



HOUSING

Lents Home Buying Fair

Learn how to buy your own home

The Lents Homeownership Initiative and Kelly SUN Community School presents the 3rd annual Lents Home Buying Fair, a free event on Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Kelly Elementary School, 9030 S.E. Cooper St.

The fair is open to anyone wanting to learn about buying their own home. Lenders, Realtors, title companies, developers, home buying counselors, businesses, and non-profit organizations will provide plenty of helpful information about their services and programs.

The highlight of the day will be a drawing for a \$4,000 down-payment assistance grant to be given to a qualified potential homebuyer.

Workshops on "How to purchase a home" and "What down payment assistance programs are available in Lents" will be presented in English and Spanish, with Vietnamese, Russian, and Mandarin translators available. In addition, there will be children's activities, such as face painting, and a free lunch provided by Burgerville.

The Lents Homeownership Initiative is a partnership of more than 40 community organizations that ROSE Community Development brought together in 2005. The mission is to increase homeownership and improve the quality of life in the Lents Town Center Urban Renewal Area through community involvement, outreach, and education. After three years, LHI has exceeded its initial goals by creating 200 new homeowners and completing 216 home repairs.

Shaver Green Built Affordable

Tenants recruited to cutting-edge apartment

Applications are being taken for spacious one and two bedroom units at the soon to be completed Shaver Green Apartments.

Located at 4011 N.E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., the six-story building will serve 85 individuals and families. Rents are being advertised at just \$515 to \$647. Section 8 vouchers will be accepted.

The apartments have extra high 10 foot ceilings, a refrigerator, stove, dishwasher and microwave. The building features an elevator, onsite laundry, key-padded security access, a gated parking area, bike storage and work area, community room, computer lab and free garbage service.

The most unique aspect is that the developer of Shaver Green has achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification while meeting Housing and Urban Development income level requirements.

Developer Armstrong Stafford said very few if any residential developments in the U.S. offer buildings that are sustainable, innovative and also accessible to those meeting minimum income standards.

For a housing application, call 971-224-1413.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Work is coming to completion on the Shaver Green Apartments, a major housing development with environmentally sensitive energy efficiency features, located at 4011 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Homeowners Dream Comes True

First-time buyers move in

Victoria and Venique love to cook and they've always wanted a garden, along with a safe place for their children to play. On their income -

Victoria is a certified medical assistant and Venique is a warehouse worker - they thought they could only afford to rent and that a garden was a dream. Until they were referred to Portland Community Land Trust.

The Lamys experienced what many renters are all too



PHOTO BY JENNIFER BRINKMAN

Portland Community Land Trust helps Victoria and Venique buy their first home for just \$137,000.

familiar with: rising rents and frequent moves.

"Before pursuing homeownership our rent continued to go up every year," Victoria said. "If I wouldn't have pursued homeownership my family and I would have been moving again."

Now Victoria says she and her husband Venique "feel free and are able to breathe," knowing they no longer have to worry about high rents and moving.

The Lamys' home buying experience is the result of an ex-

tended partnership. The Lamys were referred to Portland Community Land Trust by the African American Alliance for Homeownership.

They bought a home developed by Rose Community Development Corporation and built by Portland YouthBuilders. A furnace was donated by NW Natural. The land was donated by Multnomah County and will stay with the Land Trust should the Lamys move, but any other equity in the home

would go with them.

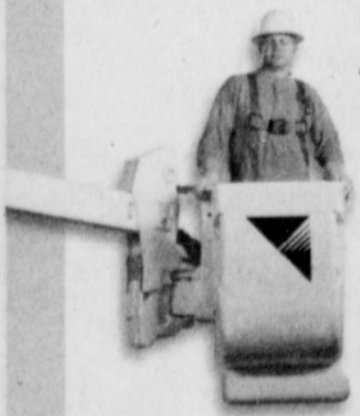
The first time the family actually entered their new house, their oldest daughter, Venicia, asked, "Mom, is this our house?" Victoria was excited to answer yes, and "now you have a place to play instead of the parking lot."

Any surprises for the new homeowners?

"The most surprising thing about becoming a homeowner is actually coming to the realization that it's our home," Victoria said.



Look up before you go up.



"OVERHEAD POWER LINES ARE CLOSER THAN YOU THINK." Most accidents involving electricity happen by coming in contact with overhead power lines. Anytime you're working outside on your roof or with long or tall objects such as ladders, gutters, pool skimmers, or irrigation pipes, be aware of what's above you. Even momentary contact with an overhead line can prove instantly fatal. For more safety information, visit pacificpower.net

PACIFIC POWER

Let's turn the answers on.

Keeping Seniors Safe at Home

Security experts offer tips

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, senior citizens usually experience lower rates of crime. But when seniors are victimized, there is a 92 percent chance the crime will occur in or near their homes.

"As we age, our safety and security needs change, so it's important to take extra precautions to keep ourselves and our senior family members safe," said Steve Shapiro, director of product management for ADT Security Services.

To help better protect America's seniors from property crime and personal theft, the security company has developed the following safety tips:

Never hide keys under the doormat, in the mailbox or in a

planter, burglars will go straight for these typical hiding spots to look for spare keys. Spare keys should be left with a trusted neighbor.

If you decide to install an alarm system, consider one that is monitored for burglary, fire, carbon monoxide and medical emergencies. These alarm system features can be life-saving if you, or a loved one, become incapacitated while in the home.

Install and use good locks on doors and windows. Good locks are the first line of defense against home invasion—it is also important to make sure your locks are in working order.

Never give credit card, Social Security, phone card or bank account numbers to callers who ask for this information to

"verify" prizes. If they have to ask for this personal information, it is a sure sign they are fakes—never give personal data over the phone, unless you know who you are dealing with.

Recently there have been cases of seniors being targeted to send cash to someone posing as a grandchild. If you receive a call like this, you should always call the child's parents for verification, even if they say they do not want their parents to know.

When service or delivery people come to your door, ask for ID and check with their company if you are still unsure. When in doubt, research the company by calling police or the Better Business Bureau. Reputable companies will have no problem with your request for more information.