



Mississippi
Alberta
North Portland

METRO

Vancouver
East County
Beaverton



The University Park Community Center in north Portland will be renamed in honor of Charles Jordan, the former Portland City Commissioner and Director of Portland Parks and Recreation. Jordan has been a champion for children, families and building community.

Honoring a Visionary for Community

University Park Center is renamed for Charles Jordan

The Portland City Council voted unanimously last week to rename the University Park Community Center in north Portland in honor of Charles Jordan, a

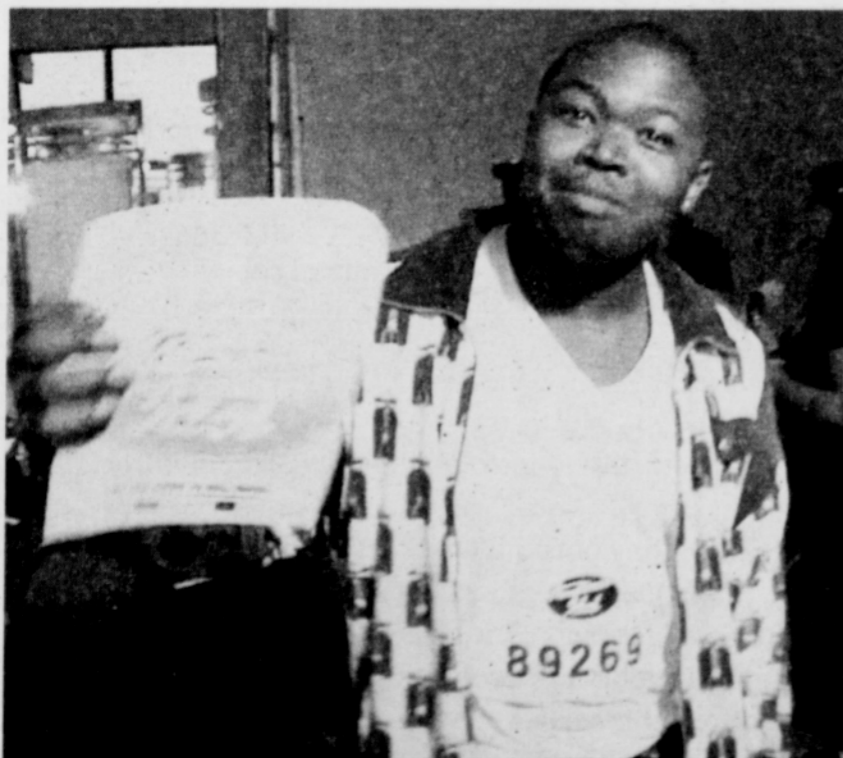
longtime African-American civic leader who formerly served as a Portland City Commissioner and Director of Portland Parks and Recreation.

"No one in the Parks family is more deserving of this honor," said Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish. "Charles Jordan took Portland Parks and Recreation to the next level. He was a champion for the environment and conservation nationwide. His commitment to children, families, and to building community is extraordinary."

The community center at 9009 N. Foss Ave. will be re-dedicated on Sunday, July 22 with a free public Charles Jordan Community Celebration from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., and including a joyful ice-cream social featuring music and activities for the whole family. The event will be followed by a free concert in neighboring McCoy Park.

Originally built to house World War II shipyard

continued ▼ on page 20



From a Refugee Camp to American Idol

Mt. Hood graduate to perform at commencement

BY TERESA LANE

Mt. Hood Community College graduate Romeo Diahn will sing "America the Beautiful" this weekend in front of the biggest live audience he's ever had.

Romeo Diahn takes the stage in the most current season of the hit TV show American Idol. A former refugee from civil war in Ghana, Diahn will graduate from Mt. Hood Community College and perform this weekend at the college's commencement celebrations.

"It means the world to me to be able to sing in front of my college. It's something I've always wanted to do," says Diahn, who will be one of about 600 MHCC students to walk across the stage to receive a diploma or certificate.

The graduation ceremonies are Friday, June 15 for adult high school diploma and general education development learners, and Saturday, June 16 for other students.

Born in Liberia, Diahn's family fled to Ghana after a civil war broke out in his home country in 1989. Singing became a way for him to cope with life in a refugee camp.

After reaching the U.S., he knew he wanted to pursue a college education. A high school field trip made this choice simple: "Once I came to MHCC I did not want to leave. There's

continued ▼ on page 18