

# HOUSING SPOTLIGHT

## HAP Tenants Pay at a Discount

continued **▲** from Front

the helm as director for the City Bureau of Housing and Development.

"I'd heard Portland was a place where people learned what worked and what

hotspot.

Rudman said a snapshot of the area taken in 1984 would show an area with vacant houses, empty storefronts and crime, or at least a perception of crime.

In the early 90s a team of around 12 thriving community development corporations came into the neighborhoods and claimed abandoned property and set the area on the rejuvenation fast track.

Many of the minority homeowners in north and northeast Portland found the houses they owned to be worth considerably more than its purchase price.

"If you owned your home you have wealth," Rudman said. "Wealth is about assets, not income."

So while revitalization was profitable for some minorities, for others it resulted in a mass exodus of low-income inner-city residents to the suburbs where housing was more affordable.

Rudman said many cities would love to have this problem, but that's not what Portland wants.

"We want people to have the opportunity to live, work and raise a family," he said. "All of a sudden what started as a revitalization agenda became a stabilization agenda, and housing is a key factor for stability."

Through public housing projects and Section 8 vouchers, the Housing Authority ensures that options are available for anyone who needs a place to live.

Rudman said the Housing Authority acts as a safety net not only for the poor, but also for those with other barriers like physical disabilities or mental health is-

sues.

"We're not going to evict you if you lose your job and can't pay your rent," Rudman said. "This is really the closest we've come to housing being a basic right."

While many of the people HAP serves earn 60 percent or below the median income, but Rudman said an overwhelming majority earn less than 30 percent. Many are single parent headed households, a group Rudman said benefits most from stability.

"What's a single parent going to do when their rent raises?" Rudman said. "If they're already paying 50 percent of what they bring in for rent, that leaves very little left for anything else."

Through HAP programs, rather than being forced to the suburbs in search of lower rent, a single parent would only pay 30 percent of their monthly income for rent. Children can stay near their schools and parents near their jobs and rent will only rise if income does.

Rudman said he is pleased to be a part of several decades of evolution in a city that clearly strives for social change. His next big project is the revitalization of north Portland's Columbia Villa, Oregon's

*The richness of a city comes from its diversity.*

- Housing Authority of Portland Director Steve Rudman on why Portland is a unique place to live

largest public housing project.

"What I hope to see is Columbia Villa become a melting pot of culture," Rudman said. "Hopefully we will see the integration of old and young, rich and poor and black and white."

"These are exciting times," he said. "How this city grows and evolves will be made from the decisions we made today."

## Oregon Zoo Celebrates Mothers



Coco, a chimpanzee, Dannon, a swamp monkey and Thelma, a Southern sea otter are the finalists for this year's Zoo Mother of the Year.

### Vote for animal Mother of the Year encouraged

Oregon Zoo would like the public to help choose the Zoo Mother of the Year. The finalists for this special honor are Coco, a chimpanzee, Dannon, a swamp monkey and Thelma, a Southern sea otter. An online ballot featuring photos of zoo moms with short biographies is posted on the zoo's Web site located at [www.oregonzoo.org](http://www.oregonzoo.org).

"All three moms are incredibly important to their species, which are either threatened or endangered," said zoo director Tony Vecchio. "Allowing the public to choose a Zoo Mother of the Year gives us a chance to educate them about the challenges facing these species."

On-line votes will be accepted through 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 8. The

zoo will announce the 2003 Zoo Mother of the Year on Friday, May 9.

The zoo is also honoring human moms with two special events. Mom & Me At The Zoo, a new event featuring treats for moms and special activities for kids will take place on May 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Washington Mutual Bank branch is offering discount tickets for zoo admission. Event activities are free with zoo admission.

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- Zoo Director Tony Vecchio

Mother's Day Brunch will be served at the zoo's Cascade Grill, on Sunday, May 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The brunch buffet includes seasonal fruits, assorted pastries, scrambled eggs, potatoes O'Brien, bacon and sausage, omelets, French toast, penne

pasta primavera, smoked salmon tortellini, spinach salad, bay shrimp and cucumber salad, fresh asparagus, and desserts. Cost for the brunch is \$15.95 adults 12 and older and \$ 7.95 Youth age three to 11 years. Reservations are highly recommended and can be made by calling 503-525-4299.

didn't work from other cities," he said. "The quality of life here and the community participation in the planning process makes the city really neat. Portland is a special place."

Rudman said the people of Portland seem to have a commitment to living near churches, jobs, schools and employment opportunities. Perhaps more importantly, he said is the desire to accept differences and maintain diverse communities.

"The richness of a city comes from its diversity," Rudman said. "Portland has a true diversity of income, culture and race."

But in order to maintain that diversity, he admits people must have a place to live. With more than 14,000 units serving more than 30,000 low-income people in the county and surrounding areas, HAP tries its hardest to make sure residents aren't displaced by raising housing costs.

After north and northeast Portland was discovered as a strategic location because of quality-built houses and access to transportation, an area that was traditionally redlined to minorities became a real estate

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## New Columbia

building new opportunities for  
Columbia Villa and North Portland

Participate in the economic  
opportunities

Walsh Construction is serving as the Phase I Construction Manager-General Contractor and will be issuing bid packages for subcontractors. The first bid package is scheduled for May 26th and will focus on deconstruction and demolition services. These will likely include asbestos removal, salvage activities, removal of selected trees, and other demolition services.

For more info contact:  
Walsh Construction (503) 222-4375  
and/or  
the Contractor Support Program,  
Housing Development Center  
(503) 335-3668 for assistance in  
proposal development

Join in the planning

Each month, Saturday Design Workshops, Community Advisory Committee meetings and Neighbors Task Force discussions are open to the public. For more information, please check the New Columbia website at

[www.hapdx.org/newcolumbia](http://www.hapdx.org/newcolumbia)  
or call Andre Jackson,  
Community Participation Manager  
(503) 802-8424

