

Portland
Observer
Family

Family Home Brings Business Opportunity



Little Rowan Anderson checks out the new digs (left) as other members of the community get the grand tour of a renovated house that will function as both a childcare business and living quarters at 5817 N. Michigan.



(PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LEIGHTON/PORTLAND OBSERVER)

A northeast Portland housing agency will offer a low-income resident the opportunity to operate an in-home childcare business as a way to meet the neighborhood's child care needs.

Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc., a nonprofit housing developer and property management company, renovated a home at 5817 N. Michigan where

the first floor of the residence is specifically designed for a childcare business. The second floor of the home is living space for the family.

The home has childcare furniture and equipment that PCRI purchased. "It's wonderful to think that children will be learning here and it will be quality child care," said Valerie Garrett, PCRI's project manager.

Office Puts New Focus on Neighborhoods

Portland City Commissioner Dan Saltzman is announcing a new focus for Portland's network of neighborhood associations and coalitions. "To retain our leadership and to have the best access for neighbors to their city government, we need to periodically take

a hard look at our system. We have to look at how our resources are spent and ask what can we do to make our system better," Saltzman said. Called "Re-Examine and Reconnect," the effort will focus on three key areas. First, the city's Office of Neighborhood

Involvement will investigate how best to support neighborhood associations and their connection to the coalitions.

Second, Saltzman wants to increase the number and representation of neighbors in our neighborhood associations.

"Re-Examine and Reconnect is about building for future that supports and strengthens our neighborhood associations because good people make good neighborhoods and good neighborhoods make good people," Saltzman said.

PGE Employees Contribute 75,000 Hours

Portland General Electric employees contributed more than 75,000 hours of volunteer service to non-profit agencies, schools, and service and government organizations in 2000 - 28,000 hours more than 1999.

"Community involvement is an integral part of our corporate culture," says PGE chief executive

officer and president Peggy Fowler. "And what drives our community investments is the volunteer energy of our employees, retirees and their families."

PGE employees are well known for their enthusiastic support of PGE-sponsored volunteer activities such as "Friends of Trees" Seed the Future campaign, SOLV

IT and most recently, a huge effort with Community Energy Project, where more than 250 employees weatherized 23 homes for low-income, disabled and elderly citizens.

"Our employees are doing great things to enhance their communities. This is one way our company can support their efforts,

strengthen our communities, and instill a sense of pride in our community at the same time," Fowler says. PGE's corporate contributions focus on preserving and enhancing our natural environment, educating and supporting a healthy, stable work force and enhancing and protecting safe, involved neighborhoods.

Computer and Internet Help for Adults

OASIS, an educational program for adults over 55, has won a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Commerce to help close the digital divide that exists among the senior population.

The group is making Internet access and training available

through new computer labs and educational programs.

OASIS has local membership of over 12,000 seniors, many of whom are eager for access to the Internet, better equipment and more computer education, according to a membership survey conducted locally last spring.

"Computer classes, and especially Internet workshops, are some of the most popular services we offer at OASIS," says Robin Costic, director of the Portland program.

The Portland OASIS will be establishing the new computer lab this summer on the 10th floor

of Meier & Frank, which sponsors the group along with Legacy Health System and Regency BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon.

Anyone interested in learning more should contact Robin Costic, OASIS Director, 503-241-3059 or e-mail to: rcostic@lhs.org.

Barking Dogs Are A Year-Round Problem

Barking dogs are a year-round problem in Portland, but worsen in the spring and summer when pets are left outdoors. Although there are no quick fixes, many barking dog situations can be resolved with neighbors speaking to neighbors, according to John Rowton of the Multnomah County Animal Control. "Take some time now to assess your dog's behavior, to see if your pet is a good neighbor or a neighborhood nuisance," Rowton said. There are a variety of reasons that cause dogs to bark, including separation anxiety: This barking (which only occurs in the owner's absence and is often accompanied by destructive behavior and house soiling) is the dog's way of telling you that he is anxious about your leaving.

Another cause is fear: Dogs may bark as a response to things that frighten them, often noises such as thunderstorms, firecrackers, garbage trucks, etc. if repeatedly frightened in

the yard, they may bark (usually with ears back and tail down) even in the absence of the sound because the yard itself has become a scary place to be. Territorial and protective behavior also cause barking: Dogs may bark to warn away those they consider intruders in or near their territory, and they keep doing it because it's so successful - I barked, the other dog left; I barked, the bicyclist left; I barked, the delivery person left; etcetera. With the help of friends, you can set up a program of gradually turning intruders into friends by rewarding your dog with treats for remaining quiet as the person approaches.

Finally, boredom and loneliness can cause dogs to bark: Dogs are intelligent and social creatures, and barking may be a reaction to being isolated. The best cures are spending more time with your dog and giving her the mental and physical exercise she needs to feel content when you can't be around.

Hey, what are you doing Saturday night?

Weekends and evenings after 8 p.m. are the best times to do laundry.

By working together, we've been able to reduce our energy use and keep the power flowing. But the cold weather's not over yet. We still need to be thoughtful about how and when we use electricity.

One thing you can do is choose to wash and dry your clothes on Saturday or Sunday. Washing only full loads with warm or cold water rather than hot will also help conserve energy.

Here are some other tips that you can do to save energy (and in most cases, save you money, too!):

- Peak energy usage time is 4 p.m. - 8 p.m., Monday to Friday. So if you wait until after 8 p.m. to run your household appliances (like your dishwasher), you'll make a big difference in preventing power supply problems.
- Clean or replace furnace filters once a month during the heating season.
- Your heat may be going up your chimney. Close the damper as soon as your fire is safely out.
- Turn off shower fans after they've done the job (usually a half hour). In just one hour, these fans can empty a house of warm air.
- On sunny days, take advantage of the sun's free heat by opening shades and drapes. On overcast days and at night, close them to keep heat in.
- Turn off extra lights, especially between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- Keep your thermostat set between 65°F and 68°F, if your health permits. Each degree you lower your thermostat can save you up to 3 percent on your bill.
- Tackle some easy and inexpensive energy-saving projects around your house. Insulating, caulking and weatherstripping can add up to big savings of energy and money.



Let's all do our part.
Wait 'til late to use electricity.
Call us at 1-800-222-4335, and ask for a copy of our Bright Ideas booklet for more energy-saving tips.

Booklet on Portland's Heritage Trees!

The long wait is over! Portland's Heritage Trees is now available to the public.

The booklet contains a chronological list of the heritage trees in Portland and the address for each tree. For easy reference, the city has been divided into four quadrants with 13 easy-to-read maps showing the location of these great trees.

The author, Phyllis Reynolds, has included a section containing a description and interesting facts about each tree species. The booklets are available for \$5 at Hoyt Arboretum or at the Portland Parks and Recreation reception desk on the 13th floor of the Portland Building, 1120 S.W. Fifth Ave.

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