

Open Meadow Welcomes New Space



A newly renovated building serves Open Meadow, an alternative school in north Portland.

Transition program serves kids at risk

Guests gathered on Oct. 12 for the grand opening celebration of the newly renovated building for Open Meadow school programs serving youth who are at risk of disconnecting from school or who have already dropped out.

The new site at 7633 N. Wabash Ave. replaces transition programs previously housed with Open Meadow High School at 7654 N. Crawford. Now both programs have ample space

to fully serve their growing populations.

Speaking at the event were Carole Smith, Open Meadow executive director; Gregg Harrod, Open Meadow board chair; Matt Hennessee, chairman of the Portland Develop-

ment Commission; and Andrew Mason, Open Meadow director of transition programs.

The spacious, creatively designed facility that includes a great hall, computer and sci-

ence labs, two additional classrooms, kitchen, staff offices, utility and storage areas. The building formerly housed the S.B. Klahn Co., a north Portland family business that manufactured bank night deposit bags.

Purchasing and remodeling

This project represents the best in people.

— Architect, Jeremy Theodore

costs totaled \$1.3 million.

Architect, Jeremy Theodore, summed up his feelings about the renovation project, "This project represents the best in people — a several year partner-

ship involving many individuals, businesses, city agencies, and foundations, all devoted to a great program with the mission of serving disenfranchised kids. All involved should be very proud of the result."

Open Meadow, a non-profit now in its 33rd year, educates youth in small, relationship-based programs that emphasize personal responsibility, academics and service to the community. Students come to Open Meadow when other educational settings prove unsuccessful; many have previously dropped out. Open Meadow served 563 middle and high school students during the 2003-04 school year.

Ask Deanna!



Real People, Real Advice
An advice column known for its fearless approach to reality based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

There is a lack of political voter education available to the masses of minority people that hope their vote counts. The candidates on the platforms haven't adequately addressed African American issues such as reparations, education and poverty. We must empower ourselves to solve these issues on a community level before we can expect the world to solve them for us. --Billion; Los Angeles

Dear Deanna!

I suppose today's generation and many before that has waited and never received the 40-acres and a mule that was promised. There are many small scale resources available to help minorities with the voting process but probably aren't used. I take that back. The rap world strongly dominates areas of today's culture so maybe that's why some folks want to finally rock-the-vote because of Puff Daddy.

Dear Deanna!

I feel as if the entire voting thing is a hoax. The world already knows who the winner is and I think it's a big publicity stunt. The campaign ads, debates and hoopla are a

waste of time and money. --Raychelle; Dallas

Dear Raychelle:

Now that was a silly remark. Not sure if you heard the expression that the empty barrel makes the loudest noise. In other words, you probably don't vote, but complain about everything. More than likely you don't contribute anything to improve society but always find things wrong. It's great the rest of the world doesn't think like you and recognize that a mind is a terrible thing to waste.

Dear Deanna!

I'm 78 years old and I vote in every election that I can. I understand that people died and suffered for women and minorities to have this right. Even if the candidate I vote for doesn't win, I feel as if I've done my part. Every American with the privilege to vote is obligated on behalf of the country, their families and their children to exercise this right. --Clarence Witherspoon; Baltimore

Dear Clarence:

It's good to see the elders sharing their political journey and wisdom with the younger generation. Yes, there is an obligation, however manmade forces still try to prevail regardless of what's right. The children of the future have a long road ahead of them that can only be made easy with education, awareness and faith. Voting can make this path easier but won't be successful without the "each one teach one" philosophy which is apparently missing.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or write: Deanna M, P.O. Box 88847, Los Angeles, CA 90009. Website: www.askdeanna.com

NEW SEASONS MARKET

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The coffee lovers have had their turn. This weekend it's time for those of us who are passionate about tea. Enjoy the traditional selections like black or herbal, check out the green teas that everyone is talking about, or explore some of the more unusual choices. Did you know there is a white tea? Taste them freshly brewed — hot or iced, and also our bottled varieties. We'll be sampling over 300 varieties!

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