touch the line or anything that it is touching. And don't try to move the line with a stick—the stick could have moisture in it and act as a conductor. Call PGE immediately. Stay far back and keep kids and pets clear of the area, too.

**If a line falls on your house:** Stay indoors and call PGE. The insulation and wood in your home protect you from dangerous electricity. Stay indoors until PGE crews take care of the line.

**If a line falls on your car:** Stay in your car and wait for help. Your car's tires insulate you from the danger. Stepping out of the car creates an instant path for electricity. If you have a cellular phone, call PGE or 911.

**Don't try to rescue anyone.** If you see a person in trouble with a power line, call 911. That's the only way you can help. If you try to rescue them, you could end up a victim, too.

**Help prevent dangerous situations.** Many power outages are caused by falling tree branches. Call PGE for advice if you have trees growing near overhead lines.



Contributed by: Howard Cornett PGE Lineman

Portland General Electric

TO REPORT A DOWNED LINE IN PORTLAND, CALL PGE AT 228-6322. ELSEWHERE IN OREGON, 1-800-542-8818. FOR MORE SAFETY TIPS, VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.PGE.ONLINE.COM

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