



PHOTO BY ISAAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Reedway Place Apartments, 8940 S.E. Reedway near the Lents Town Center urban renewal area, brings affordable rental housing to the developing neighborhood.

## Housing Gets Dose of Affordability

City sponsored construction targeted

BY SARAH BLOUNT  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Portland City Council unanimously passed an ordinance to help house families and individuals who struggle just to make rent.

The ordinance will set aside 30 percent of the Portland Development Commission's Urban Renewal District dollars — earmarking that money for the construction of affordable units in five of the PDC's 11 designated areas for urban redevelopment.

While at least one-third of Portland households earn less than \$25,000 each year — forcing many families and individuals to sleep in vehicles and live in motels — funds

for PDC renewal areas have built the East Bank Esplanade that stretches along the Willamette, and high rises that sprout like mushrooms in pricey areas like South Waterfront and the Pearl District.

The latest resolution is intended to provide homeownership opportunities for minority, elderly and disabled residents in these areas. Michael Anderson of the Affordable Housing Now coalition, the resolution's leading advocates, said there is a projected \$125.5 million set aside for low-income and affordable housing in the next five years. He said it is distinguished as the largest affordable housing commitment the city has made.

However, whether these funds reach individuals and families with the greatest needs is a crucial piece of the ordinance yet to be resolved.

PDC housing policy and development manager Leah Greenwood

said the agency's next step is to establish income guidelines to reach people with incomes from zero to 30 percent of the Median Family Income (an individual earning less than \$15,000 per year).

"Each district is pretty unique," Greenwood said. "We'll look at demographics and housing stock of each district, and work with community to see how we should target those resources."

The PDC aims to set these guidelines by the end of this year.

Anderson said they have partnered with other community groups to suggest guidelines for the city. They recommend half of the money be set aside to affect families below 30 percent of median family income, and another 15 to 20 percent to be spent on homeownership for people and families with incomes below 80 percent, decreasing the gap for people of color.

## NAACP Leader Remembered

(AP)—Enolia P. McMillan, the first female president of the NAACP and a highly regarded figure in the civil rights movement, died Oct. 24 of natural causes. She was 102.

McMillan, an educator whose career spanned 42 years, became a teacher in 1927 and crusaded for equal pay for black teachers and better schools for black students.

She helped to reactivate the city chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1935 and was active in the organization for more than 50 years. Kweisi Mfume, former president and CEO of the NAACP



Enolia P. McMillan and a close friend of the McMillan family, said she was a "pillar of the civil rights movement."

triarch of the NAACP," Mfume told The (Baltimore) Sun. "She was a fighter who was relentless in pursuing justice."

The eldest of four children, she was born Oct. 20, 1904, in Willow Grove, Pa., to John Pettigen, who was born a slave in Virginia, and Elizabeth Fortune Pettigen, a domestic worker.

She wanted to be a doctor — a pediatrician because she liked children — but heeding the realities of a black woman's opportunity in that day, she decided to become a teacher, said her eldest granddaughter, Tiffany Beth McMillan.

## Can't afford rent?

Apply for the HAP Section 8 waiting list lottery.



If you want Section 8 rent help, act now!

The Housing Authority of Portland will open up a new Section 8 waiting list application process on Nov. 1, 2006. The process will close on Nov. 17.

Those who submit a valid application during this period will enter a lottery. The lottery will pick 3,000 households at random. Those people will be placed on a waiting list to receive Section 8 rent help.

- Starting Nov. 1, applications can be downloaded from [www.hapdx.org](http://www.hapdx.org).
- Applications also will be available starting Nov. 1 at Oregon Department of Human Services offices and at two HAP locations. Ask for HAP's "Application for Section 8 Waiting List Lottery."
- For help filling out the form, or if you have questions, come to one of our sign-up sessions during the week of Nov. 13.
- For a list of DHS and HAP office locations, or for the times and locations of the sign-up sessions, go to [www.hapdx.org](http://www.hapdx.org) or call the HAP Waiting List Hotline, (503) 802-8472.



The African Children's Choir will present a free concert Sunday, Nov. 12 at the Salvation Army Moore Street Center, 5325 N. Williams Ave.

## Moore Street Hosts Children's Choir

Members of the local community are invited to enjoy a performance of the internationally acclaimed and Grammy-nominated African Children's Choir at the Salvation Army Moore Street

Center, 5325 N. Williams Ave. on Sunday, Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. The event is free and no tickets are required.

The group of 26 African children, ages 5 through 12, are se-

lected from those most needy in Africa. They perform a wide variety of songs, drums and ethnic instrumentation as well as children's songs, popular gospel tunes and lively spirituals.



HAP is committed to providing safe, decent and affordable housing to individuals and families in Multnomah County who face income or other life challenges.

## British Twins Show Diversity



Twins Layton (right) and Kaydon Richardson (left) are officially one in a million after one was born black and the other one white. (AP photo)

Boys have different genes

(AP) — A pair of British twin boys has been born with different skin color, a rare genetic occurrence according to experts.

In an interview with Britain's Sky News program, mother Kerry Richardson said that the boys were both born white but as they've gotten older one of the boys got darker and the other lighter.

Today, she says, the twins attract attention wherever they go.

Richardson is of mixed race, with Nigerian and English heritage, while the father is white.

A genetics expert at Oxford University says such births are rare, as the genes that cause skin color normally mix together. In this case, he says, it appears the genes for skin color didn't combine for some reason and the boys may have inherited different genetic codes from their mother.

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