

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Nibble On This!

East Portland Community College will host a new multicultural celebration - The First Annual East Portland Nibble - sharing culture through music, art, and food. The event will be held at 740 SE 106th on Saturday, July 22 from 10 am. - 8 pm. All ages welcome with free admission. The event will feature multicultural music and dance performances, fine art displays, jugglers and food vendors offering Moroccan, Mexican, Polish, Hawaiian and Native American cuisine. There will be plenty of opportunity for neighbors to play together with outdoor volleyball, free craft activities, a petting zoo and a castle bouncer for small children.

3rd Annual Race Unity Event

Portland's third annual race unity event will take place on Sunday, July 23, starting at 3 pm. at Peninsula Park. The program highlights the historical progress of race relations in Portland, with a reminder that there is still work to be done to build and maintain unity in diversity. Interspersed with brief readings will be artistic expressions by people of many ethnic backgrounds, including Native American chanting, African drumming, Persian singing, European American dancing and more. Activities for children available. Sponsored by the Baha'is of Portland. Call 289-6274.

Broadway Bridge Closes

The Broadway Bridge will be closed to Willamette River boat traffic from 7 am. to 10 am. on Sunday, July 23 to accommodate a special event, the Avon Portland Running Portland. From 7:30 am. to 8:30 am., the two eastbound traffic lanes will close for the run. Westbound traffic lanes and bridge sidewalks will remain open.

Desert Sojourn: A Woman's Forty Days and Nights Alone

At age 31, Debi Holmes-Binney left behind a stifling marriage, set off into the harsh Utah desert with basic supplies and several blank writing journals. Her plan was to spend forty days and nights alone to sort out her life and find spiritual renewal. But any romantic notions of communing peacefully with nature were promptly shattered by a furious rainstorm that flooded her tent, followed by a freak blizzard that buried her in a layer of snow and ice. She will be reading from her book at In Other Words on Sunday, August 6 at 7 pm. Call 232-6003.

Talisman Gallery

During the month of July, Talisman Gallery will feature a group show comprised of the work of 23 northwest artists. A variety of styles and mediums will be presented, with 18 painters, 2 photographers, 2 sculptors and a metalsmith/jeweler. Talisman Gallery is a community of artists who have come together with a vision of mutual empowerment and inspiration. The show will run until July 30. Call 503/284-8800.

2nd Annual "Dog Days of Summer"

Dogs will have their day at the second annual "Dog Days of Summer" Sidewalk Sale & Doggie Activities. Sponsored by the North-Northeast Business Association, in conjunction with the MLK Goode Olde Days Merchant Society, the "Dog Days of Summer" Sidewalk Sale & Doggie Activities is scheduled for Saturday, July 29, from 10 am. - 6 pm. Call 284-3093.

Power Wheelchairs Available

The Senior Wheels USA Program makes available Power (electric) Wheelchairs to Senior Citizens (65 yrs. old & up) and others permanently disabled, at no out of pocket cost, if they qualify. The Power Wheelchairs are provided to those who are in a wheelchair (cannot walk), and can not self-propel a manual wheelchair, and who meet the additional guidelines of the program. No deposit is required. Call Tom Thurlow at 1-800-360-8765.

Amtrak transports Portland youth to baseball tournament

CONTRIBUTOR STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Two teams of Portland's best boarded an Amtrak train last week as they headed north for the 2000 RBI Pacific Regional Tournament in Seattle.

The tournament, part of Major League Baseball's Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) Program runs Friday through Sunday at Safeco Field. The teams will be competing in three divisions: Junior Boys (ages 13 to 15), Senior Boys (ages 16 to 18), and Girls Softball. Regional tournament winners will advance to the RBI World Series held just outside Orlando, FL in August.

Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) is a youth outreach program sponsored by Major League Baseball. It is designed to promote an interest in baseball among disadvantaged children worldwide. Created in Los Angeles in 1989 by former Major Leaguer John Young, RBI has grown from 180 kids its first season to over 110,000 this year.

In addition to providing children with organized baseball and softball leagues, the RBI program encourages participants to stay in school and builds self-esteem. Through special programs, boys and girls who play in RBI leagues can take advantage of special



32 of Portland's finest young people traveled on board Amtrak to the Pacific Regional Baseball Tournament in Seattle as part of Major League Baseball's RBI program

tutoring, college and SAT preparation courses, and goal setting and time management classes.

"The immense success of this program around

the world shows that, when given the opportunity, young people can succeed - athletically as well as academically," said Tom Brasuell, National Program Manager.

The Portland teams will be traveling to their regional tournament on board Amtrak. This trip is part of an initiative to provide support to the local communities and to reach out to audiences, such as minorities and women, who may not be familiar with Amtrak's services. Amtrak's corporate diversity initiatives include community support for groups such as the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, and the Ronald Brown Foundation, to name a few.

"Being a part of Major League Baseball's RBI program has provided Amtrak with an opportunity to reach out to new audiences, especially children, to show them that Amtrak is both a viable transportation alternative and a responsible corporate citizen," said Rodney Ruffin, Director of Corporate Diversity at Amtrak. "This is the first opportunity many of these children have had to travel by train. We hope it's the first of many journeys with us." Amtrak operates a 22,000-mile intercity passenger rail system, serving more than 500 communities in 45 states. For more information about Amtrak, visit Amtrak's Web site at www.amtrak.com

Planning commission, PDC approve urban renewal

BY LEE PERLEMAN
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The proposed Interstate Urban Renewal District moved closer to reality last week as both the Portland Planning Commission and Portland Development Commission board approved the proposal.

The final step in the creation of the district will be a Portland City Council hearing scheduled for 6 p.m. August 16 at Kaiser's Town Hall, 3704 N. Interstate Ave.

At 3700 acres and covering most of the area bounded by North Broadway, the Columbia Slough, the Burlington Northern railroad tracks and Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., the district would be the largest of its kind ever created in Portland. It would reserve more than \$300 million of the property taxes collected in the area over the next 20 years for local projects and improvements aimed at community revitalization. In contrast to other

districts, PDC would not have the authority to condemn and acquire private property to further revitalization goals against the owner's wishes.

Opponents argued that PDC's revitalization efforts would lead to economic displacement of existing residents, and primarily aid developers. They also objected to the proposed Interstate MAX light rail line, and the rezoning of some of the area after it is built. Attorney Richard Vial, representing some of these opponents, told the Planning Commission that the district was improperly created to finance the MAX line. "This is not urban renewal's purpose," he said. "I don't see the public need being adequately addressed." PDC's John Southgate said that the \$30 million allocated for light rail accounted for only 15 percent of the district's budget. Gary Bethurem said he feared displacement through both redevelopment and increased economic pressure on the remaining property.

"One more rent increase and I'm out of here," he said.

Supporters of the proposal said that economic problems already exist in the area now, and that urban renewal could be used to address them. Lenny Anderson said that creating new family wage jobs on Swan Island and providing ways for local residents to get them "would give people money to buy the houses they're renting."

Allan Holzapfel of the Arbor Lodge Neighborhood Association said that PDC had been "very responsive" in drafting guidelines for the district. "What we came up with is very appropriate," he said. "If there were errors, they are of omission rather than commission." Paul Mortimer of Arbor Lodge made similar comments, but did acknowledge public concerns about plans to upzone all the area between North Interstate Avenue and the I-5 Freeway.

The Planning Commission ultimately

accepted proponents' arguments in voting five to nothing for the district. Member Rick Holt, addressing Vial's point, said, "Where this all started - I don't really care as long as everything's included." Together with commission vice-chair Rick Michaelson, he said the community would experience far worse problems if nothing is done in its behalf.

The commission did acknowledge concerns about upzoning, and urged a more cautious approach. Ruth Scott said that blanket rezoning of large blocks of land, "doing it the way we've always done it, is not going to be acceptable."

Holt agreed, and called for "an equitable process that will be a win-win. Not that no one's knuckles will be scraped, but make it as good as possible." The PDC board, and especially Noel Webb, had lingering concerns about not providing condemnation powers for the district. Ultimately, they voted to endorse the district as proposed.

Ford Motor Company brings it's award winning show to Portland



Ford Motor Company sponsor of the National Association of Minority Dealers national conference, brought a dog and pony show to Portland that left many pondering what was all the fuss about. They are proud of their record of being the only auto maker in Fortune's "Top 50 Best Companies for Minorities". So Portland's where they came to woo them. Ford has more minority dealers than any other auto maker in the world and they're proud of, "what that business decision has done for the company," states Elliot Hall (pictured right), vice president of dealer development. "We have an executive council that makes sure diversity is factored into every business initiative we create." Ford hosted a golf tournament at pumpkin Ridge Golf Course. Followed by a trip up the Willamette River aboard the 'Willamette Star', followed by dinner at Arwaters. At which time, Ford briefed dealers and the media on it's Minority Consumer initiatives.