

Holiday Safety Tips

As the holidays approach, the hustle and bustle of the season keep many of us involved in preparations for our festivities; therefore, the increased fire risks in our homes can go unnoticed. Here are a few safety tips that can make your holidays safer and more enjoyable.

Be careful of holiday lighting. If using candles as holiday decor, make sure the holder supports the candle and holds all melted wax. Always place burning candles away from combustible materials such as curtains, couches, wreaths, cards or tablecloths, and do not leave burning candles unattended. Always keep lighted candles, as well as matches and lighters, out of the reach of chil-

dren.

When buying a tree from a lot, first grab a branch, close your gloved hand around a section of the needles and lightly pull towards you. If the needles come off in your hand, the tree is too dry. Choose one that holds its needles. If the tree is not going into the house soon after purchase, cut a notch in the bottom of the tree, and store it in a bucket of water to make sure it stays moist. An average tree may consume between a quart and a gallon of water per day. If the water level drops below the cut end of the trunk, a seal will form and no more water will be absorbed by the tree. Remember to add water to your tree every day. This will keep your tree fresh. If you purchase an artifi-

cial tree, be sure it is fire retardant.

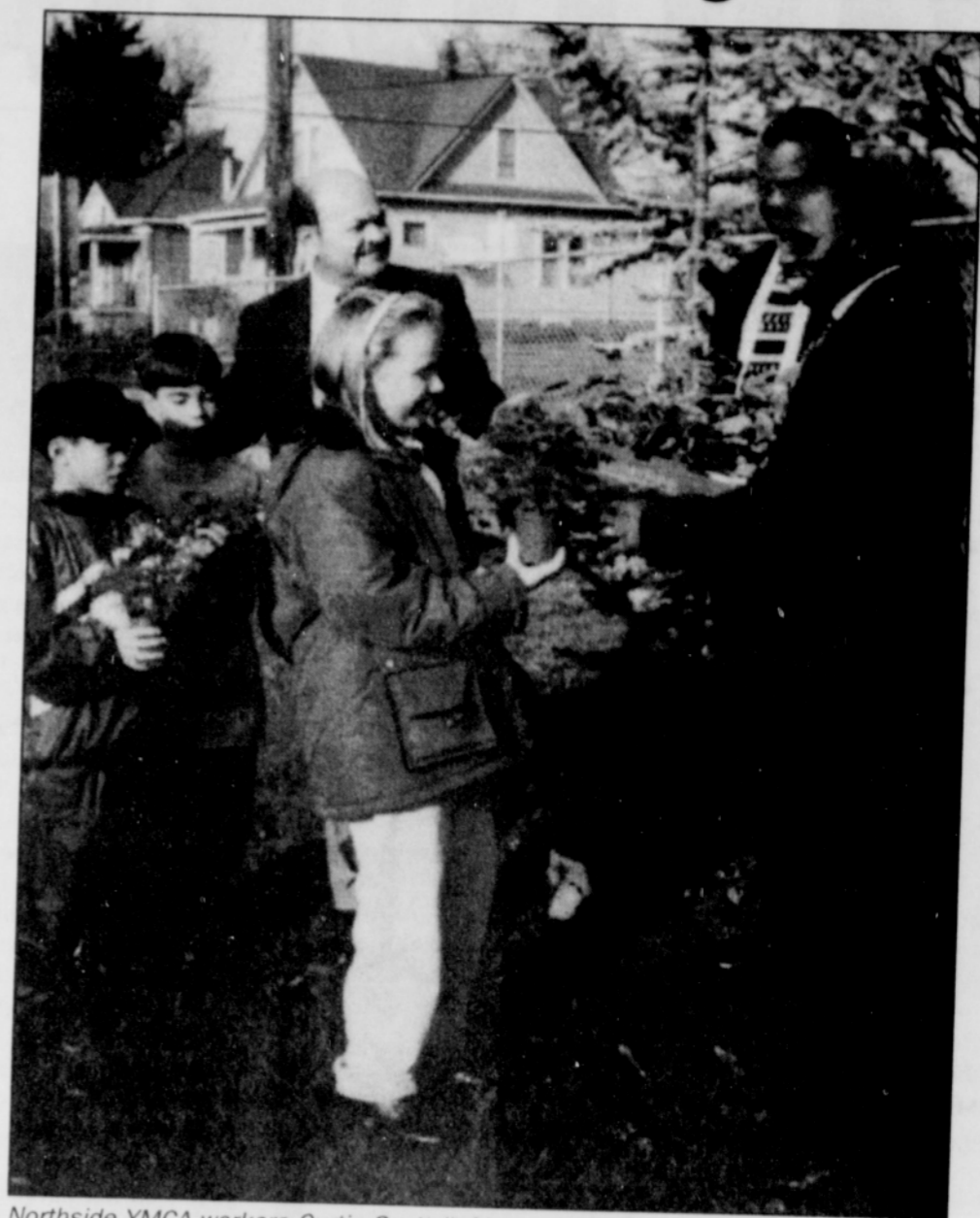
If you use lights on your tree, don't string more than three strands of lights together to minimize the risk of blowing a fuse of starting a fire. Use extension cords that are U.L. approved, and be sure you do not run the extension cord under a rug or carpet.

For outside decorations, use only those lights labeled for outdoor use. Always unplug all lights before leaving home or going to bed, and don't overload electrical outlets.

If you plan to hang stockings on your fireplace, don't burn a fire in the fireplace.

Prepare for holiday parties -- decorate only with flame-retardant or non-combustible materials.

Beach kids nourish neighborhood



Northside YMCA workers Curtis Scott (left) and Steve Guy distribute seedlings to Beach Elementary student Patience Lewis and students Tan Truong (far left) and Chris McNamara. Principal Miguel Salinas was also on hand for the event. The trees were given to the students by Kaiser Permanente as a thank you for watering trees the Health Maintenance Organization planted at the school.

Statement By DNC Chairmen

On Death Of Coleman Young

Coleman Young was a pioneer. In 1975, he became the first African American mayor of Detroit. He was also the first African American member of the DNC and the first African American Vice Chair of the DNC.

"From his days as an auto worker and union official in Detroit, Coleman Young was a strong supporter and advocate of the values, principles, and priorities of the Democratic Party. DNC National Chair Steve Grossman said. "He began on Detroit's Lower East Side as a

grassroots organizer and later emerged as a fearless and forceful leader in the labor movement and in the Democratic Party."

"Coleman Young was an old-fashioned Democrat, who was intensely loyal to what he considered the only major political party to represent the bread and butter issues of common people, especially African Americans," DNC General Chair Roy Romer added.

Young was a chief political strategist and a major leader of the Democratic Party in Michigan and Detroit, and he always worked hard for the

election of Democratic candidates.

In the 1970's Young had the courage to challenge those of his own race who wanted to form an independent political party in a national convention in Gary, Indiana.

"His contributions as a national Democratic Party leader are many. He will be remembered as a pioneer in the history of the labor movement in Michigan and in the political empowerment of African Americans in Detroit and Wayne County. He will also be remembered as an elder statesman of the Democratic Party," Romer concluded.

Plea: give gift of life

Continued from Front

more of our brothers and sisters are asked to give the gift of life, and that blood is available for African American patients needing transfusions.

Community leaders are invited to an informational breakfast to discuss the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Blood Drive;

On Tuesday, from 7:30 to 9 a.m., in the American Red Cross Portland Headquarters' Boardroom, 3131 N.

'Black donors provide best hope for survival for black patients with rare blood types, or those who must have repeated transfusions,' - Benita Harris

Vancouver Avenue.

"The demand for blood in the Portland-area has never been greater," Harris said. "Our region routinely faces shortages of types O and B blood, the most common types found in the African American population.

"Black donors provide the best hope for survival for Black patients with rare blood types, or those who must have repeated transfusions for illnesses including sickle cell anemia, heart disease, kidney disease or trauma," Harris said.

Mt. Tabor Park Gets New Off-Leash Area

Portland Parks and Recreation is pleased to announce the opening of a new off-leash area for canines of all shapes and sizes and their owners.

The new area is already open to the public. The old Mt. Tabor Park off-leash area, one of the most popular in town, will remain open through the end of November.

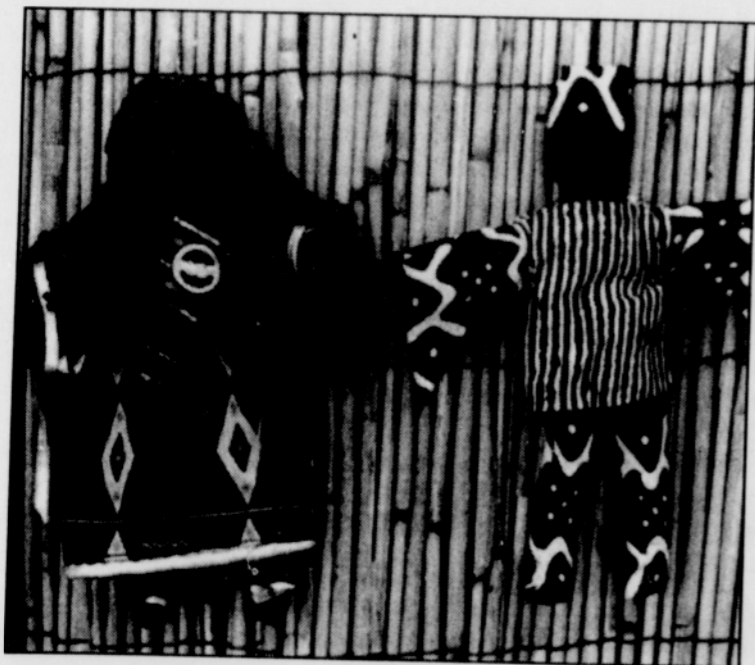
This new area is located just below Harvey Scott Circle, northeast of the former location, which was just above Reservoir #1. The area is

equipped with fencing, garbage cans and disposable pooper scoops, essential for maintaining the quality of the area as well as everyone's shoes.

As with all of Portland Parks and Recreation off-leash area, dog owners are required to keep their dogs on-leash until they are well within the designated area. Upon leaving the off-leash area, owners are expected to leash their pets. Owners are also required to clean up after their pets. To this end, scoops are located at the north end of the area.

Since Portland's parks are for everyone, dog owners should be sensitive to other park users. While those who do not own dogs are expected to be cooperative with users of the off-leash area, dog owners need to always be considerate of those who are engaged in other activities. Please especially be aware of small children using the park.

For more information about Portland Parks and Recreation's off-leash area, please contact Joan Henick at 823-5459.



Kwanzaa: A Celebration Of Life

At The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center Gallery

The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center presents KWANZAA: A Celebration Of Life, a group exhibition of African-American artists whose works evoke the African ancestral traditions and the sense of community that underlies the celebration of Kwanzaa.

The exhibition opens with a free, public reception on Thursday from 5:30-7:30 pm, and continues on view through Dec. 31 at 5240 N. Interstate Avenue. IFCC Gallery hours are Monday-Friday from noon to 5:30 pm, and Saturdays from noon to 4 pm.

The IFCC's annual Kwanzaa celebration is coordinated by artist Charlotte Lewis to share African-American cultural traditions with the Portland community.

What is Kwanzaa?

Kwanzaa is a non-religious holiday celebrated by people of African descent around the world from December 26 through January 1. Inspired by traditional African harvest festivals, Maulana Ron Karenga, a California State University professor of Black studies, created the

holiday in 1966 to provide African-Americans an opportunity to reaffirm their heritage.

The name "Kwanzaa" is derived from the Swahili phrase "Matunda Ya Kwanza," which suggests the theme of giving thanks for the "first fruits" of the harvest.

Kwanzaa festivities focus on a group of seven principles (Nguzo saba): unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. Each day of Kwanzaa is dedicated to reflection upon one of the principles, which are designated to promote planning, hope for the future, and the reinforcement of mutual goals. Each principle is symbolized by one of seven candles in a candleholder (kinara).

Kwanzaa symbols and decorations include a straw mat (mkeka), candleholder (Kinara), and ears of corn (vibunzi). Kwanzaa colors are black, red and green, inspired by Marcus Garvey's adage, "Black for the faces of our people, red for the struggle, and green for our hope."

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