

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

"Bridging Portland's Communities"

Community Calendar

Neighborhood Block Party

The St. Luke Memorial C.O.G.I.C. will be holding the 2nd annual Neighborhood Block Party at 2700 N.E. Sumner Ave. on Sept. 1, from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. There will be free bbq, music, games and lots of outdoor fun. For more information, call Min. Gary Thomas at 503-284-0710.

Homeschooling vs. Public Education

Radical Women hosts a discussion on whether homeschooling is a viable answer to the problems of inadequately funded public schools and the subsequent compromised quality of education. The free meeting will be on Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m. at the Bread and Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth. Buffet will be served with a donation. Call 503-240-4462.

Leach Botanical Garden Plant Sale

Prepare now for a lovely garden next spring. Our Northwest fall rains present optimum conditions for the planting of perennial specimens that produce blooms in early spring and the seasons beyond. The Leach Garden Plant Sale will be on Saturday, Sept. 22, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Floyd Light Middle School, 10800 S.E. Washington.

Airport Max Tour

Travel to the Portland Airport on the newly opened \$125 million, 5.5 mile MAX light rail line. Stop along the way, learning more about the Parkrose neighborhood's Fishbird pedestrian bridge and seeing the future site of Stanley Park, Portland's newest park blocks. Lunch included at the Portland International Food Court. Call 503-823-5132.

Creating a Great Waterfront Park

Twenty-five years after its creation, Portland's front porch - Waterfront Park is undergoing a thorough review, giving Portland citizens an opportunity to step back and take a careful look at one of our city's most cherished civic treasures. The public conversation will be on Wednesday, Sept. 12, at McCall's Waterfront Café, from 6-8 p.m.

The New Leadership Challenge

Are you able to adapt to the concerns and opportunities of an ever-changing economic climate? On Nov. 7, you'll learn how to face new challenges at the sixth annual Worldwide Lessons in Leadership Series. The event will be held at the Holiday Inn Portland Airport, 8439 N.E. Columbia Blvd., from 7:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. To register, call 1-800-689-9771 or go online to www.lessonsinleadership.com.

Noon Time Bicycle Rides

The Multnomah Bar Association will be having noon time bicycle rides - short rides over hills. The meeting point will be at the S.W. corner of Pioneer Courthouse Square (Yamhill & Broadway) between Noon and 12:10 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays. Call Ray Thomas at 503-228-5222.

Fathers, Mothers and Daughters Support Group

Be one of the many 4th - 12th grade basketball playing young ladies to have your own support group. The Father, Mother and Daughters Support Group, Inc. is starting on Saturday, Sept. 15 at Portland Community College, Terrell Hall, Rm. 112, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Contact Beryl McNair at 503-283-7905.

Piedmont Place Blends with Neighborhood

Block of new apartments, townhomes and stores pass committee review

By LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

They can't choose who their new neighbors will be, but Piedmont residents are helping decide what their houses will look like.

A committee of neighborhood leaders and nearby residents has reviewed plans for Piedmont Place, a mixed-use development on the block bounded by N.E. Martin Luther King Jr., Portland Boulevard, Garfield and Highland.

A joint project by the Portland Development Commission and developers Scott Espedal and Richard Probasco, it will contain retail shops and 60 units of housing. The arrangement allows the block to be built by "a single developer," PDC's Alex Dorsey told 30 people who attended a meeting on the plans.

As proposed by Paul Jeffries of SERA Architects, based on previous discussions with neighbors, there will be 10 rowhouses of about 1,400 square feet each facing Garfield.

An existing mid-block, north-south alley will be expanded into a street from which residents will access garages in the rear - and ten 900 square foot "loft" units above the garages.

Along MLK there will be two structures separated by a roadway entrance. Each building will have ground floor retail below three stories of apartments, each about 900 square feet, with a total of 20 units per building. There will be underground parking accessed by a car elevator from the new street to the west. The



An artist's rendering shows Piedmont Place, a proposed development of mostly housing with some retail on the block bounded by N.E. Martin Luther King Jr., Portland Boulevard, Garfield and Highland.

top stories will be recessed back to make them less visible from the street, and there will be rooftop gardens. The siding will alternate between brick and concrete.

Neighborhood leader Betsy Radigan said, "The biggest challenge was the row houses. They not only had to fit in with the existing houses across the street, but with our historic conservation district, with the highest quality houses anywhere

in Portland. I think they have enough architectural detail to fit in."

The row house designs got generally high marks from those present. Jim Carleton said, "I worked in Northwest Portland and saw row houses go up there. They were atrocious, disgusting. These are 1,000 percent better."

He noted that they had front porches and variation between units, and were

only 30 feet high. David Greene admired historic details, such as porch columns that were more than rectangular posts. "They make all the difference in the world," he said.

Another resident said, "They don't look like row houses. There isn't a big, flat, ugly facade."

continued ▼ on page B4

Airport Max Tests for Sept. 10 Opening



An Airport Max light rail train pulls up alongside the Portland International Airport station. The so-called "Red Line" debuts Sept. 10. Right now, commuters can use the Airport Max trains from downtown to the Gateway Transit Center.

Lead in Schools' Drinking Water

As part of its ongoing program to investigate all its buildings for environmental concerns, Portland Public Schools began testing drinking water for lead and copper last month.

The district announced that results from 40 buildings have been received, and 35 of the 40 buildings have at least one drinking fountain that tests over the Environmental Protection Agency's recommended action level for lead.

The recommended action level for lead is 15 parts per billion. Out of 600 samples taken in the Portland district, three were above 100 ppb, with the highest being 162 ppb.

Copper was detected in a handful of samples, but lead is the more serious issue.

"Right now we feel it is prudent to turn off all drinking water faucets in all schools, whether they have been tested yet or not," said Portland Public Schools Interim Superintendent Jim Scherzinger. "Five-gallon water dispensers will be supplied to all schools as an added measure of safety and to give us time to make



Of all the schools tested, Madison High School had one of the worst problems with lead in its drinking water.

needed repairs."

Water dispensers will stay in a school until retesting on all drinking water faucets shows they are below the EPA action level.

Scherzinger said the initial tests were taken according to an EPA protocol that looks at "worst case" conditions. The tests were taken on water that had sat in faucets and pipes for 8 - 18 hours, allowing time for lead and copper to leach into

water.

"This is not the water people usually drink," Scherzinger noted.

Since 1988, the district has had procedures where custodians flush pipes each morning to reduce lead and iron.

"Now we are making permanent changes so we aren't relying solely on flushing," he said.

continued ▼ on page B4

Lloyd Center Sued Over Teen's Arrest



The family of a Portland teenager filed a \$500,000 lawsuit against Lloyd Center, charging the shopping mall with personal injury, assault and emotional distress.

Levell Peters, 14, claimed that he was unnecessarily roughed up by a mall security guard last March for wearing a trendy handkerchief called "do rags" on his head.

After being asked to take the head gear off because of the mall's dress code policy, Peters refused by arguing with the guard. Then the situation escalated into a scuffle and the boy got arrested.

In a written security report, the guard explained that he was acting in defense to save his life.

Describing the confrontation, Peters recalled being grabbed by the neck, pinned down by a knee to his spinal cord and thrown to the ground, then handcuffed.

A Lloyd center spokesperson said that the mall does have a code of conduct, but not a dress code.