

Remembering Columbia Villa

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own story.”

Nearly three years after their filming began, the Housing Authority asked them to submit a proposal for an exhibit, to be housed in the neighborhood's community center on New Columbia's "Main Street" of North Trenton Avenue, opening this August.

This spring, Wilhelm and Arbuthnot's design was chosen over a number of proposals. They've compiled a team that includes writer and researcher Chet Orloff of the Oregon Historical Society, designer Janice Coleman, audio specialist Michael Gandsey, and Tamara Turner, in charge of the project's music.

The final design includes a permanent exhibit and rotating displays, beginning with a snapshot of the neighborhood's original inhabitants, the Chinook Indians who were native to the lower Columbia River 10,000 years ago. The display then fast-forwards to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, World War II, the development of Columbia Villa and massive displacement due to the Vanport Flood, and the modern era of New Columbia.

"We think it's important to show it's not just people who lived there a generation ago," Wilhelm said.

In a nutshell, the exhibit won't speak directly to the viewer, but will lend a symbolic feeling. Although there are some strong visual relics, like the cedar boards



◀ Sue Arbuthnot and Richard Wilhelm hold a historical sign from the Columbia Villa housing project era. Today, McCoy Park sits in the heart of the New Columbia neighborhood along North Trenton Street, which residents now call Main Street.

routed with old street numbers from hundreds of houses, which evoke sharp memories in the residents who lived at those addresses.

"The relocated families were able to retrieve their numbers," Arbuthnot said. "That was very meaningful for them."

Wilhelm and Arbuthnot are seeking additional video and film footage, photographs and anything dating back to the early days of the neighborhood and Portland. If you have something to lend or donate, call Wilhelm at 503-331-3960.

▶ Luvenia Jackson, a resident of the old Columbia Villa for 28 years, recently returned to New Columbia. She now lives within two blocks of her daughter.



Hate Crimes Conference PCC Cascade hosts event



Dolores Huerta (left) and Sherman Alexie

When it comes to hate, many feel powerless to stop it. Now, there's a way for anybody to learn how to effectively combat hate crimes at work or in their community.

Portland Community College is hosting the 2006 Oregon Hate Crimes Conference, Wednesday through Friday, June 21-23 at the Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth St.

The three-day conference will feature roundtables, workshops and keynote speakers on how to handle hate and violence in school, workplaces and the community. This important event is open to the public.

Keynote presenters include Sherman Alexie and Dolores Huerta. Huerta will deliver her address at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21 at Cascade. She is president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation for Community Organizing and co-founded the United Farm Workers with Cesar E. Chavez. She is currently a professor at the University of Southern California on community organizing.

Alexie will present on Thursday, June 22. He is a prolific novelist, poet and screenplay writer. His storytelling and lectures center on contemporary American-Indian life, and reshapes myths and stereotypes by speaking his mind.

Sponsors include American Jewish Committee, Office of the U.S. Attorney, Portland Gay Men's Chorus, National Council of Jewish Women (Portland Chapter), New Seasons Market, NW Natural and U.S. Bank.

Single \$10 tickets are available at the door to hear Dolores Huerta and Sherman Alexie speak. To register or view the complete schedule, visit the conference on the Web at: <http://oregonstate.edu/conferences/hatecrimes2006>.

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