

Free Energy Audits for Area Residents

If you heat your home with oil, now is a good time to call for a free energy audit from the Oregon Office of Energy's State Home Oil Weatherization (SHOW) Program.

First, the audit will tell you how to prepare for the cold weather that's right around the corner.

Second, the audit will tell you what energy-saving measures will save you money and which ones are eligible for special rebates.

And third, if you've never had an energy audit of your oil-heated home and you request one by Nov. 30, you'll be entered in a drawing for 100 gallons of heating oil. Two winners will be selected at random.

SHOW analysts check insulation in the attic, walls and floors, inspect the windows and perform a free furnace efficiency test. Only Oregon residents are eligible.

In addition, while special funds last, you can get as much as \$1,200 cash back for energy-

saving measures: Up to \$200 for energy-efficient replacement windows. Up to \$200 for a high-efficiency replacement oil furnace or burner or up to \$600 if you replace an underground oil tank with an above-ground one.

Other provisions of the program include a 100 percent rebate, up to \$100, for a blower door test to determine energy savings and other benefits of air sealing and duct sealing, up to \$400 for blower door-assisted air sealing and duct sealing by a certified contractor and up to \$400 for insulation and programmable thermostats.

To qualify for rebates or financing, the Office of Energy must approve the project before work begins.

The SHOW Program serves households that heat with oil, wood, propane, kerosene or butane. Oregon's fuel oil industry provides funding. For more information, call toll-free at 1-800-452-8660 or visit the website: www.energy.state.or.us.



Volunteers Build Neighborhood Playground

King neighborhood volunteers John Mills, Bob Bern and Amy Rice use landscaping tools to prepare the ground for a new small park called "Mallory Meadow" at the intersection of northeast Mallory and Killingsworth. A \$12,000 grant from the Bureau of Housing and Community Development is helping with the cost of the project, including the installation of playground equipment. Home Depot has donated materials for new curbing, according to neighborhood volunteer Jennifer Siebold.

PHOTO BY DAVID GIEZYNG/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

PDC Minority Contracting Grows

Minority, women-owned and emerging small businesses earned nearly \$1 of every \$5 awarded by the Portland Development Commission for construction and other services during the last fiscal year.

Overall, the minority firms participated in about 19 percent of the agency's contracted projects, representing about \$10 million. It is nearly double PDC's annual minority business goal and exceeds the mark of 14 percent a year earlier.

There are 1,500 firms in Oregon certified as disadvantaged, minority or women business enterprises and/or as emerging small businesses.

"Part of PDC's mission is to create quality job opportunities for all citizens," says Don Mazziotti, PDC executive director. "It's just as important to

that directly, through our contracting and workforce training processes, as indirectly, by stimulating new development. We are proud of our leadership role in working toward ethnic and gender parity in our projects and encouraging our contractors to promote diversity in their own ranks."

PDC has historically encouraged participation of minority and women-owned businesses in its projects, but stepped up its pace in 1997 when a study showed that minority and women business owners were struggling with discriminatory actions and attitudes in the regional construction and related trades.

PDC staff now works even more diligently to reach minority communities by working with such groups as the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs, Oregon Tradeswomen

Network, and Native American, Hispanic, and African American chambers of commerce.

The PDC is a partner in City of Portland and Multnomah County programs that recruit apprentices in the building trades, with an emphasis on recruiting women and minorities for those positions.

Future efforts by the PDC may include identification of several annual "showcase" projects with higher minority-use targets of 15-25 percent; establishing an inter-agency web-based "contracting opportunities" home page; expanding partnering outreach activities to increase minority participation in all areas of contracting; and working with the city and TriMet to maximize minority hiring for upcoming projects in the Interstate Urban Renewal Area.

Literacy Program Needs Neighbors

Metropolitan Family Services is seeking volunteers for a childhood literacy program at Columbia Villa in north Portland.

As part of a program called Experience Corps, area residents are helping children to improve their verbal and written skills. They plan activities for the children and work to get the parents involved in their child's education.

Experience Corps is a federally funded program. Volunteers will be paid \$5.50 per hour and will receive tuition assistance. There is a commitment of 45 hours a month, and participants must be 21 or older.

This is an opportunity for someone wishing to re-enter the work world, for older adults to supplement their income, or for students to earn tuition credit.

For more information, call Sue Tingley, program coordinator, at 503-232-0007, extension 203.



The North Portland

The North Portland Health Center has moved from its location at 8918 N. Woolsey Avenue to 9000 N. Lombard Street, Portland, OR

On Tuesday Oct. 9, 2001 at 1:30 pm, the new location will open for service.

If you have questions ask any staff person or call 503-988-3816.



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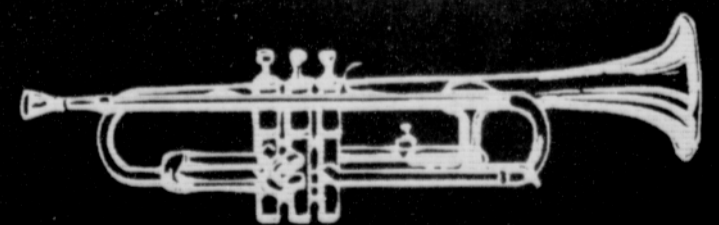
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