



‘More than Pink’

Plans made for a new Komen walk this fall
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Congratulations Honor Graduates

Honor Roll for Black Graduates
Educators honor high achieving students
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Committed to Cultural Diversity



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Mary Batson (left) and her sister, Virgie Ruiz, became concerned about a transformer-mounted pole installed in front of their house to accommodate new luxury apartments in their gentrifying neighborhood. Now Portland Bureau of Transportation says the pole was improperly placed and may ask Pacific Power to move it.

Homeowner Fights Back:

When power pole for development placed at her house

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The unintended consequence of the construction of new luxury housing in inner northeast Portland left one African American homeowner and longtime resident with a transformer-mounted pole directly in front of her house, without any prior notice.

Now Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) said the installation was done improperly and may make the power company move it.

“We looked into this and as it turns out the pole, where it’s been installed, does

not match the location that we permitted. We’re currently investigating our options which could include asking or making Pacific Power to move the pole,” PBOT Communications Director John Brady told the Portland Observer Monday.

The power company previously stated they were in the right-of-way to place the pole where it was and that it would cost homeowner Mary Batson an out-of-pocket expense to move it, according to documents obtained by the Portland Observer, but seemed to change their stance in reaction to PBOT’s statement.

“Often in situations like this, poles are not in their final positions until the construction work is done. We will work with PBOT to decide the appropriate and approved final location of the pole,” stated Pacific Power Media Spokesman Tom Gauntt via email to the Portland Observer

Tuesday.

“I’m just happy to hear that,” Batson, 66, told the Portland Observer. “I have never seen a pole like that in front of someone’s house, and all the damage that they caused to put it there so deep. And I just had a feeling it wasn’t right.”

Back in February, Batson said she was notified from Pacific Power that there would be a scheduled power outage on a day when she was at work, but with no mention of a pole installation. When the outage was over, a pole with a mounted three-barrel transformer bank had been installed a few steps in front of her house on Northeast Ivy Street which was not only in line of sight from her home but broke a water main to her house, she said.

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

State Sen. Jackie Winters

Capitol Funeral for Senator Winters

Civil rights champion had deep community roots

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jackie Winters, the trail blazing Oregon state senator who survived the Vanport Flood during childhood, grew up to become a small business owner in both Portland and Salem, and the only African-American Republican to be elected to the Legislature, died Wednesday, May 29 at the age of 82.

The Oregon State Capitol in Salem will honor Winters with a memorial service on Thursday, June 13 at 1 p.m. in the Senate chambers followed by a reception open to the public.

Winters served as a lawmaker from Salem since 1999, first in the House of Representatives, then in the Senate starting in

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