# HEALTH

# Local Health Hurt by Environment

# Bad air, lead paint and mold part of problem

Residents of affordable housing properties in Humboldt, Vernon, Eliot, King, and Boise neighborhoods are worried about poor indoor air quality, exposure to lead-based paint, littered grounds and mold and mildew.

The concerns were expressed in in-

terviews in north and northeast Portland over the past two years by the Multnomah County Environmental Health and the Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health coalition.

The next step is an action plan focusing

on public education and policy changes for housing standards in north and northeast Portland.

"We are proud of the partnerships and the identified strategies for addressing the concerns," says Lillian Shirley, director of Multnomah County Health Department. "Our focus is on collaborating with the community to support and respond to the issues."

According to a 2001 survey conducted in neighborhoods surrounding the north and northeast I-5 corridor, 14.7 percent of the 587 residents surveyed currently had asthma, more than double the 2001 national average. Breathing polluted air may worsen asthma symptoms.

In 2001, 71% of homes in Multnomah County had composite lead dust levels that exceeded federal standards with 61 confirmed childhood lead poisoning cases. Exposure to lead-based paints and lead dust from such paints can cause learning disabilities and neurological damage in young children.

A neighborhood event for community members to learn more about the impact of the environment on health and actions to make neighborhoods safer and healthier places to live will be held Saturday, Oct. 1 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center and Patton Park on North Interstate Avenue.

For more information on this neighborhood event, visit the website www.paceeh.org or contact Andrea Greiling at 503-988-3663, extension 22551.

### More People Lack Health Insurance

### Oregon poverty also increases

(AP) - More Oregonians lack health insurance and more residents of the state are in poverty, according to a new Census re-

About 17 percent of the state's population does not have health coverage, compared to 16 percent in 2002-03. Nationally, about 16 percent of the population goes without medical insurance.

State spending cuts have sharply pared the Oregon Health Plan, the state's supplemental Medicaid coverage mainly for the working poor. Many people also don't qualify for regular Medicaid, which mostly covers the elderly, children and pregnant women.

"I have anxiety attacks. The pills for that are \$175 for a month's

worth," Orma DiNorma, 50, a Salem babysitter said. "I have teeth that are falling apart, but I can't pay to fix them. There is no recourse.'

About 600,0000 Oregonians went without health insurance in 2004, the federal Census report

Maribeth Healey, executive director of Oregonians for Health Security, said Oregon's increasing percentage of people without health coverage is no surprise.

The Health Plan enrolls around 100,000 fewer people than in 2001, due mostly to budget cuts as lawmakers struggled with declining tax revenue in the recent reces-

And private sector workers are losing coverage, Healey said — 80,000 in Oregon in the past two

The Census said about 12 percent of Oregonians had incomes below the federal poverty line in executive director.

2003-04, up from 11.7 percent in

The national poverty rate rose from 12.3 percent to 12.6 percent in the same period.

For 2004, the federal government defined poverty generally as an annual income of less than \$9,645 for a single person, \$12,334 for a two-person household or \$19,307 for a household

The Oregon Center for Public Policy, a group that works for policies to help low and middleincome Oregonians, said the new data show that Oregon's median household income of \$41,971 in 2003-04 was down from \$46,333 in 1999-01, before the economic downturn, after adjusting for in-

"The typical Oregon household is sliding backward while the economy moves forward," said Chuck Sheketoff, the center's



Raven McClendon (right) and Ellie Mullen learn lifesaving skills at a Babysitter's Training Course offered by the American Red Cross Oregon Trail Chapter.

#### **Kaiser Hires Medical Director**

Dr. Andrew Lum has been other Kaiser doctors.

Kaiser's administration offices at 500 N.E. Multnomah St.

Most recently he was associphysician leaders.

named medical director for the ate medical director for primary northwest region of Kaiser care and service with Kaiser Premanente, representing 778 Permanente's Colorado medical group. While there, he helped Lum, a board-certified internal launch an electronic clinical inmedicine physician, works out of formation system and a mentoring program to develop

## Youth Learn Childcare Basics

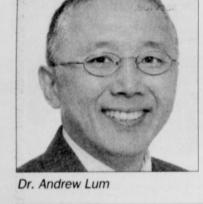
selves scrambling in the un- childcare. fortunate event of an emer-

been hosting Babysitter's Childdevelopment, infant care 5639.

Many teens looking after Training classes at various lo- and accident prevention are their younger siblings may cal schools, teaching youth also taught in the day-long know how to keep the kids ages 11 to 15 the skills needed session. busy, but might find them- to practice responsible

covers first aid techniques, res- visit This is why the American cue breathing and other types www.redcross-pdx.org or Red Cross Oregon Trail has of emergency supervision. call Daniel Soule at 503-528-

For a full list of upcoming dates, times and locations that The comprehensive course the course is being offered, the



#### YOU'RE INVITED!

OCTOBER 1st 11:00 am- 4:00 pm Our Environment, Our Health A N/NE Portland Neighborhood Gathering



Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center (IFCC) and Patton Park 5340 North Interstate Avenue (MAX Yellow Line - Interstate/Killingsworth Stop)

You can learn more about making your home and neighborhood safer places to live. Learn about asthma, mold/mildew, air pollution, lead

#### safety, recycling, and more! FREE!

- & Food
- Storytelling IFCC Art Gallery
- Prizes
- Blood pressure, asthma,
- and lead screenings! Oregon Health Plan sign-up

Featuring Music and Spoken Word by:

- N'Touch
- **Motown Review**
- **Highland Gospel Choir**
- Real Recognize Real
- **Turiya Autry**
- Cubaneo

To volunteer or for more information please call (503) 988-3663 x 22439

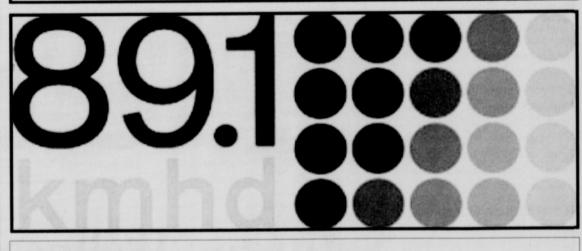
# SAVE THE DATE!

You don't want to miss!



A N/NE Portland **Neighborhood Gathering** Saturday, October 1, 2005 11:00am-4:00pm







#### **Community Survey**

Dear northeast Portland residents:

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission is considering opening a new liquor store to serve the community in northeast Portland. We are seeking public comment and would ask you to take a minute and let us know what you think.

- No, we do not need another liquor outlet in the community.
- Yes, a new liquor store would be a convenience and a welcome addition to the neighborhood. We would like the new liquor store located near

Please send your comments to:

**Deputy Director Rudy Williams Oregon Liquor Control Commission** PO Box 22297 Portland, OR 97269-2297

E-mail: olcc.webmaster@state.or.us