

# The INSIDE

## The Week in Review

page 2



### CAREERS

See inside

page 6

### RELIGION



page 8

### SPORTS



pages 8-10

### Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



page 9

### METRO



### OPINION

pages 12-13

### CLASSIFIEDS

pages 11, 14

This page  
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# Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Eddie Kirk Jones, 58, worries that without new zoning protections, the property where he and his wife have lived in the Cully Neighborhood for the past 17 years, will be redeveloped and land them on the street.

## Fighting Displacement

### Zoning plan to protect affordable Mobile Home Parks

BY DANNY PETERSON  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A proposed re-zoning of mobile home parks in Portland is meant to protect over 3,000 low-income families from being displaced or put out on the streets due to real estate market forces that have seen properties across the city transformed into future lots for higher priced homes and condominiums.

The city's 56 mobile home parks are some of the most affordable residential areas left in Portland and many of the residents of these parks cannot financially afford to move. Many of the mobile homes themselves are also too old to transport elsewhere.

The zoning proposal before the City Council would give some protections to the parks and is a less expensive way of securing affordable housing than constructing new affordable units, proponents say. Mayor Ted Wheeler backed the proposal when it went before the Planning and Sustainability Commission in July and

was passed. A public comment period is now open ahead of the council taking up the matter next week.

In the Cully Neighborhood of northeast Portland, in which 10 percent of residents live in one of the six mobile home parks located there, redevelopment of the parks into apartments or something more lucrative could displace a population that in many cases has already exhausted all other housing options.

Cully is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Oregon, according to Cameron Herrington, anti-displacement coordinator for Living Cully, a non-profit neighborhood group that is pushing for the rezoning effort.

According to the last Census, 16 percent of Cully residents are black, Herrington said. There's also a high immigrant and refugee population. Many of these residents moved there after being displaced from other neighborhoods in north and northeast Portland or

from their home country.

"It's sort of been a landing place but other than that also a place where people have created really strong community ties, identity, and pride," Herrington said.

Back in 2016 Herrington was the major backer of another initiative to save a mobile home park, Oak Leaf, also in the Cully neighborhood, by facilitating its purchase by the charity St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County. It was spared from being redeveloped and residents were able to continue living there, although four other mobile home parks closed in Portland due to redevelopment that same year.

At Cedar Shade Mobile Home Park, near Northeast Killingsworth Street and 72nd Avenue and adjacent to Living Cully Plaza, many of the residents are worried that redevelopment of their land could lead to them hopelessly fending for themselves on the street.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Fabricator's Death Goes Unsolved

Portland police are asking help from the public in solving the homicide of Eugene Gora, a much beloved neighbor, legacy fabricator, and welder whose red shop was a landmark at the corner of Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and Skidmore Street.

A cash reward of up to \$2,500 is being offered for any information about the case, for which homicide detectives have not determined any suspects.



Eugene Gora

Gora's Welding and Fabrication at 4232 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd was the 85-year-old's place of business, residence, and the location where he was discovered, deceased, by a friend on May 10.

Medical and emergency personnel, who responded at 6:30 p.m. that evening, confirmed that he was deceased upon arrival. The

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5