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# Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?.

# LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

An uncertain future is ahead for Annette Steele, an elderly northeast Portland woman who completely paid off her home of 26 years before taking a loan to make repairs and now faces eviction over a dispute on the repayment of the loan.

## Lending Nightmare

### Woman, 80, battles for her home of 26 years

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When one lives somewhere for over 26 years, that place simply comes to be called "home;" and a home is not easily parted with, at least not for Annette Steele.

Steele, who recently turned 80, is standing strong over the possible eviction from her northeast Portland house, with the backing of concerned neighbors and community activists.

"When I walked through that door, something said to me, Annette, this is your home," says Steele, referring to first time she visited the house on the 4000 block of Northeast 14th Avenue. With nothing but 75 cents filling her pockets that day, she thought purchasing the house to be impossible.

But her friend and then owner of the property allowed Annette to set the price, and without a down-payment, she moved in that same week.

A couple of decades later, with the consistent weekly payments on a contract loan, the \$27,000 bill had been paid off.

With the house officially hers, she began looking into the possibility of making some much needed repairs. The bank offered to handle those costs for her. She jumped at the opportunity.

That opportunity was a subprime

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