

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Sellwood Riverfront Concerts

Celebrate the last summer of the 20th century with friends and neighbors in local parks around the city. The Sellwood Riverfront Concert on the Willamette River (just north of the Sellwood Bridge) will be on July 12. Concerts begin on Monday from 6:30 PM until 8:30 PM. Call 823-2223.

World Walk for Breastfeeding

La Leche League international's World Walk for Breastfeeding will be held on Saturday, August 7 from noon to 4 PM in Lair Hill park in downtown Portland. The one-mile symbolic walk will begin at 1:30 PM on the running track adjacent to Lair Hill Park. La Leche League International (LLL) is a nonprofit organization that provides information and support to 200,000 breastfeeding mothers in 66 countries every month. Call 503/524-9616.

Woman, Thou Art Loosed!

Women throughout the country and around the world anticipate their largest Christian gathering to date, as they prepare to converge in Atlanta for Bishop T.D. Jakes' fourth annual *Woman, Thou Art Loosed!* Conference at the Georgia Dome July 29-31. "Wailing Women Win" is theme for the 1999 conference - billed by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* as one of the top five meetings (ranked in attendance) Atlanta hosts. On-site registration will open at 10 AM on Thursday. The event is free and open to the public, however, preferred seating has been reserved for pre-registrants. Call Pamela Gadsen at 214/333-6447.

Explore Africa This Summer

The Homowa African Arts and Cultures is presenting a four-week series of African arts day camps for children ages 6-12. The day camps begin July 19 and run through August 13. Each week-long camp occurs Monday through Friday from 9 AM until 3 PM. The series begins July 19-23 at the East Portland Community Center, 740 SE 106th Ave. The second camp follows July 26-30 at Whitaker Middle School, 5700 NE 39th. For additional information, call 503/288-3025.

Hip Chicks and Activists

Hip Chicks and Activists is looking for women of color and men of color, especially African-Americans living in NE Portland to join our social activist theater group. Open house and informational fun gathering on Saturday, July 10th. Call 306-9000.

Remembering Hiroshima & Nagasaki

An event coordinated by Physicians for Social Responsibility and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom will be holding an annual event memorializing the victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings and will call for the elimination of nuclear weapons. The event will be on August 6 from 6-7 PM at the Japanese American Historical Plaza (NW Naito Parkway and Couch St.). Call Jennifer Aldrich at 503/274-2720.

Help Needy Children

The L.I.F.E. (Low-Income Families Emergency) Center is having its 16th annual back-to-school drive for needy children (K-12). The drive will start July 1 through August 10, 1999. The Center needs new and good usable clothing to ensure needy children are properly prepared for the upcoming school year. If you need more information or would like to volunteer for the giveaway, call Leslie Garth at 503/284-6878. All donations may be dropped off at the L.I.F.E. Center at 2746 NE MLK Jr. Blvd. Or, call the Center for a pick-up.

Free Meditation Workshop

There will be a free workshop for National Meditation Month. The workshop is based on a book entitled "The Wings of Joy" by Sri Chinmoy. It is being held at the downtown library (801 SW 10th) from 1:30 - 3 PM on Sunday, July 18th. Call 503/471-1588 to register.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
A calendar of information will be given promptly at least two weeks before the event date.

OMSI Celebrates 30th Anniversary Of Man's First Walk On The Moon

People Across the Country Can Add Their Memories to New OMSI Display

OMSI celebrates the 30th anniversary of man's first walk on the moon on Wednesday, July 20 with the debut of OMSI's new "Where Were You When Apollo 11 Landed?" display, a showing of actual footage from the Apollo 11 moon landing, free cake and a variety of fun activities.

Visitors can learn what other people throughout the U.S. were doing 30 years ago at the time of man's first walk on the moon on July 20, 1969 at OMSI's "Where Were You When Apollo 11 Landed?" display, which is making its debut at the event. Anyone can share their memories now through July 18, either by filling out an entry form at the museum or through OMSI's web site at www.oms.edu. OMSI is hoping to collect entries from people across the country, to add to the display. To date, entries have been received from all over Oregon, parts of Washington and even as far away as Louisiana, Florida and Hawaii.

The top ten most memorable entries will be recognized on OMSI's web site, and their authors will receive a free space T-shirt from OMSI's Science Store and two free general admission passes to the museum. Winners will be selected Sunday, July 18 as part of OMSI's annual Space Celebration event.

At the 30th anniversary event, kids and adults can eat a free piece of festive moon cake (1-2 p.m.) and view footage from the Apollo 11 moon landing throughout the day. At a special showing, people can relive this historic moment by watching the actual television coverage of the moon landing led by veteran reporter Walter Cronkite, which will be shown in OMSI's planetarium theater at 2:17 P.M., the same time as the actual landing on the moon by astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on this day 30 years ago.

The 30th Anniversary of Man's first Walk on the Moon event is free with OMSI general admission, which includes entrance to OMSI's summer exhibit *Imagine Space!* Featuring the broadest collection of space artifacts and exhibits ever assembled in the Pacific Northwest.



Astronaut Buzz Aldrin - the second man to walk on the moon on July 20, 1969 - explains to students from King Elementary what it was like to fly in a Gemini space capsule at a replica of the capsule featured in OMSI's summer exhibit *Imagine Space!* The King students were treated to a sneak preview of the exhibit, which features the broadest collection of space artifacts and exhibits ever assembled in the Pacific Northwest, before its opening earlier this summer. The exhibit runs through September 6.

Hope for Conference to Bring Non-Profit Organizations and Neighbors Together: continued

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"Fewer people have been displaced than would have been otherwise."

PCRI faces a different problem. The guardian of the ill-started Dominion Capital housing portfolio, it inherited more than 200 dilapidated houses. It turned its attention first to those currently occupied. Others were left as is for long periods, to the chagrin of neighbors who considered them eyesores or even dangerous buildings. NECDC, too, at times received complaints about the upkeep of properties before sale.

"For the most part, our relations with our neighbors have been really good," Fitzpatrick says. "Our biggest problem is new residents who aren't very tolerant." Brown says CDCs "need to be aware of being good neighbors to the people around their properties, to allow for oversight. If a CDC is well run, you shouldn't be able to tell its property from its neighbors."

Franciscan, despite its mission, recently built a mixed owner-occupied and rental project on Northeast Fargo Street, and is planning another on Northeast Rodney Avenue, because it had committed to do

so to meet neighborhood concerns. "We try to approach neighborhoods in the beginning, and work with them in partnership," Voiss says.

Boise president J.C. Kizak says this was the root of a conflict between Sabin CDC and neighbors of their new project at Northeast 27th Avenue and Killingworth Street - a failure to communicate well and early. The issues facing the CDCs aren't limited to conflicts with neighborhoods. An increasing scarcity of land, the rising cost of what is available and the loss of subsidies such as the Nehemiah program have made it harder to provide affordable housing. Multnomah County's affordable housing program, which gives tax foreclosed properties to CDCs, and which once provided as many as 50 lots in a year, this year has only 12 to give away. H.C. Tupper, the program's director, is encouraging the agencies to decide among themselves which program should get which lot, rather than waste resources in competing for them. Likewise, some agencies are considering joint projects and shared use of resources.

NECDC, the largest and most productive of the northeast programs, may face budget cuts and even staff layoffs this year due to overall loss of income, according to board president Jess McKinley. It is continuing its original mission - the rehab and building of single family homes for sale to low-income people - but it is experimenting with projects outside the target area, and high-end for-profit housing developments as an income producer.

Some of these activities have earned it some criticism, such as an investment of non-targeted funds in an Ugandan sawmill and the sale of homes to some of its own highest-paid staffers. Agency officials say there was nothing unethical involved, but both operations were curtailed. McKinley says the Ugandan operation had become "too much of a distraction," and adds, "If we go so far beyond our mission, it must be clear it is doable for us." Acting co-directors Sondra Price and Denise Roy say that one of the houses considered for sale to their personnel was not technically reserved for low-income ownership, but decided to nix the sale anyway.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

By Lee Perleman

Here are some of the principal Community Development Corporations working in inner Northeast Portland, and the projects they are engaged in.

FRANCISCAN ENTERPRISE

This corporation specializes in below-market rental housing. It recently completed a four-unit development on Northeast Fargo Street east of Martin Luther King Boulevard, and is set to begin another at Northeast Rodney Avenue at San Rafael Street, that will have a mixture of owner-occupied and rental housing based on agreements with the neighborhood. It is also getting ready to develop vacant lots at Northeast Alberta Street and 20th Avenue, and at North Williams Avenue and Roselawn Street. Yet another project is redeveloping the former Texas Annex building on Northeast Alberta Street at 17th Avenue for rentals above ground floor commercial space on the lower level.

HOUSING OUR FAMILIES

This agency was founded by a group of professional women to provide affordable rental housing for families and single parents. It abandoned a 10-unit townhouse project on North Fargo Street at Commercial Avenue when the Boise Neighborhood Association objected to more below-market rental housing in the neighborhood; the project is being pursued by partner Thomas D. Walsh as a market-rate for-sale venture. HOF is just completing the Alberta Simmons Plaza, a four-story, 74-unit structure with ground floor commercial space for low-income seniors on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard at Dekum Street.

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The largest CDC operating in northeast Portland, NECDC specialized in the building of single family homes for low-income homebuyers, with prices reduced by the federal Nehemiah program. It also built the 55-unit McCoy Village complex at 4430 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in cooperation with the ONE Company of Los Angeles. Currently it has a home for sale at North Commercial Avenue and Mason Street, is working on renovating a house at 1024 N. Skidmore Street, and plans to build on vacant lots at Northeast 59th Avenue and Sacramento Street, Northeast Grand Avenue and Skidmore Street, and Northeast 27th Avenue and Alberta Street, the last a three-story rental.

PORTLAND COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT INITIATIVES

This corporation was created to manage the single-family house empire assembled by the scandal-plagued Dominion Capital Corporation. Its original mission was to help existing occupants acquire the structures and rent the rest at below-market rates. However, director Maxine Fitzpatrick says that "five or six" houses are too deteriorated to save; they will be demolished and new houses will be built to replace them. PCRI is seeking no new property.

SABIN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

This group was created by members of the Sabin Community Association specifically to combat gentrification and displacement. Most of the housing it has produced has been below-market rentals, including a six-plex on Northeast Killingsworth Street and 27th Avenue that will open later this month. However, it also has rent-to-own and land trust programs; the former allow tenants to acquire their homes gradually, the latter gives the CDC right of first refusal to repurchase the house, at an agreed rate, if it is sold. The CDC has nine new land trust houses in development.