



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ruth Beale (right), a resident of the Irvington Village on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, is introduced to Cindy Noordijk who is managing the transition of the assisted living facility to Providence ElderPlace, ensuring continued service to the local African-American community.

Irvington Village Redo

continued ▲ from Front

Providence ElderPlace officials said the transition, which became effective Aug. 1, has been smooth for residents, their families and staff. About 90 percent of Irvington Village employees were able to keep their jobs.

Providence ElderPlace cur-

rently operates six health and social centers and manages 230 supportive housing units in the Portland area. It is Oregon's only licensed provider of the nationally recognized Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly, recently called "long-term care down right" by The New York Times.

Of the 100 residents currently

living at Irvington Village, 32 are already Providence ElderPlace members. Other residents who qualify also now have the option of joining ElderPlace. However, even if they choose not to enroll, they can continue to live and receive care at Irvington Village.

Providence plans to renovate the first floor of the facility to

add a health and social center. The center will allow ElderPlace members to receive their medical and other services on the Irvington Village campus. Previously, they had to travel to other ElderPlace facilities for care.

For more information, call 503-215-6556 or visit providence.org/elderplace.

Group Pushes Back on Racial Profiling

Wants police officers held accountable

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A group that has long been critical of Portland's response to racial profiling is lobbying the Portland City Council for a new strategy to hold police officers accountable.

For over a decade, the city has launched a series of initiatives to address the issue of racial profiling, the practice of using race as a basis for determining whether a person is likely to commit a crime.

Most efforts to end the practice in Portland have focused on cultivating better understanding between police officers and members of the community while improving public outreach and diversification of the police force.

But those actions fall short when the public demands police officer accountability and the police union denies that a problem even exists.

Oregon Action, a statewide community organization, is hoping to break the impasse by pressuring City Hall into bringing up police accountability when it negotiates a new contract with the police union later this year.

Critics like Oregon Action organizer Ron Williams contend that the only way to genuinely address racial profiling is to find out which officers profile based on race and hold them accountable.

This approach has been vociferously resisted by the police union and Police Chief Rosie Sizer, who has fought to make sure that data on individual officers is collected in a way that does not expose them to public scrutiny.

The activists complain that Mayor Sam Adams and other members of the City Council have been "dismissive, inconsistent and demonstrate a clear lack of interest in the issue."

But City Commission Dan Saltzman who heads the police bureau disagrees, saying "officers are held accountable."

Saltzman told the Portland Observer that there are sufficient mechanisms in place to hold officers accountable. He said that he doesn't support tracking data on individual officers in a way that makes them subject to public scrutiny because an officer might deal primarily with minority communities.

He also stated that he would "explore" the issue of bringing up individual officer protections with the police union during contract negotiations later this year.

Recall Deadline Looms

BY JAKE THOMAS
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The campaign to recall Mayor Sam Adams has just 33 days left to turn in the 32,000 valid signatures needed to trigger a recall election.

The Community to Recall Sam Adams indicated last Thursday they've raked in 10,000 signatures, but the goal is 50,000 signatures because a number of them will almost certainly be deemed invalid by the city's auditor's office.

However, recall spokesperson Jasun

Wurster remains optimistic about recalling Adams, who lied about a sexual relationship with an 18-year-old intern while running for mayor in 2008.

Wurster said his group has some 450 volunteers working on the campaign which means that there could be an avalanche of signatures very soon.

"The way we're going to get the bulk of our signatures is people talking to their friends and neighbors," he said.

Wurster said the recall effort remains positive, despite a string of increasingly hostile acts.

He said that recall volunteers have endured lewd hand gestures being hurled at them, petitions being defaced, and other indignities.

"These things are happening and they're very disturbing, but it won't deter us," said Wurster.

On the other side of the issue, City Commissioner Randy Leonard, a staunch supporter of Adams, had an angry and expletive-laden confrontation last week with a recall supporter.

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On the Jazz Mississippi

September 12, 2009

Don't call it a come back...

Event Time: 5:00pm-10:00pm
Location: On the corner of Mississippi Ave. and Birch

Master of Ceremonies: Harold C. Williams Two
Main Stage Lineup
Featuring: A Special Guest, Gretch Mitchell, Uhirah Farnell Newton, Band on "Q" Urban Arts Dance Company
Harold C. Williams Two AKA "The Chocolate Champ"
Hosted by: The World Famous and Portland Blazers Own "DJ OG One"

This year The Diversity Institute's "Jazz on the Mississippi" is the site of the official lock off celebration of the N/NE study/project sponsored by the Portland Development Commission. In this study/project, all citizens are invited to help PIX identify resources for small businesses, housing, homeownership and community livability projects in the North and Northeast urban renewal areas. The table is set... come join us and help.

For More Information Contact: Japam.Cassidy@pdx.or, 503-823-3332
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The Portland Observer Established 1970
USPS 959-680
4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97211

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, PUBLISHER: Charles H. Washington
EDITOR: Michael Leighton
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER: Mark Washington
CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Paul Neufeldt

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Portland Observer, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

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