

HOUSING The Portland Observer

HUD Assistant Secretary to Give Fair Housing Conference Keynote Address

Eva Plaza, Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at the Department of Housing & Urban Development will give the keynote address for the 14th Annual Oregon Fair Housing Conference April 27 at the Portland Sheraton Airport Hotel. In acknowledgement of the Thirtieth anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, Asst. Secretary Plaza will review the victories and challenges

of the first three decades of civil rights in housing and discuss what may lie ahead as we enter the 21st century.

Ms. Plaza comes to the Fair Housing Conference with 15 years of experience as a lawyer, manager, and policymaker.

Lawrence J. Dark, President and CEO of the Urban League of Portland, will give the closing address for the Fair Housing Conference on April 28 at

the Portland Sheraton Airport Hotel. In his address, Mr. Dark will discuss goals, strategies and aspirations for civil rights advocates as they meet the challenges of the new millennium.

The 14th Annual Fair Housing Conference, the largest fair housing and civil rights forum in the Northwest, will provide an informative array of workshops, presentations, and speakers. This year's confer-

ence will emphasize the legal aspects of fair housing as well as discuss methods of effective communication between housing providers and tenants. In 1997, the conference drew a record 400 attendees from Oregon and Washington states.

For registration materials and conference information please contact Michael Anderson, Conference Coordinator, at 412-6000.

Conference Planned For Rental Property Owners And Managers

"Affordable, safe and secure housing is the centerpiece of community development," said Bob Repine, former state representative and newly appointed director of the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department. Repine will be the keynote speaker at this year's Multifamily Housing Council of Oregon (MFHCO) Convention. The 16th annual convention of the statewide trade association which represents rental property owners and managers will be held on Tuesday, May 19 at the Portland Convention Center. Repine will open the session at 8:30 a.m. with the topic "Housing is Fundamental."

Gold medal winner of the 1984 U.S. Women's Basketball team, Carol Menken-Schaudt, will be the

inspirational luncheon speaker. Other conference topics will cover computer software for property management, fair housing, codes and permits, marketing and communications, ADA requirements, tenant screening and documentation, Section 42 tax credits, buying and selling for investment and other topics. The conference is promoted as "the best educational conference in the state for the rental property industry" and will provide timely and necessary information to on-site managers, property managers, real estate licensees, builders, developers, investors, and anyone else interested in the rental industry. Seven hours of real estate credit is available for real estate licensees.

"Frequent education is the key to

survival in the rental industry," said Emily Cedarleaf, Executive Director of MFHCO. "Every time a court rules on a landlord/tenant case, the industry is affected and sometimes dramatically. It is, therefore, imperative for property owners and managers to stay informed of the changes and to keep up-to-date with the market place. This conference will be packed with valuable information—we guarantee it!"

MFHCO represents over 4,000 property owners and managers in the

rental industry who collectively manage nearly 400,000 units from single family homes to large apartment buildings. The organization provides legislative representation, education through classes and manuals, credit and criminal record checks, and forms such as rental agreements and notices of violations.

Registration will be accepted on a space-available basis. For a conference packet or membership information, please call the MFHCO Salem office at 800-378-7129.

Applications for Neighborhood Tree Planting Projects Now Being Accepted

Friends of Trees is now accepting applications for its 1998/99 neighborhood tree planting season. These projects require a commitment of 6-9 months to organize the project which involves contacting neighbors, obtaining tree orders, collecting tree fees and organizing the planting day to take place sometime between November 1998 and April 1999.

Those who become Neighborhood Coordinators will receive training and project guidelines. Planting projects are rewarding and challenging and are a great way to bring neighbors together to

strengthen the community, improve the environment and beautify the neighborhood.

Neighborhood planting projects are part of Friends of Trees' *Seed The Future* campaign, a five year effort to involve thousands of volunteers to plant 144,000 trees and seedlings throughout the Portland metropolitan area. During the 1997/98 planting season, Friends of Trees and neighborhood coordinators planted 1,592 street trees.

For more information call 284-TREE (8733).

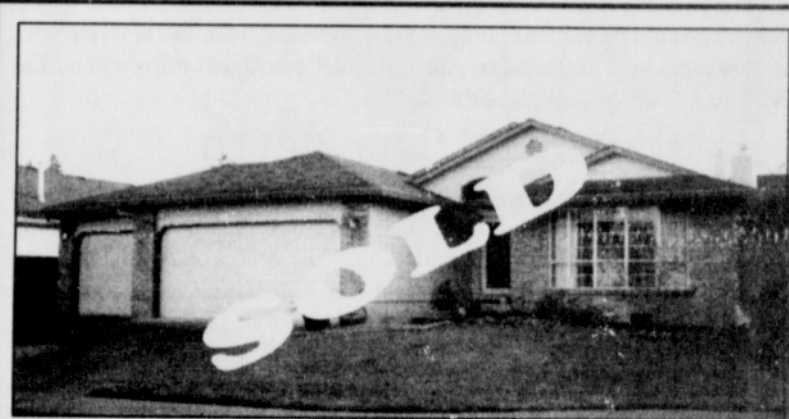


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Call Before You Dig It's Free and It's The Law

With warm weather just around the corner, many gardening, remodeling and building projects will soon be underway. NW Natural urges people to "Call Before You Dig" to prevent damage and service interruptions that can be caused by digging into underground utility lines. Notifying utilities before starting any work that requires digging is necessary for safety and required by law.

The "Call Before You Dig" safety warning applies to anyone who may be digging—contractors, excavators or homeowners. Notification is easy and free of charge; all it takes is one call to a notification center at least two full working days before excavation is to begin. After the center receives a call, it will alert participating utilities, which will locate and mark their lines with color-coded paint.

If a person fails to call and subsequently damages underground services, he can be held liable for all repair costs. More importantly, damage to a gas pipe or an electric cable poses a significant safety hazard.

Upon notification of proposed excavation from the notification center, NW Natural will identify the location of the natural gas pipe with yellow paint.

The Oregon Utility Notification Center can be reached at 246-6699 in the Portland metro area, 696-4848 in Clark County, Wash. and 1-800-332-2344 in all other areas of Oregon.

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