

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### Night Out

Neighbors come together on front porches, in the streets and in parks, to get to know each other better and be more active about fighting crime in their neighborhoods. Tuesday, Aug. 5 is National Night Out, and neighbors are invited to Oregon Park, at the corner of NE 30th Ave. and Oregon St. from 6 to 9 p.m. for a free dinner from Burgerville, live entertainment, displays from area businesses and a fabulous raffle.

### Patriots

Congressman Earl Blumenauer and panelists discuss the US Patriot Act and its impact on minorities at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 6 at Portland State University's Smith Center Ballroom, second floor of Smith Center (southwest Broadway between Montgomery and Harrison). Donations are appreciated.

### Art Reception

WomanTree Gallery hosts an opening reception from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, July 31 for artist Martha Irene Wallulis and special musical guest Andrew Gorny. 2641 NE Alberta St. For more information, visit [www.womantree.com](http://www.womantree.com).

### Sausage Fest

Sausage enthusiasts can't wait for the 32nd Annual Vancouver Sausage Fest on Friday, Sept. 5 through Sunday, Sept. 7 at St. Joseph School, 6500 Highland Drive, Vancouver. The festival features music, arts and crafts, rides and food, of course. \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door.

### Karaoke with a Cause

Join OregonAction for their karaoke fundraising event from 8 to 11 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, at Bookies Sports Bar, 736 N. Lombard. A \$5 donation is suggested, plus bid on karaoke performance by local performer Darcelle and many more community leaders. For more information, call 503-282-6588.

### Better Than Goldfish

200 pets are looking for love at the Oregon Humane Society's Adopt-A-Pet Fair on Aug. 16 and 17 at 1067 N.E. Columbia Blvd. Visit [www.oregonhumanesociety.com](http://www.oregonhumanesociety.com) for details.

### United Voices

Radical Women will host an open mic community discussion about police violence and Kendra James at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13 at the Bread and Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth. A soup and salad buffet is at 6 p.m. for \$6. For more information, call 503-240-4462.

### Mystery Cats

The Oregon Humane Society wants you to communicate with your kitty more affectively by taking a "Finicky Feline" class at 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10. \$10. 1067 N.E. Columbia Blvd. For more information, call 503-285-7722.

### Goldie Dredlocks

Enjoy a marionette performance of the classic story of the three bears with a Jamaican twist at 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 8. Fairview Community Center, 300 Harrison St.

### African Beats at Fairview

Enjoy marimba music inspired by the rhythms of southern and western Africa from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1 at Fairview Park, 1520 N.E. Village St. For more information, call 503-988-5655.

## Many Residents Stressed By Relocation

Sisters group raises concerns about Columbia Villa plans

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Sisters in Action is demanding a one-for-one replacement of public housing units at Columbia Villa and a legally binding contract, guaranteeing reentry for all residents that wish to move back after renovations are complete.

At a meeting with the Portland Housing Authority last week, the youth-led organization expressed numerous concerns for Columbia Villa residents, who are currently being displaced because of a large-scale renovation to the housing project.

Since September 2001, the Housing Authority has been transforming the north Portland site into a community to be called "New Columbia" with the help of a \$35 million federal Hope VI grant.

Despite outreach efforts on the part of the Villa staff, many residents still feel out of the loop, not trusting that they will be permitted to return to New Columbia when the project is complete in 2005. And Sisters in Action is concerned about tearing down 462 units of public housing, meeting the needs of the poorest populations, and only replacing it with 370 units on that site.

"We hear a lot of positive things about the Hope VI grant, but we don't hear a lot about the stressful realities of relocation from residents," said Adara Perez, director of Sisters in Action, a group geared toward getting low-income girls and girls of color involved with their community.

Officials at the Housing Authority identified relocation as their biggest challenge with the project and appointed Jacob Fox as the project's relocation manager.

Fox said housing officials are not using relocation as a chance to weed out bad tenants and that anyone wanting to return will be readmitted to New Columbia.

The most recent polls indicate that 70 percent of Columbia Villa residents wish to return after renovations are complete.

Steve Rudman, executive director of the Portland Housing Authority, refused to sign the contracts that Sisters in Action proposed.

"We never even saw the legal document, but we made commitments that are binding, some with HUD, some with the Portland City Council, and some issues, we can't do," Rudman said. "The one-for-one replacement (of public housing) at Columbia Villa, for example, is a violation of the Hope VI grant."

"My one regret is that Sister in Action wasn't



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Columbia Villa resident Monica Keymolen is unhappy with her scheduled relocation to housing in Aloha, miles from her north Portland neighborhood.

*"We hear a lot of positive things about the Hope VI grant, but we don't hear a lot about the stressful realities of relocation from residents."*

—Adara Perez, director of Sisters in Action

involved sooner," Rudman added. "In hearing a lot of the residents' concerns, there are some things that we clearly needed to do a better job with and

we want to work with Sisters to help in communication to demystify it."

Residents shared stories about some of the obstacles involved with their relocations, including being moved to remote parts of the city, as far out as Gresham and Aloha.

Rudman said while it's impossible to replace all the public housing units at the New Columbia site, they will be replaced in other parts of the city.

"I would understand the concern because there has not been a one-for-one replacement nationally, but we vowed early on that we would do this Hope

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A grant from the Environmental Protection Agency could decontaminate land at the Grant Warehouse on northeast Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

## Polluted Sites Targeted for Cleanup

Decontamination grant hinges on city securing property

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI

A piece of prime property in northeast Portland may lose its decontamination grant if the Portland Development Commission loses the property in federal court.

The city of Portland, PDC and Multnomah County were awarded competitive Brownfield Cleanup Grants totaling \$725,000 to clean up

polluted property that has been abandoned or idle.

Portland was selected to receive two assessment grants totaling \$325,000. One of those grants would begin clean-up efforts on properties in north and northeast Portland.

Portland became an Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Showcase Community a few years ago, to compete with other cities for cleanup grants. The city has more than 500 brownfields, with 113 in north and northeast Portland.

"The city is interested in brownfield cleanups because of Portland's focus on density, rede-

veloping land to use over instead of expanding in the suburbs and becoming bigger and bigger," said Howard Cutler, from the bureau of housing and community development.

Portland residents have been actively involved in the city's brownfield decontamination effort since 1998, according to a spokesman for the mayor. At that time, members in the community led an effort to refocus the city's Showcase Community program from large projects in the downtown area to small projects in the low-income areas of north and northeast Portland,

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## Back to School Jam

The Safe Place, a faith-based nonprofit organization, is sponsoring the third annual Back to School Summer Jam from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9 at the Vernon Elementary School Playground, 2044 N.E. Killingsworth.

This free event features activities including a school supply giveaway, health screenings, games, arts and crafts, live music, a basketball tournament and a free barbecue.

Last year's event hosted more than 500 families and participation is expected to double this year.

For more information, contact Steven Holt at 503-249-3900.