

Business



Lisa Reese-Johnson oversees Reese's Oil following her father, Joe Reese's retirement. (Photo by Mark Washington/Portland Observer.)

Joe Reese Passes on Oil Company Legacy to Daughter

If you were a resident in the metropolitan area of the city of Portland during the mid 70's and into the latter 80's, and just happened to see, hear, or call upon an ever running blue and white household oil deliver truck, then you would recall "Reese's Oil Company".

The original company founded by Joe Reese was located on the corner of NE Williams and Fremont. It was housed at the gas station facility that was also operated by Joe Reese.

You would also remember that his concern for children was very clearly marked on each vehicle with his motto, "Watch For That Child."

Well, retirement is coming near, and Joe Reese is passing on his legacy to his daughter Lisa Reese-Johnson. She has been there intermittently with her father over the years and the time has now come upon her to work closely with Joe Reese during the reorganization of the company.

One of the new programs that we are now offering is the "Hi Neighbor" Program. This program will allow you to purchase oil at the bulk rate by combining the resources of you, your friends, and family. All you have to do is order the combined amount of 400 gallons or more and each of you will receive the 400-gallon bulk price. This program can save you, the customer, as much as 15 cents per gallon. This gives you the opportunity to

save money without spending more. By being friends in your oil needs, you can save tremendous amounts of money.

Reese's Oil Company is determined to be of service to the community. We still want to be viewed as the 'friend of the family'. We want the customer to feel that their needs matter. We are all feeling the bite of the economy with the oil prices increasing dramatically, and we are spending all waking hours (and some sleeping hours) trying to find a way to pass on savings to our customers. Since we are a small company, we have lower overhead and can therefore offer lower prices. We strive daily to ensure that our prices are the lowest at any time. So if you find oil cheaper elsewhere, give us a call and we will meet or beat the prices of our competitors. We also provide 24 hour service, 7 days a week. Reese's Oil Company also offers full service and repair on oil furnaces. So give us a call today at 503-287-2121.

Watch for the specials that will be offered throughout the coming months. To those of you who Reese's Oil Company has served in the past and to any new customers, please watch for coupons that will be advertised in the upcoming weeks. Let us know you saw it in The Portland Observer. Enjoy your holidays and let us help you keep warm.

Powell's Union Wins United Way Support

Responding to a call for assistance from Powell's Books union members, United Way of the Columbia-Willamette donated file cabinets, bulletin boards, a calculator and other miscellaneous office supplies this month to help equip the workers' emerging chapter.

International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 5 currently represents more than 420 workers at Powell's Books which is the largest independent new and used bookstore in the country. After two years of organizing, workers and management ratified their first con-

tract on Aug. 14.

Union Steward Ryan Takas said he appreciated the support shown by the United Way.

"Creating a union for Powell's workers has been a long time coming, and now that we have a contract there is still a lot of work to do to meet our goals," Takas said. "United Way's donation will help us get there a little bit easier."

Glenn Shuck, executive director of the United Way-funded Labor's Community Service Agency, said he's glad to see a local union get a good running start.

Neighbors Talk Open Meeting Law

A workshop for Portland neighborhood activists on Oregon's Public Records and Open Meetings Law will be held on Thursday, Dec. 7. Participants will learn how to navigate these laws to insure their neighborhood and community groups can effectively advocate for their community's interests while meeting the spirit of the law. The workshop

will take place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the King Center located at 4815 N.E. 7th at Wygant. The event is co-sponsored by the City of Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement and Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods.

The workshop will address such frequently asked questions as: What is a proper meeting notice?

PGE Rate Increase Could Go Even Higher

Portland General Electric customers are in for another rate increase. The company — which announced plans in August to raise residential rates 13.5 percent due to the rising cost of wholesale power and natural gas — is instead asking to raise residential rates by 17.1 percent starting Jan. 1.

PGE adjusted its proposal after reviewing its entire business in preparation for deregulation, which is coming next fall. Monday's announcement

drew swift criticism from consumer advocates as the region approaches its peak usage months.

"This is a frightening amount of money that they are asking for," said Jason Eisdorfer, an attorney for the Citizens' Utility Board, a ratepayer advocacy group. "A 17 percent rate increase for residential customers — that's the kind of thing that affects people's lives. That kind of increase is a real concern for us."

A residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month would pay \$10.45 more per month, or 17.1 percent more than the current rate. Rates for all customers, including commercial and industrial, would rise an average 16.5 percent. PGE plans a second increase in October 2001, as deregulation begins.

Eisdorfer said it was troubling that PGE wanted to implement the new rates on an "interim basis" Jan. 1.

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