

Martin Luther King Refocus

continued ▲ from Front

good place to do business.

Mixed Use

PDC will promote commercial, mixed-use development on the street like the Fremont and Heritage commercial projects, the Vanport Project nearing ground breaking, and possibly expanding MLK's Oregon Convention Center Urban Renewal District to include sites past the intersections of Northeast Alberta and Killingsworth Streets. Another strategy is to promote business land ownership either through the condominium model being used at Vanport or a commercial land trust.

More Housing

PDC will support additional housing on PDC land sites, including the Grant Warehouse and Beech properties, and create "permit-ready" models and zone changes that would make properties more suitable for housing developers.

Transit, Parking

Improve the function of MLK Boulevard for pedestrians and transit. This would include a study to improve design of the boulevard, and especially ways to increase the parking supply.

The total cost of the updated strategy is about \$9 million over and above funds already committed. The urban renewal district is set to expire in 2013 and has about \$30 million left to spend.

PDC staffer Estee Segal said that the avenue has seen a lot of development at its north and south ends, but PDC is concerned about a lack of progress near Northeast Fremont to Alberta streets.

Richard Levy, a member of urban renewal committee, said the refocus attempt has a lot of practical applications.

"It's a good step in the right direction," he said.

Regina Williams of Dewangee's Bargain Place, 4606 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., said people in

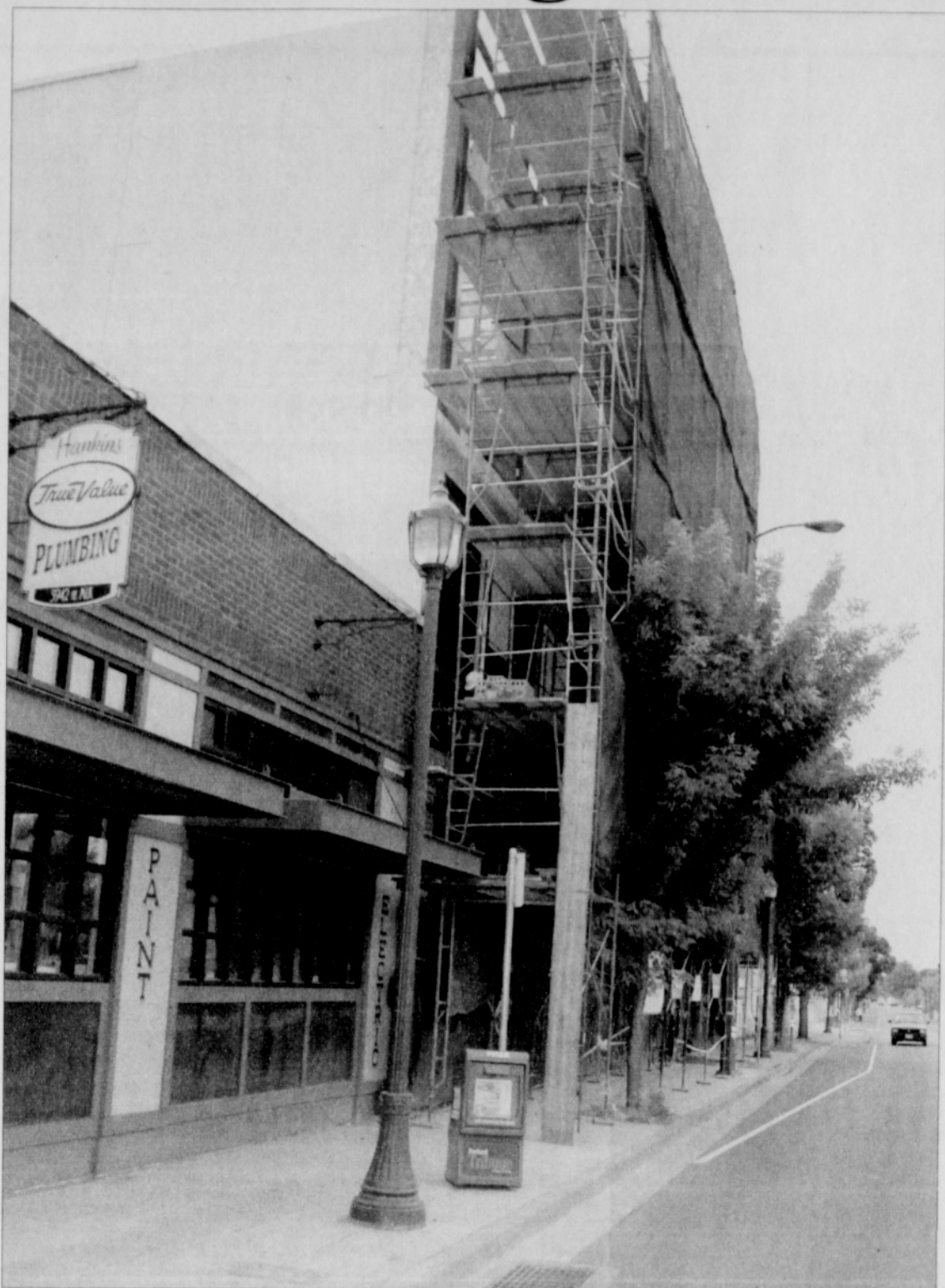


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Hankins True Value Hardware and the construction of the adjacent Heritage office building are success stories in the revitalization of Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

the community are like the victims of Hurricane Katrina and need financial help and affordable housing. She said an informal poll of her

customers also showed lack of parking to be an issue.

PDC Commissioner Mark Rosenbaum envisioned an exem-

plary, unique showcase development on MLK that would serve as a magnet for people and future development.

Graduate Help on Future Plans

The first annual Graduating Class Celebration, held Saturday, July 8 from noon to 4 p.m. at Self Enhancement, Inc., 3900 N. Kerby, will spotlight the opportunities young people face, in an effort to raise awareness of the benefits of higher education for 16 to 24-year olds.

The event will offer alternatives to the four-year college track, with representatives from vocational schools, job corps, the Armed Forces and community colleges to address the necessary resources you need to succeed after high school.

Matt Schmoker from Concorde Career Institute will serve as the event's keynote speaker, with DJ O.G.ONE, also known as "Preacher," providing live entertainment. More performances will follow, including Vibe magazine draft pick T.J. Hooker, a fashion show hosted by Itchy Palms Urban Apparel and a hair show hosted by Beau Monde College of Hair Design.

The Z100 Street Team Z-Unit will give away prizes, including tickets to Too Short, who is set to perform later that evening at the Roseland Theater.

Volunteer Meal Drivers Needed

Loaves & Fishes Centers, the Meals-On-Wheels People is seeking volunteer drivers to ensure homebound seniors in northeast Portland receive nutritious meals and a bit of companionship.

"These volunteers are so invaluable because they not only help us feed our frail elderly, but they make sure these seniors see a friendly face at least once a week. Sometimes the Meals-On-Wheels driver is the only person these homebound seniors see all day," said Martin Luther King, Jr. Loaves & Fishes Manager David Lomax.

Meals-On-Wheels are delivered Monday through Friday between 10:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. Drivers must be at least 18 years old and have a valid driver's license.

For more information, call Lomax at 503.988.5211.

Taking Leadership to Heart

continued ▲ from Front

"It's been amazing," said Brand. Local New Orleans contractors have also come by with their crews after a full day's work and volunteered their time. College students on summer break have joined in the clinic project and members of Common Ground are helping with labor.

"This is going to be the only free, operational health care facility in that ward," Brand said. "The people in this ward are not quite poor enough to get Medicare and Medicaid, and not rich enough to afford private health insurance."

Her mother, Debbie Brand said the project has touched her emotionally.



Joe O Shea takes a break from working on the free health clinic.

"You can't believe the responses. There's not a finer group of people or place on earth. These are people who have lost everything. They're so thankful because there's nothing here. Everybody look at smiles back at me. The tears well up in people's eyes. They are the kindest

people I've ever met," she said.

The LC3 activists will also create a database of clinicians who will volunteer at the clinic.

"We want to be able to continue assisting," Brand said.

The clinic is expected to be finished later this month.

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