

Special
Edition



HOUSING

Upgrades for Better Health, Energy Efficiency

Volunteers work on housing rehabilitation project

A hands-on home improvement project led by the non-profit Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives is making upgrades to PCRI rental homes in northeast Portland.

Volunteers from all skill levels this month worked alongside Cascadia Green Building Council's Emerging Professionals, to implement upgrades to improve the efficiency, health and durability of the homes, including air sealing and winterization and water efficiency.

Parr Lumber, a leading building materials retailer, provided lunches for the volunteers.

"It's incredible to see the positive changes a few individuals can make," said David Hamill, chief executive officer of Parr Lumber.

The Emerging Professionals and Andrew Morphis of Green Hammer Construction, tackled projects to make homes healthier, more comfortable and more efficient.

Existing carpet was removed to expose wood floors that were ready for refinishing. Old kitchen cabinets were deconstructed to make way for new, more usable ones. Windows that were previously painted shut were once again made operable for fresh-air ventilation. Insulation was improved and volunteers slathered mastic on the heating ducts to ensure they operated as efficiently as possible. All of the materials that volunteers removed were carefully sorted to enable recycling

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Local building materials retailer Parr Lumber provides lunches to volunteers who were working on making upgrades to a home in northeast Portland associated with the non-profit Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives.



Economist caution that the housing market is a long way from fully recovering.

Mixed Signals in Housing Report

Fewer new homes may lower prices

(AP) -- Sales of U.S. new homes fell for a third straight month in February. But prices surged to their highest level in eight months, suggesting builders anticipate more demand in the months ahead.

The Commerce Department says new-home sales fell 1.6 percent last month to a season-

ally adjusted annual rate of 313,000 homes. Sales have fallen nearly 7 percent since December.

The median sales price jumped more than 8 percent in February to \$233,700. That's the highest level since June.

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Reason No. 5

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