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What's on your list today?®

# Keeping it Affordable

## Non-profit partners with AmeriCorps to revitalize homes

BY DANNY PETERSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A nonprofit in northeast Portland is hosting 12 AmeriCorps volunteers this summer to protect vital affordable housing by upgrading homes with green technology, building community gardens and more.

The work is being done in conjunction with the Sabin Community Development Corp., a non-profit located on Northeast Alberta Street that has been dedicated to providing long-term affordable housing for low and moderate income residents in the face of rising housing costs since 1991.

Sabin maintains a tenant base that is 73 percent African American, a demographic similar to what many of north and northeast Portland's pre-gentrified inner city neighborhoods were comprised of in the early 1990s. Many of the residents served by Sabin have been there over a decade, and with AmeriCorps' help, they're revitalizing the homes of over 100 low income families.

"We are really excited to have AmeriCorps volunteers here," said Sabin CDC's Executive Director Mary Schoen-Clark. "They will help us lift up our capacity to improve the housing and lives of the people we serve," she added.

The work is designed to increase a sense of belonging by

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PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In an effort to preserve affordable housing in gentrified northeast Portland, volunteer AmeriCorps workers work on upgrades to the Alberta Commons Apartments, including landscaping, as plants are prepared for transfer to a new garden. The apartments are owned by the non-profit Sabin Community Development Corp.

# Honored for Social Justice

Two residents of the Vancouver area are being honored by the YWCA of Clark County for their leadership in working toward the elimination of racism and the promotion of peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

Cindi Fisher and William Clark will receive the Val Joshua Racial Justice Award and the Youth Social Justice Award, respectively, during an awards ceremony on Saturday, June 23 at 1 p.m. at Clark College in Vancouver.

The event will be held in conjunction with the Vancouver NAACP's celebration of Juneteenth, the unofficial holiday marking the end of slavery in the



William Clark



Cindi Fisher

United States.

The award ceremony will be followed by a job fair and a panel discussion on ending sys-

temic racism, as well as family friendly activities throughout the day, music, and dance from Portland's Groovin Highsteppers.