

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Rose Festival at Waterfront Village

This year, Rose Festival waterfront activities is celebrating its 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary in Tom McCall Waterfront Park (between Burnside and Hawthorne Bridge). The Waterfront Village will open from Thursday, May 31 until Sunday, June 10. This year, there will be several new, exciting improvements and additions.

### YMCA Camp Collins Celebrates 75 Years

YMCA Camp Collins is 75 years old this summer. The camp has served 350,000 children in that time, and is getting ready for the next 75 years. Come and share the memories with them. They will be celebrating on Saturday, June 16 at the YMCA Camp Collins, located at 3001 S.E. Oxbow Parkway, next to Oxbow Regional Park. For more info., call 503/663-5813, or visit [www.ymca-portland.org](http://www.ymca-portland.org).

### Strawberry Festival at Kruger's Farm

Join Kruger's Farm for the arrival of the strawberry season on June 16 and 17. Visitors have the opportunity to sample the fruits, tour the farm, take a hayride, picnic under the oak trees, listen to live music and enjoy fresh strawberry shortcake. There will also be jam-making demonstrations. This is a free event. Kruger's Farm is located at 17100 S.W. Sauvie Island Road. Call 503/621-3489.

### Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent Program is looking for senior adults, at least 60 years of age, and on a limited income to help at-risk children in the Portland area. Foster Grandparents receive \$200 a month tax-free plus other incentives including meal and travel compensation, paid time-off, and sick leave. Call 503/232-0007, ext. 202 for details.

### Join the Community Health Council

The Multnomah County Health Department is seeking members to serve on its Community Health Council. Members advise the county's Health Department on current and emerging matter in public health, including program reviews, policy development, and budget recommendations. The Council meets regularly on the second Monday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at various health departments in the county. Call Sonia Manhas at 503/988-3674, ext. 26113.

### YMCA Sponsors

#### World's Largest Run

The Clark County Family YMCA, located in Vancouver, Washington will be having the "World's Largest Run," a 5k run/walk on Saturday, June 2 at 2 p.m. It will be sponsored by 1,300 YMCAs in 700 cities throughout North America. This is in celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the YMCA in the United States. To register, call 503/228-5079 or 360/885-9622.

### Architectural Treasures of Portland

Alice Cotton, a local author will be giving a slide show presentation at Multnomah County Library on Wednesday, June 13, 7 p.m. in honor of Portland's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Her specialty is on revealing the unique story of beautifully designed buildings in the city and highlighting its architecture.

### June Lead Poisoning Prevention Workshop

A June Lead Poisoning Workshop sponsored by Community Energy Project will discuss the health effects of childhood lead poisoning. Income-qualified Portland residents receive a free prevention kit worth about \$45. The event is free and open to the public. Free childcare provided. It will be held at the Whitaker Community School, located at 5700 N.E. 39<sup>th</sup> Ave. on Tuesday, June 5, from 6-7:30 p.m.

### Friendly Poets Society

The Friendly Poets Society is offering a \$1,000 grand prize in their Poetry Competition 2001, free to everyone. There are 28 prizes in all worth over \$3,000. The contest is seeking poems on any subject, using any style, with a life-affirming inspirational theme. For more information, go online to [www.friendlypoets.com](http://www.friendlypoets.com). Deadline is June 15.

## Nike Factory Store Invests In Community



Robin Herrington, the reigning Mrs. Portland (right), honors a group of community organizations, including members of the Peninsula Little League (above), at a celebration to highlight Nike's commitment to local non-profit organizations.



Grants totaling \$50,000 were presented to local community organizations in north and northeast Portland last week at Nike's Factory Store on Northeast Martin Luther King Junior Blvd.

Reigning Mrs. Portland, Robin Herrington honored the grant recipients along with Gina Warren, Nike's Global Community Affairs Director and Lisa Clausen, Nike's General Manager of USA Retail

When Nike opened the store in 1984, it pledged to donate a percentage of the store's sales to community-based non-profit organizations.

Since that time, Nike has donated more than \$750,000 to neighborhood charities.

Grants totaling \$50,000 each year are part of an ongoing initiative to support non-profit organization that offer programs for youth enterprise, education and enhancement

through sports.

A selection committee made up of local community leaders identified the 10 organizations that received \$5,000 grants this year, as part of the 2001 Nike Factory Store Grant Program.

The monies were awarded to the following recipients: Albina Head Start, Bethel Neighborhood Drop-in Center, Community Transitional School, Friends of Trees, Give us this

Day, Portland House of Umoja, Salvation Army Cascade Division, School House Supplies, St. Andrew Nativity School, and Peninsula Little League.

"Giving back to the community isn't part of what we do its part of who we are," said Warren. "Nike is committed to helping Portland's North and Northeast communities improve the quality of services they provide for young people."

## New Streets, Homes Move into Villa St Rose

### Home is 'Dream Come True' for Ortiz Family

Among the families who are anxiously awaiting their new homes in the new Rosemont Commons neighborhood is the Ortiz family.

The former St. Rose Convent and Rosemont School south of Portland Boulevard and adjacent to North Dekum and Congress, is being transformed into a complex with 100 units of senior housing.

In addition, more than 50 new single-family homes with new streets are being added to the 7.6 acre site.

Ten of those lots are houses sponsored by Portland's Habitat for Humanity, with one of those homes going to the Ortiz family.

Pedro and Kris Ortiz have been married for five years and have three small chil-

dren. Pedro has been employed as a foreman at Pacific West Roofing in Tualatin for about three years and Kris is a stay-at-home mom.

The family came to Portland's Habitat to finally fulfill their dream of owning their own home. Currently, they live with nine other people in a two bedroom apartment in North Portland. When asked why is homeownership so important to them, Kris says that one of the reasons is because

she wants her children, once they are grown to be able to come back to the house and be able to say, "This is the house where I grew up."

Additionally, she says that she can't wait to be able to put the 'growth marks' of the kids on the walls and to be able to get rid of all the mold and mice problems that they battle on a continual basis now.

The Ortiz family is very proud and extremely hard working.

They finished their first 200 hours of 400 required 'sweat equity' hours in less than two months; many of the hours Kris fulfilled by leaving the kids with family members during the day and coming into the Habitat office to answer phones and do whatever was put her way.

No matter what has been put in front of them, Kris and Pedro always seem to maintain their positive and energetic attitudes.

Kris and Pedro have dreamt for a long time of someplace they could actually call a 'community'; someplace where their children are safe, where they can count on their neighbors for support and where there is a diversified neighborhood.

Kris says she plans on visiting the senior living center just so her kids have a respect and appreciation for older individuals. Rosemont certainly seems like the perfect match for this family!



Kris Ortiz (left) and Mary Ellen Kirian of Habitat for Humanity take a breather while working on the construction of Ortiz' new home.



PHOTOS BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
The St. Rose School Convent and former Rosemont School on north Dekum is being converted into housing for seniors, while the 7.6 acres it sits on, becomes home to a new track of houses and streets.

## Students Research African American History

Area students will present "Lift Every Voice" a profile of African Americans living in Vancouver, during the World War II years of 1941-1948 on Thursday, June 7 at 7 p.m.

This program will feature high school students who participated in the Center for Columbia River History's Vancouver African American History Project.

Short oral presentations by the students, an interactive discussion involving students, coordinators, project advisory board members, oral history narrators and the audience are scheduled during the event at the Vancouver Community Library, 1007 East Mill Plain Blvd.

Through their work, the students and coordinators have investigated a parton of local African American history that no one else has

dealt with in any depth.

They visited museums and archives, listened to experts speak about African American history and historical research, learned how to do oral histories, and interviewed elders in the community. The students are seniors at Lewis and Clark, Evergreen, Mountain View, and Fort Vancouver high schools. Each chose a specific topic of interest and will be presenting the results of their research at the program.

All of the students will receive \$500 college scholarships.

The Center for Columbia River History is a regional educational consortium of the Washington State Historical Society, Portland State, University and Washington State University Vancouver.

## Peninsula Fun Day

Official Rose Festival event promises lots of entertainment, food and prizes

By LORRAINE-MICHELLE FAUST  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When you think of the Rose Festival, you usually think of parades, rides and events on Waterfront Park, but almost everything happens downtown. This year there will be a Rose Festival event in the heart of the North/Northeast Portland community. The Peninsula Park Family Fun Day, organized by the Albina Rotary, is an official Rose Festival event. It will take place on Saturday, June 2 from 12 to 4 p.m. at Peninsula Park, situated between Portland Boulevard and Ainsworth Street and North Albina.

The 2001 Rose Festival Court will be there to kick off the program with the Royal Rosarians. Other groups attending include the Jammin' 95.5 Street Team, the Buffalo Soldiers, McGruff the Crime Dog, Fred Bear and more.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School Choir, the Holy Redeemer Choir and State Sen. Margaret Carter will be singing at the event. Rap, funk and blues music will be played, along side performances by youth and African dance troupes. The program is free and open to the community. Families can expect a lot of entertainment, food and prizes.