



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Families

continued from page 6

Housing Our Families screens tenants by doing criminal background checks, reviewing housing histories and getting references from past landlords, she said. "I think the neighbors felt we didn't act fast enough," Willer said about the problem tenant. "I think the police records will show that we did call the police quite a few times and tried to handle it ourselves." As for accusations of misrepresenting how the Fargo Street project would be marketed,

mainly because funding sources still are being developed, Willer said. "Housing Our Families is here to be part of the community," she said. "We have 163 units, and problems do arise in buildings. There's always room to hear how we can do better."

Housing Our Families is a women's community development corporation providing affordable rental housing in nine North/Northeast Portland neighborhoods. It manages homes, duplexes and apartment complexes such as the Maya Angelou Apartments near Unthank Park.

Its three-story Betty Campbell building has nine units on a busy intersection of Mississippi Avenue. It was built a year and a half ago on a lot Multnomah County donated using public and private funds for families earning no more than 50 percent of median income.

Many who've written opposition letters to City Commissioner Erik Sten, the Bureau of Housing and Community Development and others said they think Housing Our Families is more concerned with its own growth than livability. Kay Newell, neighborhood association secretary and owner of Sunlan Lighting Inc., which is a block from the Betty Campbell building, has gathered opposition letters and faxes from 20 to 30 residents and about 20 petition signatures.

However, neighbor Charles Ford said he



Earlier this month, wrecking crews pulled down what a neighbor described as "one of the last Black-owned homes on Mississippi Avenue."

'I think it's wonderful there's new interests and people moving in. But you don't want to say people who live on a fixed income should not be there'

--City Commissioner Erik Sten

Willer said some people were confused by certain terminology. If given a chance, the nonprofit organization wants to work with neighbors to ensure the development is what everyone envisions, she said. The rowhouses will be three- and four-bedroom units and rent for about \$700 a month. The project is a joint effort with developer Tom Walsh Jr., son of the former Tri-Met general manager, who is the landowner. The project has been planned for several months. No date is set to begin construction,

appreciates what Housing Our Families does by providing affordable housing. The active community member has lived near the Maya Angelou apartments since 1967. Ford also doesn't think the neighborhood has an over-abundance of low-income housing. "I think it's about keeping a certain ethnicity from coming to the neighborhood."

Sten said his office has been working to mediate the situation. He thinks the opposition group has some valid points about Housing Our Families' property management skills, but he doesn't agree with its argument about the area having too much

low-income housing.

"I think it's wonderful there's new interests and people moving in," Sten said. "But on the other hand, you don't want to say people who live on a fixed income should not be there."

"I think these things can be worked out through communication. Something good can come out of this fight."

For more about your neighborhood go online to www.TheSkanner.com



Honoring service that goes above and beyond



Col. George S. "Spanky" Roberts

Lt. Col. James A. Walker

The Tuskegee Airmen soared to new heights when they became the first African American pilots to serve in the U.S. armed forces. They were known for their heroism, teamwork and honorable conduct in the air and on the ground. Following decades of distinguished military service, Tuskegee Airmen Col. George S. Roberts and Lt. Col. James A. Walker continued their commitment to service as two of the original personal banking officers at Wells Fargo.

Wells Fargo is proud to celebrate Black History as we honor the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and the contributions that African Americans have made in enriching our company and encouraging us all to reach new heights.

To learn more about the heroism of the Tuskegee Airmen, check out *Red Tails* - in theaters now.

Together we'll go far



wellsfargo.com

© 2012 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. Member FDIC. (707013_04090)