

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

## SECTION B

### Foundation Offices Will Locate in New MLK Building

By LEE PERLEMAN

**H**ousing Our Families' new Alberta Simmons building at Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Dekum Street is not only bringing business to the area, it's bringing money too.

The McKenzie River Gathering, an Oregon-based foundation, will have its administrative offices on the ground floor of the new four-story structure, HOF acting executive director Joan Miggins told the Observer.

"It's exciting to have such a foundation in this community, Miggins says. "The kind of things they support are the kind of things we're interested in as well."

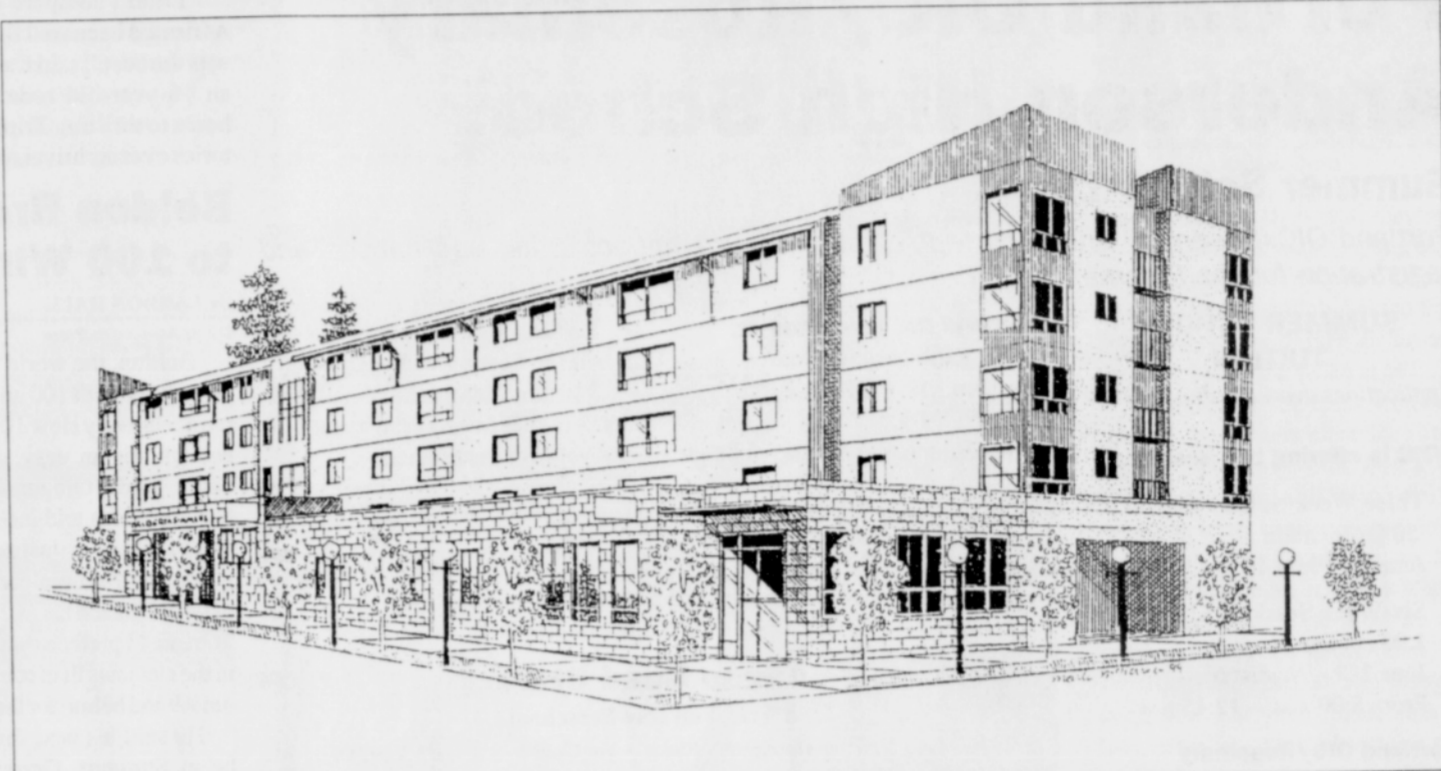
The Gathering is equally excited about moving to the space, director Susan Remmers says. Currently they rent office space at 3558 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. "We're looking forward to moving into an area where a lot of the activities we fund are located," she says.

McKenzie River Gathering was founded in 1976 by a group of Eugene-area individuals who wanted to donate money to progressive causes. Their grants office is still in Eugene.

Their current work plan targets projects in rural areas, and also urban projects that benefit or are led by women or racial minorities, Remmers says. Within the past two years they have given grants to SPIRIT, an organization of school-age transit riders; Oregon Action, a grass roots community organizing project; Community Alliance of Tenants; Workers Organizing Committee, which works with migrant and third world workers; Portland Taiko, which gives traditional Japanese percussion performances; and the Lesbian Community Project.

Another ground floor tenant will be Ace Cash Express, which will offer check cashing, faxing and shipping services, Miggins says. Two other commercial spaces are still available, she says.

Above the ground floor the building will have 74 one-bedroom apartments for low-income seniors. Each will be 560 square feet,



Our Families' new Alberta Simmons building at Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Dekum Street

and rent for \$295 a month. Tenants will also have a common meeting space and a laundry facility. The building will have nine parking spaces in a surface lot for residents, and 28 spaces in a garage for commercial tenants.

Housing Our Families, a non-profit agency, expects to complete the Alberta Simmons building by mid-July.

In a related development, Housing Our Families has negotiated a Good Neighbor Agreement with the Boise Neighborhood Association.

The draft agreement calls for, among other things, appointment of a designated HOF observer to attend Boise meetings and provide them with regular updates about development activity; creation of tenant councils at the Betty Campbell and Maya Angelou apartments; timely property maintenance and proactive crime prevention activity at all HOF properties.

The agreement does not contain two provisions that Boise representatives had called for:

an agreement that HOF develop no more rental housing in Boise, and a Boise representative on their board. Boise leaders contend that their neighborhood already has a disproportionate share of low-income housing.

Instead, the agreement includes a statement that the two organizations "acknowledge that there are and will be land use issues upon which they do not agree." The agreement also notes that HOF meetings are public, and that Boise residents can attend "if they wish."

The Boise Association approved the agreement last week. The HOF board is expected to do so on May 25.

Miggins and HOF development director Chris Cross say they have no plans for new projects in Boise at this time.

Last year Boise opposed a proposed HOF 10-unit townhouse project on North Fargo Street, based on long-standing crime prob-

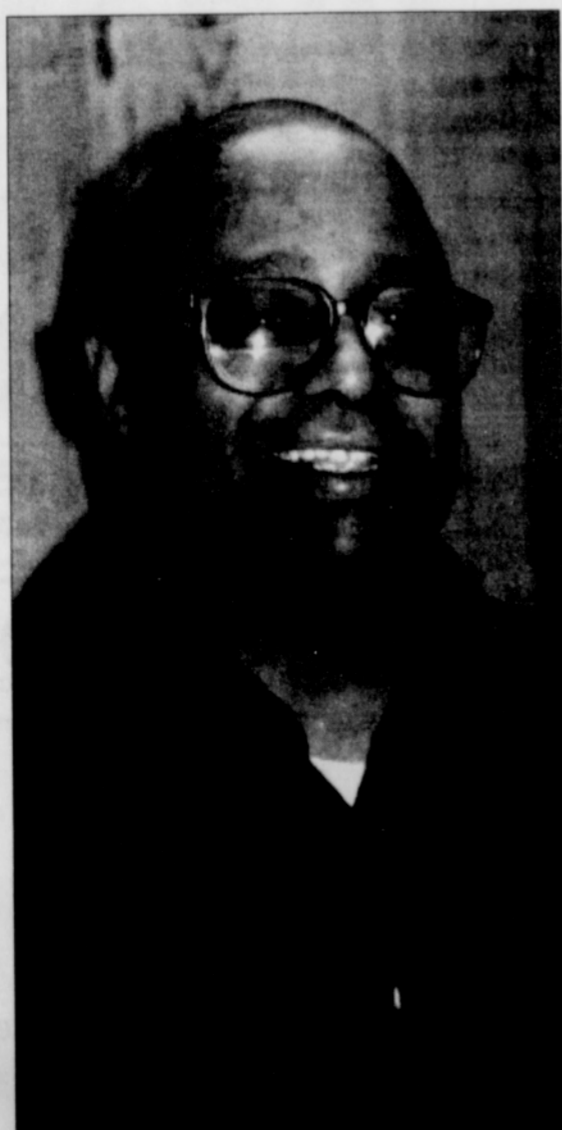
lems at the Betty Campbell and Maya Angelou. Boise succeeded in convincing the city to put a hold on its funding for the Fargo project. HOF later pulled out of the project, and entered into mediation with Boise.

Miggins says the process, although difficult, was useful and necessary. "Some of the things (Boise) said we were doing poorly we were not doing poorly, but some of their criticisms were right on the money," she told the Observer. "We were too busy growing to stay in touch with the community. I don't want us ever to lose track of our roots again."

Boise co-chair Todd Lundy is also upbeat about the process's end results. HOF "has added some new board members and made some positive changes," he says.

Co-chair Chris Brown is more reserved but says, "This has sucked a lot of energy out of the neighborhood. Hopefully, we can put it behind us and devote ourselves to more positive things."

### UPS Employee Honored for 20 Years Of Service



**H**oward C. Williamson was recently honored by United Parcel Service for completing 20 years of service with the company.

Williamson, who is a delivery driver, was cited for his loyal contributions to UPS.

Williamson has provided delivery service to Northwest and Southeast Portland during his 20-year career. He works out of the UPS facility at 6707 N. Basin Ave. and presently provides service to Portland's Brooklyn neighborhood.

"UPS now provides more services to customers than when I started working," says Williamson. "I perform more tasks, but service to the customers has always been number one."

Williamson lives in Portland's Boise neighborhood and has two children: Matthew and Marocka.

### Hales Proposes City Council Meet At Night

Portland City Commissioner Charlie Hales will introduce legislation tomorrow to begin holding evening City Council meetings. Hales first proposed the change in a speech to the Portland City Club in February.

"It is high time the citizens of Portland had better access to their public officials especially when they are conducting the people's business," said Hales. "Right now, only paid lobbyists, the media and bureaucrats can easily attend our meeting. We need to open the doors of City Hall to the public after 5 p.m."

Hales proposes shifting the Council's regular, 2 p.m., and Wednesday session to 6 p.m. the same day once each month beginning in July. Hales proposes to test this arrangement for six months so the Council can determine the public's reaction to night and assess whether one evening meeting a month is sufficient.

"I expect they will be very popular," said Hales, who predicted that the Council might have to hold everything meetings more often than once a month. "I believe once a month will not be frequent enough."

The evening meeting - which would be held on the third Wednesday night each month - will usually focus on land cases and liquor licenses approvals. Hales urged his fellow Council members to try and place matters of public interest on the



Portland City Commissioner Charlie Hales

month evening agenda. "Working citizens deserve the same access to their City Council as the professional lobbyists and bureaucrats," said Hales. "We must lose the distinction of being the only city in the state of Oregon that conducts its business before most citizens get off of work."

### Community Calendar

#### Summer Volunteer Training

Bradley-Angle House is pleased to announce our Summer Volunteer Training. We need volunteers to do direct service work: answer our 24-hour crisis line, staff our emergency shelter and transitional houses, work with children's groups, or serve on our Board of Directors. We are also in need of volunteers to do administrative and maintenance work. Our next training will begin Thursday, June 10th. Call 282-9940.

#### Car Wash

CWAC Alternative School is having a car wash at Yam Yam's Restaurant parking lot at 112 NE Killingsworth. It will be held on Saturday, May 22 from 11AM until 3 PM. Donations will be accepted to go towards the development of a computer lab for their students.

#### Oregon Tradeswomen

The next meeting of the Oregon Tradeswomen Network is scheduled for Thursday, May 20 at 6 PM at the State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., Room 120. The topic of this month's meeting is "Preventing Sexual Harassment." The Oregon Tradeswomen Network is a non-profit group dedicated to promoting success for women in the trades through education, leadership and mentorship. Call 503/943-2228.

#### Book Drive

The Friends of the Multnomah County Library are in need of thousands of used books in good shape for the annual county-wide Book Drive on May 8-22 at the Central Library (522 SW Fifth). Please no old textbooks, Reader's Digest Condensed Books or magazines. And especially no torn, ragged or moldy books. We also appreciate CDs, audio and video tapes, LPs and sheet music. Call 503/224-9176.

#### Draw Wildlife

The Portland Fine Arts Guild is having a workshop on drawing wildlife in colored pencil with Judy Jamison on June 14, 21 & 28 from 10 AM until 2 PM at the Russellville Grange (at 12105 NE Prescott). The cost is \$4 for members and \$5 for non-members. Call 503/252-9937.

#### Soul Food Classes

Neighborhood Health Clinics (NHC) will hold a series of two-day Soul Food Modification Workshops and Hands-on Cooking Classes. Workshop participants are asked to bring a favorite soul food recipe, a friend and enjoy an evening of learning, fun and food. There will be no food for the classes. NHC will sponsor three classes on Wednesday evenings at Self Enhancement Incorporated, 3920 North Kerby Avenue in Portland. The sessions will take place on June 16 and 23, and September 22 and 29. All classes will be held from 6-8 PM. Call 503/288-5995.

#### SpringFest '99

Portland State University is celebrating the official opening of its new community recreation field by holding the first-ever SpringFest. SpringFest '99, co-sponsored by PSU, NIKE and Jammin 95.5, it is an all-day event for the Portland community. The event features free refreshments, sports games and activities, and much more. The event is on Saturday, May 22, from 10 AM until 4 PM at PSU's Community Recreation Field (10th & SW Hall). The event is free and open to the public. Call 503/725-3711.

SUBMISSIONS: Community Calendar information will be given priority if dated two weeks before the event date.