

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

A Day at the Fair

The Leadership Development program at Portland State University, in partnership with organizations such as the Black United Fund, Albina Ministerial Alliance, Center for Community Mental Health, and the Urban League, is organizing a community fair to bring together Portland's North/Northeast residents and connect them with nonprofit organizations that help to build healthy and successful futures. The event will be on June 3, from 10 am.- 2 pm. at the Matt Dishman Community Center, located at 77 NE Knott. Entertainment and face painting provided. Call 503/282-7973.

2nd Annual Garden Festival & Plant Sale

Prizes, free food, pony rides, a raffle to Reno, info booths, garden demonstrations and tours, plants and bird houses all await you at the 2nd annual Garden Fair on Sunday, June 6th from 1 to 4 pm. at Our Garden, located at Garfield and NE. Failing (1 block west of Martin Luther King and 2 blocks north of Fremont). Joining them this year is Growing Gardens, a volunteer-powered nonprofit that brings gardens and education workshops to poor people throughout the Portland area.

Mittleman Jewish Center Celebrates 85 Years

With 85 years of providing service to the Portland community, the Mittleman Jewish Community Center celebrates this milestone with an Anniversary Party bash at the MJCC on Saturday, June 3 from 9 pm. until midnight. Featuring Johnny Limbo and the Lugnuts, the MJCC invites everyone to join in the celebration. Put on your dancing shoes and party to Portland's most enduring, fun loving rock and roll band performing classic hits from the 50's and 60's. Call 452-3428.

Oregon Bigot Busters

Oregon Bigot Busters are canvassing local communities to oppose the Oregon Citizens Alliance's (OCA) anti-gay initiative, the "Student Protection Act," on Saturday, May 27th and Saturday, June 3, 2000. The "Student Protection Act" is an effort to legalize discrimination against queer students and teachers in our public schools. This "green light to gay bash" initiative would violate free speech rights, and censor library and curriculum materials. Call 228-3090.

Bridging the Hunger Gap

For the first time in Portland history, an evening on the Hawthorne Bridge will become the hottest ticket in town. On July Fourth, 800 generous supporters of the Oregon Food Bank will dance and dine on the east end of the Hawthorne Bridge to the 1/4 mile long Starspangled Blues party. As part of the 13th annual Safeway Waterfront Blues Festival, this one-time-only event will raise funds toward an ambitious capital campaign. Senators Gordon Smith and Ron Wyden will serve as Honorary Co-Chairs for the event.

"House Coats"

Join the Bosco-Milligan Foundation for a program on selecting historically-appropriate paint colors for your home on Saturday, June 17 from 9:30 am. - noon at the Temple Ballroom, a former Masonic Lodge, at 6401 SE. Foster Road. There will be a one-hour slide program on historic house colors from the 1840s to the 1930s, with special attention to the house styles of Portland and a painting contractor will speak about "do-it-yourself" house painting, and will also discuss the process of hiring and working with a painting contractor.

Pepsi Waterfront Village offers fun for all ages



The Rose Festival waterfront activities is celebrating its 30th anniversary in Tom McCall Waterfront Park. This year brings several new improvements. On Thursday, June 1, from 5-11 pm., the Pepsi Waterfront Village (formerly Pepsi Festival Center) will be having its grand opening with events continuing until June 11. Changes implemented during the 1999 Pepsi Festival Center included the following and received favorable community support based upon responses from civic leaders and the Association's market research:

- Introduced fenced midway area
 - Charged a modest evening admission (\$3 from 6 pm. until closing)
 - Closed an hour earlier on most nights (at 11 pm. instead of midnight)
 - Enhanced additional safety coordination with the Portland Police Bureau
 - Expanded both the Skill and Thrill Zone and the children's entertainment area
 - Purchased a new full sized castle facade to highlight the entry to the Kids' Kingdom
 - Improved signage and banners
- As a result of 1999's successes, the Portland Rose Festival Association is continuing the effort to refocus this unique community celebration. In future years, the Association hopes to create programming that involves the Willamette River's eastside walkway and initiates water entertainment activities.

Local projects grow with foundation support

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Community projects in North/Northeast Portland got extra support from a long-time friend this spring when the PacificCorp Foundation announced its local Pacific Power fund grants.

"This community has a strong commitment to its people through a wide range of programs and projects that make a real difference in people's lives," said local Pacific Power Business Manager Sheila Holden, who presented checks on behalf of the foundation. "We're part of the history of the community and we're proud to continue our support of important local projects."

The foundation's aim is to enhance the quality of life in communities served by Pacific Power, including projects ranging from park improvements to arts festivals. In May smaller grants focused on education and research yielded \$21,000 for local agencies in addition to more than \$50,000 in other grants given for civic and cultural improvements, health and welfare and arts and cultural organizations.

Among the agencies receiving broader grants was The Black United Fund, which accepted \$35,000 for its Center for Community Development program. The grant matched PacificCorp and Pacific Power employee

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Irvington Covenant Church to hold groundbreaking ceremony

BY LEE PERLEMAN
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

On Saturday, June 3, at 5 p.m. Irvington Covenant Church will hold a symbolic groundbreaking and supper to celebrate construction of its five-story Covenant Village housing project.

The structure on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard north of Northeast Mason St. will provide 104 "assisted living" units for seniors and the disabled who can live independently but need help with certain functions during the day. Actual construction should begin in mid-June, according to church spokesperson Rebecca Neff-Townsend. It is not altogether welcome news to some neighbors and the King Neighborhood Association, which unsuccessfully opposed the project on the grounds that it was out of scale with the single family neighborhood to the east.

In an appeal before the Portland Design Commission, King Association land use chair Jennifer Marcicek said that while King "welcomes services such as an elderly housing project provides," the project "does not meet the scale and character of the area." She noted that most other buildings on the boulevard, including the McCoy Village housing project to the north, were three stories or less. Those that are higher tend to be further from single family homes, such as Albina Corner, or reduce their scale as they approach such homes, such as the Irvington Place development on Northeast Broadway. The three-foot setback from the east property line that Covenant Village will provide is "not sufficient," Marcicek told the commission. King representatives also raised concerns about parking: the building will have just 13 off-street spaces to accommodate residents, visitors and a staff of 25. Further, Marcicek and neighbor Scott Lanier said, parishioners

from Irvington Covenant Church immediately to the north already occupy all spaces on Northeast Grand Avenue each Sunday. However, as planner Denis Lachman said, the building's height "strikes to the heart of a major citywide issue: how to make major new development compatible with adjacent single family residential neighborhoods." A complication is the fact that although Northeast Grand Avenue across from the church is occupied by single family homes, it is zoned for RH for high-density housing. Lachman and the Design Commission speculated that the land facing the new high-rise would eventually have a similar sort of use.

Former King land use chair Stephen Foust says that the neighborhood had recommended high-density zoning for areas where the existing housing was judged to be in relatively poor condition. King also placed zoning lines through the middle of blocks so that streets

would have the same sorts of land uses on each side. However, he adds, "New development should still be in scale with what's around it."

Marcicek and Lanier argued that Covenant had contributed to the problem by placing its church building in the middle of the block. Had it been placed at the north end, they said, the new housing could have been built lower, yet contain the same number of units. Neff-Townsend says the zoning would have allowed a building 75 feet high. "I have to defer to our architects and planners, who looked at this four ways from Sunday," she says. "We recognized the neighborhood's concerns, but we had to make this a viable project." She notes that Covenant has identified a need for 600 assisted living units for families within two miles of the site. "The flip side of this is the services we'll bring to the community," she said.