

Portland Kids Meet Washington Elite



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Northeast Portland kids question Illinois Republican Dennis Hastert (center), the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and third in line to the U.S. Presidency, along with U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore. (left) and U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., during a visit Thursday to Friends of the Children, an adult mentoring program at 44 N.E. Morris.

Three Congressional power brokers, including the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., were in Portland Thursday to see first-hand how Friends of the Children is utilizing one-on-one relationships between trained adult mentors and at-risk children.

The organization, founded in Portland in 1993, with chapters across the country, is hoping to build federal support for its programs that provide help to kids who need nurturing.

Friends of the Children strives to make a difference with the problems of youth violence, drug abuse and teen pregnancy.

The vision is to provide at-risk kids with a sustained relationship with an adult role model who teaches positive values and has attainable expectations for each child.

Accompanying Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill. at the Portland Friends of the Children building, 44 N.E. Morris, were Sen. Gordon Smith and Rep. Greg Walden, both Republicans of Oregon's Congressional delegation.



PHOTO BY DAVE GIEZYNG/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland is Bike City

The Providence Bridge Pedal, an event to promote bicycles and cancer research drew a whopping 20,000 people to the Portland waterfront Sunday. Several bridges were closed for the celebration.

Neighborhood Gets Lesson in Condemnation

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cards right, they could come out pretty well," Humboldt president Susan Erickson said.

The assistance could give renters a chance to become homeowners, she said.

With property purchases, the process starts with an appraisal by the college.

Owners may also secure their own appraisal. A fair sales price is determined by the appraisals and negotiations. If no agreement is reached, the parties would go to court and a purchase price would be established there.

Homeowners who have lived in their homes for at least 180 days and tenants who have lived there at least 90 days, may also be entitled to additional money to pay for housing that is "comparable" to what they were living in, is safe and sanitary, and is "affordable."

Homeowners can get money to purchase a comparable home above what they were paid for

their old one. Tenants who are forced to pay higher rent can have the difference paid for up to 42 months.

In addition, the college must pay all moving expenses, including appliance and utility reconnection fees, temporary storage and transportation insurance. If you do the moving yourself, you can get payments ranging from \$300 for one room, \$825 for four rooms, with another \$125 for each additional room.

Sean Brown of No Fish Go Fish, a restaurant in the path of the expansion on Killingsworth Street, says Right of Way has been helpful in providing information.

"The college told us nothing before, but that was then and this is now," he says. "They've only hinted at providing more than the letter of the law calls for and for commercial people that's nothing - a couple of burly guys and a U-Haul."

But DeAnn Frank of Right of Way, says commercial tenants are paid for all moving expenses and can receive either a payment equal to their average annual income up to \$20,000 or payment for improvements to their new business site up to \$10,000.

Humboldt board member Carl Flipper says the company's information somewhat differs from a college brochure that shows a cap for replacement housing costs of \$22,500 for homeowners and \$5,250 for tenants.

"The government can't force you to move unless they can show there's housing available that's comparable in size, safe and sanitary, and affordable. Sometimes there's no way to achieve that unless you extend the caps," Flipper says.

He adds that this most often happens with very low income people who are living in substandard and cheap housing.

Stan Jones, a former relocation manager for the Portland Development Commission says if the sales price or benefits package dispute goes to court, and the property owner wins, the college could be forced to pay court costs as well.

Flipper adds, "It is extremely important that people not move, not sign anything, until they know what the total compensation package they're entitled to can be. These aren't benefits as PCC says, they're legally required compensation."

There is no requirement that people be relocated into the same neighborhood, and often it isn't possible.

Brown says his chance for staying in Humboldt is "pretty limited," and he is looking for locations on Northeast Alberta Street, Southeast Hawthorne Boulevard or the Pearl District.

River Cleanup Soars to \$1 Billion

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age as well as other pollutants in the storm water. When mixed with rain, it overflows directly into the Willamette River.

The Clean River Plan calls for diverting clean water from Tanner Creek, which originates in the West Hills, from sewage, preventing the pollution from entering the Willamette River. The city piped the creek into the sewer

system decades ago, and today the water contributes to the combined sewer overflow problem.

The second phase is already underway, where West Burnside, from Southwest 14th to Southeast 19th will remain closed for the next three months so that construction crews can bore tunnels for the installation of 2,000-foot of six-foot-diameter sewer pipe. A \$10 million grant from

the Army Corp of Engineers is being allocated for completing this second phase of the Clean River Plan. Users will be expected to foot the remainder of the bill through gradual, sewer rate increases - an average of \$70 a month by 2011.

After the second phase of construction, similar work will be done throughout the city: Phase III will be along Highway 26, from the zoo to the

Light Rail Tunnel on Southwest Jefferson; Phase IV at Northwest Flanders from 19th to 24th to West Burnside, from 24th to Barnes Road; Phase V marks the end, with a pipe installed from N.W. Lovejoy to Naito Parkway.

At a cost of \$13 million, plans are in the works to build an enormous underground pump station on Swan Island to accommodate the increased westside flow to the plant. That's equivalent in size to a 14-story building downtown.

Because the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant is limited in its capacity to handle the combined sewer overflow problem, expanding the facility is a necessity.

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