

The
PO



Reflections to Close
*Changing demographics
and economy spell end*
See story, page 3

**Summer
Fun Guide**

*July 4th celebration
at Fort Vancouver*
See story, page 12



The Portland Observer 43

'City of Roses'



Volume XXXXI
Number 24



www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • June 27, 2012

Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity

years of
community service



The inaugural MLK Dream Run is a community event coming to north and northeast Portland this summer thanks to the volunteer efforts of leaders with the North-Northeast Business Association. Pictured (from left) are Rodney Ferguson, Jim Hansen, Jason Hagen, Joice A. Taylor, Ian Jaquiss, Felicia Tripp-Folsom, Alem Gebrehiwot, and John Washington.

Inaugural MLK Dream Run

August race promotes Soul District revival

BY LEE PERLMAN

The late Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream for a better America. For the last 18 months the North-Northeast Business Association has had one too: to hold a road race in honor of Dr. King and provide economic stimulus to the historically African-American and minority neighborhoods of north and northeast Portland. The

dream is about to be realized.

On Sunday morning, Aug. 5, the business group will hold the inaugural Dream Run. The annual event will actually be three runs of 5, 10 and 15 kilometers, plus a 5K walk. The 15K event will be a competitive race sanctioned by U.S.A. Track and Field, and will honor the late Geoff Hollister, a standout University of Oregon runner and one of the early executives at Nike.

A fundraiser for NNEBA's Fellowship Entrepreneurial Academy, which provides training for business careers for youths age 17 to 25, the entry fees, will run \$25 for the 5K

The MLK Dream Run is the culmination of our longtime dream to showcase the many positive changes and improvements in north and northeast Portland.

—Joice Taylor, NNEBA chair

race, \$30 for the 10K and \$35 for the 15K. Each entrant will receive a commemorative t-shirt, back pack and water bottle. There will also be live music and a health fair.

A 7a.m. early start time is a logistical compromise. NNEBA wanted to hold the run on a Saturday to avoid conflicts with church services in the area, but city officials were

opposed to closing streets on Saturday. Last year, the group called off a planned marathon due to this and other issues.

The Dream Run also represents a unique way to visit some great inner-city neighborhoods. The routes will go through parts of the Boise, Eliot, Grant Park, Humboldt, Irvington, King, Sabin, Vernon and Woodlawn neighborhoods, parts of Portland's traditional Soul District. It will touch on parks, including Irving and Woodlawn, and vital commercial districts such as North-

continued ▼ on page 2