

MBE 2012

Minority Business
Enterprise Special
Edition Inside

Housing Help for Seniors

Foreclosure prevention, home repairs and more

Lisa Loving
Of *The Skanner News*

Seniors facing home foreclosure can keep relying on the Minority Homeowners Assistance Collaborative (MHAC) for another year for free assistance in keeping their homes.

The Portland Housing Bureau has again handed out grant funding for the program, which includes Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc. (PCRI), the African American Alliance for Homeownership (AAAH), Hacienda CDC and NAYA Youth and Family Center.

“Some of the challenges that our elders of color are facing are in not having access or knowing what programs are out there – but also the challenge of budget shortfalls that are out there,” said Shalonda Menefee of PCRI, pictured at left.

This past year an array of housing support organizations faced defunding through City of Portland budget cuts. However Commissioner Nick Fish, who oversees housing, found ways to keep most funding for the “housing safety net” a term coined by housing advocates seeking to unify their nonprofit groups and programs into a continuum of services from shelters to home ownership.

Housing advocates say the MHAC has served over 200 clients living in the City of Portland over the past two years. The service specifically helps connect seniors to organizations that offer free services to help seniors stay in their homes, including: free home repair, free foreclosure prevention services, and free one-on-one counseling.

The Free Homeownership Retention Program is for seniors ages 55 or older who live in the City of Portland, own their own home and need supportive services or referrals to prevent foreclosure to maintain homeownership.

If you are a senior homeowner over the

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WORLD PREMIER

The performing arts nonprofit White Bird launches its gala 15th anniversary season with the biggest public dance event ever attempted in Pioneer Courthouse Square, on Sunday, Sept. 30, at 2 and 4 p.m. Some 150 Portlanders from all walks of life will perform the West Coast premiere of a line dance ‘infused with contemporary movement that incorporates the rhythms of country, techno, cumbia, waltzes, and R&B.’ The performance is choreographed by Montreal’s Sylvain Emard. Here, JaVonda Dillon rehearses for the big event, which the dancers have been working on since July. Find more info at www.whitebird.org.



PHOTO BY CAROLYN CAMPBELL

Emanuel Reconciliation Project

Medical Center seeks to right historic wrong on 100th anniversary

Lisa Loving
Of *the Skanner News*

As part of the ongoing commemoration of its 100th year in operation, Legacy Emanuel Medical Center has launched a reconciliation project aimed at rebuilding its ties to the inner Northeast African American community, scattered through urban renewal development decades ago.

The project was kicked off Friday morning at a Black leadership breakfast event where

local consultant and businesswoman Jeana Woolley presented the fruits of a year-long research effort she conducted on the history of the Emanuel Hospital expansion in the 1960s and 1970s.

The results, along with additional research done about the history of the Eliot neighborhood, will be turned into a permanent exhibit to be unveiled at the Emanuel Medical Center 100th Anniversary Party and Community Celebration, Saturday, Oct. 6, from 1-4

p.m. at the facility’s Atrium.

“As we start our next century of service, Legacy Emanuel would like to strengthen our relationship with the local community, its leaders, institutions and organizations,” Dr. Lori Morgan, Chief Administrative Officer of Legacy Emanuel, said in its invitation to the event sent to local leaders. “It’s our desire to build a stronger, healthier and more collaborative alliance moving forward.”

Woolley’s detailed historical research was complimented by

the testimony and participation of a panel of displaced former residents, now quite elderly, who were also invited to the breakfast and repeatedly honored.

The discussion about “next steps” after Woolley’s presentation was quite frank, with several community leaders taking Emanuel to task for not offering some substantive remuneration or “restitution” to the survivors of displaced families.

Dr. George Brown, Legacy

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Carolyn Leonard Reflects on Career

Longtime administrator considers a bid for school board in 2013

By Helen Silvis
Of *The Skanner News*

Educator Carolyn Leonard retired from Portland Public Schools this year. But she’s showing no signs of stopping work.

An internationally recognized scholar in multicultural education and civil rights, she has too many awards and accomplishments

to name. Leonard’s philosophy?

“Everyone has a responsibility to make things better.”

She certainly does her part. Nationally, she has served on the Executive Committee of the National Council for Black Studies. Closer to home, she has been chair of both the Metropolitan Human Rights Commission and the Oregon Commission for Black Affairs, as well as president of the library’s

Black Resource Center, based at the North Portland branch.

She’s also made history, as chair of the committee that fought successfully to rename Union Avenue as Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Leonard’s commitment to public education has deep roots.

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