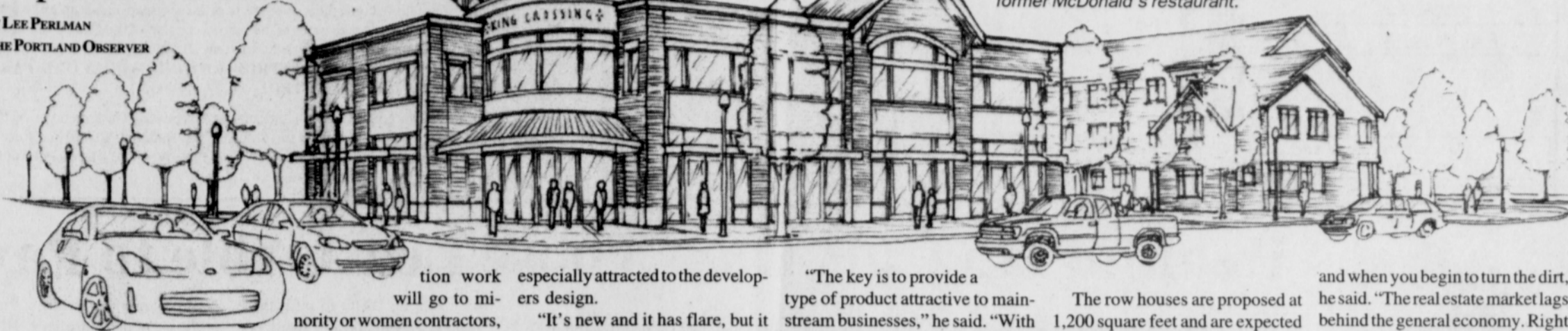


King Plans for Development Earn Praise

Commercial building, housing proposed for Food Mart Site

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

An artist's rendering shows a proposed commercial development with housing at the corner of Northeast Fremont and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The project would replace the vacant King Food Mart, a former McDonald's restaurant.



A team of developers hopes to transform the abandoned King Food Mart property on Northeast Fremont and Martin Luther King Jr. into something extraordinary.

Abe Killings, Ron Sykes and their associates at First Oregon Development are working with the Portland Development Commission on plans for the property, which once held a McDonald's restaurant.

The group has proposed a two-story commercial structure facing King and Fremont, and seven row houses facing Northeast Sixth Avenue. The team has pledged that at least 25 percent of their construc-

tion work will go to minority or women contractors, and that they will recruit local residents for hiring.

The site has been vacant and owned by PDC since 1999. All parties stress that the process is in a preliminary stage. The team must first negotiate a contract with PDC, which Killings says he "hopes" to achieve by next May.

However, what the team has achieved already is significant.

Lois Cortel, PDC project manager, said the proposal meets every need local residents identified in early planning.

Edwina Wasson, president of the North-Northeast Business Association and a member of the selection committee, said she was

especially attracted to the developers design.

"It's new and it has flare, but it doesn't stick out like a sore thumb. It blends in with the neighborhood around it," Wasson said.

She was also attracted to the

"The key is to provide a type of product attractive to mainstream businesses," he said. "With access to transportation, location, proximity to Lloyd Center and the Rose Quarter, this is a very viable site."

It's new and it has flare, but it doesn't stick out like a sore thumb. It blends in with the neighborhood around it.

— Edwina Wasson, president of the North-Northeast Business Association

proposal's potential for job development and commitment to minority contracting.

Killings hopes to attract a mixture of "businesses with brand name recognition" and "grass roots, local businesses."

The developer expects the project to add permanent jobs to the area.

"With jobs come economic vitality," Killings said. "People tend to spend money in the neighborhoods they live in."

The row houses are proposed at 1,200 square feet and are expected to sell in the \$145,000 to \$159,000 range.

Killings said he wants to take advantage of government programs, such as tax abatements, to make the homes as affordable as possible.

Wasson says that one reservation the selection committee had was that none of the bidders had yet put together the financing to make the proposal possible. In addition, the economic conditions are unfavorable for new ventures of any kind.

But Killings says he isn't worried.

"It's generally two to three years between the conception of a project

and when you begin to turn the dirt, he said. "The real estate market lags behind the general economy. Right now, interest rates are low."

Both Killings and Sykes are longtime inner northeast residents. Killings moved to the area as a teenager from Salt Lake City in 1966. Sykes grew up in the area, attending Ockley Green School and Jesuit High School; he currently serves on the Portland Planning Commission.

"Our whole team is pretty excited about this," Killings said. "It's high time more investment was focused on Martin Luther King, which has seen a lot of disinvestments over the years. This area hasn't seen the type of job growth other parts of the city has over the last five to ten years."

Polar Bears Get New Home

Polar bears at the Oregon Zoo are celebrating the holidays a little early this year as they explore their newly remodeled exhibit.

"The remodel was done for the benefit of the bears," said the Zoo's Conservation Program Scientist, David Shepherdson. "It gives them more time in the outdoors, which they generally prefer and allows them to get away from each other."

The roof was scheduled for maintenance, but instead of re-roofing, it was removed. The area that covers visitor viewing will remain.

"Given the option, the bears chose to spend more time in the uncovered exhibit," said the zoo's zoological curator Chris Pfefferkorn. "Removing the roof on the entire exhibit will give them more of what they want."

Visitors also benefit from more light in the exhibit. The once dark exhibit inhibited visitors from seeing the bears once they climbed out of the water.

"The size of the exhibit hasn't increased, but what visitors are able to see has nearly doubled," said Pfefferkorn.

Seattle NAACP Elects New President

(AP) — Carl Mack has defeated incumbent Oscar Eason Jr. in the first contested election for president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in at least 30 years.

"All King County has got to be put on notice — we're not going to tolerate discrimination," Mack said. "You touch one of us, you touch all of us."

Eason, 72, had served two two-year terms as president. An assistant chief of engineering in the Army Corps of Engineers, he formerly served as head of the 2.5-million-member Blacks in Government.

Mack, 41, a King County Metro transit engineer, is a frequent guest lecturer on black history at local schools. He grew up in Jackson, Miss., and came to Seattle in 1987.

The vote marks a generational shift in leadership amid black community unrest over the fatal shooting of several black men by white police officers and the disproportionately poor performance of black students in public schools.

Many also have been affected by the passage in 1998 of Initiative 200, a statewide measure barring affirmative action programs in public education and government hiring and contracting.

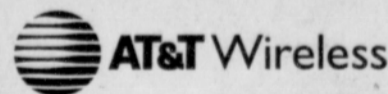
When you can swing a private booth / jazz musicians / her favorite flowers / the pearls she's always wanted / all on your way from the office / that's mLife.



wireless calling plans start at **\$19.99** a month

There's never been a better time to start your mLife with an AT&T Wireless calling plan that fits your needs.
1.800.IMAGINE®
attwireless.com

welcome to mlife.



AT&T Wireless Stores Ask about AT&T Wireless Gift Cards.

CITY CENTER
734 SW 3rd Ave
503-228-2675

LONGVIEW
1015 Ocean Beach Hwy
360-501-6737

MCMINNVILLE
2640 N. Hwy. 99W
503-435-1400

MILL PLAIN CENTER
16320 SE Mill Plain Blvd
(Suite 7)
360-256-0360

WARRENTON/ASTORIA
17 N. Hwy. 101
503-861-9359

WILSONVILLE VILLAGE
8599 SW Main St
503-570-3830

EUGENE
1125B Valley River Dr.
541-683-3308

AT&T Wireless Authorized Dealers Wireless service also available at the following locations. Price and availability of equipment may vary. Call ahead for details.

ASTORIA
Cellular Connections • 503-325-4599
EUGENE
A-Plus Wireless
Rally-Round Pro Performance
LONGVIEW
Action Mobile • 360-425-0900

Audio Express • 360-577-6442
Audio Video Innovations • 360-425-8888
Cellular Connections • 360-577-1800
Professional Communications • 360-425-2515
MCMINNVILLE
Cellular Plus • 503-472-0590

Smart Wireless/WalMart • 503-434-9233
PACIFIC CITY
Nestucca Country • 503-965-6419
PORTLAND/VANCOUVER
Talking Wireless

SEASIDE
AirCall Northwest • 503-738-5710
North Coast Phone Center • 503-738-3683
WARRENTON
Costco Wholesale
Sound Waves Car Stereo • 503-861-1875

1800mobiles.com

Amazon.com®

Best Buy

buy.com

Simplywireless.com

Staples

Important Information

©2002 AT&T Wireless. All Rights Reserved. Requires new activation on a qualified plan, credit approval, a \$36 activation fee, one or two-year agreement, a compatible phone and up to a \$175 cancellation fee. Not available for purchase or use in all areas. Voice usage is rounded up to the next full minute and data usage is rounded up to the next full kilobyte once every 24 hours. If you purchase a GSM/GPRS capable device, you will automatically receive limited access to data service at per kilobyte pricing. You will be charged for all data usage sent through our network. Unused monthly minute allowances lost. Service may be billed in a subsequent month due to delayed reporting between carriers; this service will be charged as if used in the month billed. Roaming, additional minute and long distance charges, and other restrictions, charges, universal connectivity charges, surcharges and taxes apply. Availability and reliability of service are subject to transmission limitations. Not available with other offers. Offers available for a limited time. You will be bound by the General Terms and Conditions and rate plan and promotional materials. The GSM logo is a trademark of the GSM Association.

