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What's on your list today?.

LOCAL NEWS



PHOTOS BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

People from all walks of the community look over the interior of the June Key Delta Community Center during its Aug. 10 grand opening. The African-American sorority celebrated with residents the center's completion, which has been years in the making.

June Key Dedication

African-American sorority opens community center

BY MINDY COOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

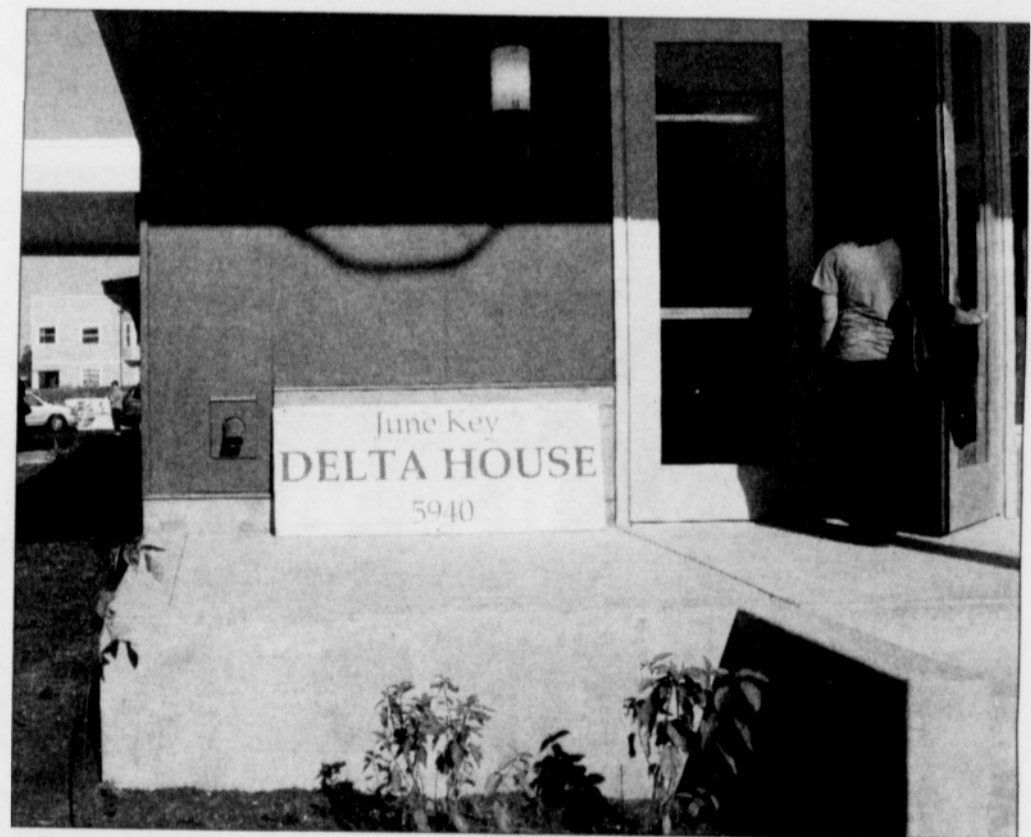
The Portland Alumnae chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority celebrated the grand opening of their new June Key community center on Aug. 10 with a building dedication ceremony and open house.

The center, located across from Peninsula Park at North Albina Avenue and Ainsworth Street, was filled with individuals and families from all walks of the community, many wearing the color red in honor of the sorority, and everyone dressed with a smile.

"It turned out wonderful," said Gail Johnson, a member of Delta Sigma Theta since 1977. "They have so many things that are creative and green, and I'm just really excited about it."

The property for the center was donated to the organization in 1992 by educator and community member June Key.

The center, which was transformed from its prior use as a gas station, was built with several sus-



After years of hard work and preparation from a number of community stakeholders, the June Key Delta Community Center, built from a transformed gas station at North Albina Avenue and Ainsworth Street, celebrates its grand opening.

tainable features already onsite, including a creative means of energy production, off-grid water treatment, and eco-friendly material installations.

Mayor Sam Adams, along with representatives from the Portland Development Commission, the Portland Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Piedmont Rose Connection, Inc. also

attended the event, which celebrated the center's successful Living Building Challenge, a top rating for sustainable environmental practices.

"It was a green project and a living building challenge, which is potentially the first in the state," said Andrew Colas, president of Colas Construction, the prime con-

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