

The Portland Observer
World of Autos

REVIEWS ON EXCITING NEW VEHICLES BY THE WORLD'S LEADING MANUFACTURERS

THE 2003 MERCURY MARAUDER



Pricetested.....\$35,045.00
Engine.....4.6L V-8, aluminum black and heads
Transmission.....4-speed automatic

The Mercury Marauder is definitely reminds me of a muscle car of the 60's. This vehicle brings back what was once the standard sedan for a family prior to 1970's. There are very few survivors like the Marauder, Grand Marquis and Ford Crown Victoria of the traditional sedan since the gas crises. What were they thinking while building this automobile? Was it undercover like the FBI, the mob, or just man need for power? With the price of gasoline rising and the fact that it only takes premium gas, I find that this will be a hard market to sell the Marauder in.

The moment the engine starts one will hear the powerful roar of the V-8 rumbling from the dual exhaust. The Marauder can be described as 'BIG' and 'BAD' the prefect combination. I find this vehicle to be for the Hot Rod enthusiast or the man that just needs to be a 'MAN'. The exterior of the Marauder finished in glossy black paint with the non-functional parts of the headlamp units blacked-out continuing to the rear tail lamps bezels that are dark-tinted. The 18" aluminum wheels and tires reinforce the aggressive appearance of the Marauder. The image of the Roman god Mercury is embossed in the cast of each wheel and the god's head in the front seats back. Mercury states that the exterior is "serious but understated" and the image of the Roman god in the cast of the wheels "further communicates the car's personality and heritage. The interior of the vehicle is roomy enough for 5 large passengers with plenty of legroom. The dash of the vehicle gives the appearance of the high-performance race vehicle with oil-pressure meter and voltmeter gauges located in the front of the shifter. Let's not forget the trunk that has enough space lots of luggage with an optional trunk organizer. In summary the Marauder delivers the driver excellent performance with outstanding handling.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Dianne O'Farrell and Dixie A. Worthington formed a block watch group with 25 neighbors to help keep gang violence out of their neighborhood. They encourage residents to report any criminal activity to the authorities anonymously if they fear retribution from gang member.

Promoting Neighborhood Peace

BY SEAN P. NELSON,
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A group of local residents have formed the Kerby Block Watch Group to help remove the menace of gangs from their neighborhood.

The effort was galvanized by a gun battle last September between rival gangs outside a triplex at 559 N. Prescott.

"One faction began firing semiautomatic weapons and the people inside the triplex returned fire," said Kerby Block Watch Group Chairperson Diane O'Farrell. "Three other houses besides the triplex were hit by bullets."

O'Farrell and other neighbors became very concerned when they learned that a woman working on some pottery in her house had just got up and walked into another room, when a bullet struck the house, an incident that was much too close for comfort.

Authorities say between last May and September there were five different shootings in this neighborhood.

Northeast Precinct Sgt. Neil Crannell, Chief Neighborhood Officer Roger Axhelm and Officer Wayne Alderman have helped the group of 25 neighbors attack the problem.

He praised the courage of residents after the September incident for not being intimidated by the

gangs. kids in the area and last week sponsored a litter, graffiti and vandalism clean up with area youth.

Crannell thinks the neighbors are handling the situation well, but says gang-related issues remain.

He reiterated that reducing crime mostly results from people willing to be good witnesses and overcome their fear of the gangs.

"If you see something, call. If you hear about something, call," Crannell said.

"The gang members enjoy the notoriety and the intimidation factor in being called a gang member. You don't have to give your name. Call anonymously."

The Kerby Block Group's efforts have already been the subject of a story on KGW's Newschannel 8. O'Farrell has become a member of the Humboldt Neighborhood Association Board and the Portland Community College Safety Committee.

"We want to build our blocks with a sense of community pride, build trust between neighbors and draw patterns," she said.

We want to build our blocks with a sense of community pride, build trust between neighbors and draw patterns.

— Diane O'Farrell, Chairperson for the Kerby Block Watch Group

Max Electrical Lines Ready to Power Up

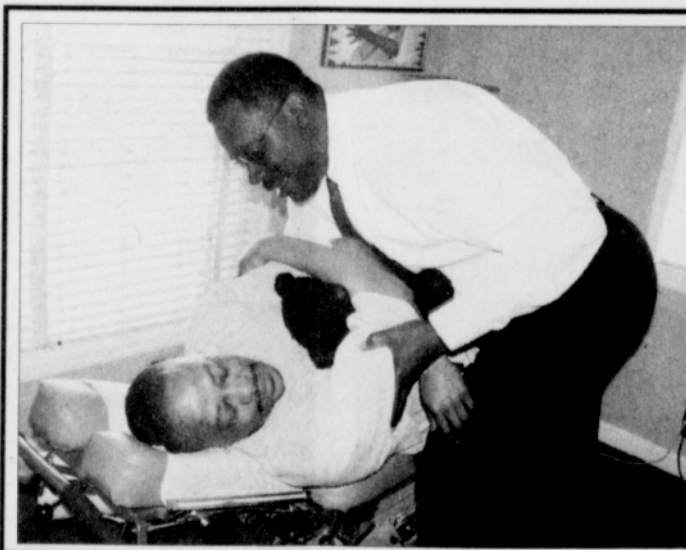
As Interstate MAX construction moves into its final phase, TriMet is issuing a safety reminder for those who live and work around the 5.8-mile alignment.

The overhead electrical wires that will power future light rail trains on the Interstate MAX alignment are currently being suspended at a

minimum height of 18'6" above the tracks. These wires may be energized or "hot" at any time. Any contact with the overhead power lines can cause serious injury or death. Anyone who sees a downed power line should stay away and call TriMet's construction hotline at 503-962-2222.

Also remember, that even though the track area looks complete, it is still a construction zone. Crews continue to use the trackway during construction.

For your safety - please stay out of the restricted trackway area and cross the tracks only at pedestrian crossings.



CORRECTION:

In the March 26 edition of The Portland Observer, the incorrect phone number was listed for Dr. Billy Flowers, Oregon's first African American chiropractor. The correct number is 503-287-5504 and Dr. Flower's office is located at 2124 NE Hancock.

OBSERVER FILE PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON

Community Calendar

continued from Front

Blvd. on Saturday, April 5 at 11 a.m. The leader-lead group discussion is a must have for anyone interested in knowing more about canine behavior problems. For more information, call 503-416-2985.

Spring Into Fitness Fair

On Saturday, April 5 from noon to 4 p.m. come to Nature's Wellness Center, 3535 N.E. 15th Ave., to get samples of fitness bars and drinks during an informative fair on health, fitness and getting in shape. Fitness teachers will be on site to give free classes and demonstrations. Enter to win a free gift basket and prizes by answering trivia questions. For more information, call 503-281-3262.

Race for Roses

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and you can join the cause by participating in the Fourth Annual Race for Roses, Portland's only half-marathon and a 5k run/walk on Sunday, April 6. The half-marathon will begin at 7 a.m. at Oregon Square Courtyard near the Lloyd Center followed by the 5k walk/run beginning at 7:30 a.m. all proceeds will benefit the children and families served by Albertina Kerr Centers and the Boys and Girls Aid Society. Register on-line at www.race4theros.org or by calling 503-531-3140.

Write Around Portland Reading

Write Around Portland is an organization that holds workshops for low-income and socially isolated individuals to encourage them to dig deep into their endless well of creative talent. On Tuesday, April 8 at 7 p.m. at Broadway Books, 1714 N.E. Broadway, the public is invited to come hear stories of homelessness, mental illness, HIV and poverty, by writers who bring a style and strength that affirms their equal standing in the community. For more information, call 503-796-9224.

Radical Women Meeting

Emiko Omori, a Japanese American filmmaker who spent part of her childhood in a 'relocation' camp, will expose the U.S. Government's targeting of Japanese Americans during World War II and their resistance to this stereotyping in the video screening of her film 'Rabbit in the Moon' at the Bread and Roses Center, 819N Killingsworth. The film will begin at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 9 after a Radical Women Meeting. A buffet with vegan and vegetarian options will be served for a donation of \$6. For more information, call 503-240-4462.

Parkinson's Disease Movement Class

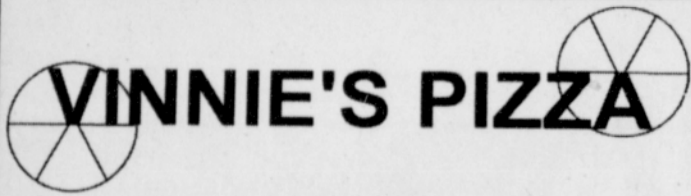
A 10-week exercise program for people in northeast Portland with Parkinson's disease will begin on Thursday, April 10 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Irvington Village, 420 N.E. Mason St. The class incorporates techniques from theater, dance, yoga and tai chi to increase flexibility, strength, balance and coordination and to improve communication, voice power and speech clarity. The goal is to help delay the progression of Parkinson's disease symptoms. Cost is \$50 for 10-weeks. For more information, call 503-413-8928.

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