

Portland and SW Washington

S P O T L I G H T S

Foreclosure Averted

Helen and Nelson Murray, who were in danger of losing their home in Northeast Portland, likely will be able to stay there.

Their story was told in the Willamette Week earlier this month. Cheryl Roberts, executive director of the African American Alliance for Homeownership, said Wells Fargo bank is now taking steps to reduce the principle for their loan and modify their payment agreement.

The Murrys took out their adjustable rate mortgage through Wachovia, but during the housing crisis, their payments increased to the point they could not pay them. Wells Fargo bought Wachovia in 2008. The landmark \$25 billion fraud settlement between the states attorneys general and the five largest mortgage lenders earmarked money to help homeowners who had been victims of abusive lending practices. That money will now help the Murrys stay in their home. And that's not the only good news. After learning about the family's troubles, community members rallied round to help repair the couple's home.

More than a dozen neighbors have painted worked on the siding and the lawn. And last weekend, they installed a completely new roof.



PHOTO BY HELEN SILVUS

Persons requiring special arrangements should call Cyndi Smith, Community Services, at 360-397-2075 ext. 7835.

Free Oral History and Media Production Workshop

The North Portland Multimedia Training Center, a project of The Skanner Foundation, invites community members, local historians, artists, media makers and educators, to join the Vanport Multimedia Project, a community-based initiative dedicated to collecting and preserving Vanport former residents' memories.

The next workshop (held at North Portland Multimedia Training Center, at The Skanner Newsgroup office at 415 N. Killingsworth St.) will start on Sept. 13. During two weekend-long sessions (September 13th-14th and October 4th and 5th), we'll explore the historic significance of the Vanport community that was destroyed in the flood of 1948, and learn interviewing and media production skills to capture former residents' memories and turn them in digital narratives. With the support of professional producers, participants will work individually or in teams to produce video and audio stories that will be shared at several community events in the Fall and become part of a digital archive.

The workshop is free, but space is limited and registration is required. For more information and sign-up go to www.npmtc.com.

A Time to Heal: Promoting Community Health in the Face of Racism and Inequality

PAALF holds its next event on personal and community health, Saturday, Sept. 21, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Rosewood Initiative, 16126 SE Stark, Portland.

This month's breakfast will include: A free warm meal; free youth programming; free natural healing and other health services; discussion on how to fight against the devaluation of Black life in the wake of police brutality, state sanctioned violence, gentrification and the many other systems of oppression operating against us; and discussion on how racism is impacting our health and tools for collective healing from oppression.

For more information go to www.aalfnw.org/portland, and www.weareblackweare.com.

Drug and Alcohol Recovery Event Set in Vancouver

Clark County's Substance Abuse Advisory Board hosts the 13th annual Clark County Recovery Forum on Saturday, Sept. 13, in recognition of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

The free event will be 5-8 p.m. in the Centennial Center at Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, 100 Columbia St. A buffet dinner will be provided from 5-6 p.m., or while supplies

last.

The event celebrates the Access to Recovery Program and people who have been affected by addiction and made steps toward long-term recovery.

This year, the forum is part of Recovery NW Project's first regional conference, which includes training, a two-day conference for people in recovery, and a recovery walk.

All attendees and presenters must register for the conference, forum and Recovery Walk at <http://recoverynw.org>, so coordinators can plan logistics and food accordingly.

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If you have an event you want to share with the community, email it two weeks in advance to *The Skanner* at info@theskanner.com

Thursday – Sunday September 11 – 14

MOUNT ANGEL OKTOBERFEST. One of the largest standing, best-loved folk festivals in the NW celebrates its 49th anniversary. The Oktoberfest tradition is still going strong, carrying with it the quality, warmth and fun of the community. Most activities are FREE. 11 a.m. – midnight 5 North Garfield St. Mount Angel.

Thursday September 11

CITY HOSTS 9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY. The event will include a simple opening ceremony posting of colors and brief remarks by Mayor Pro Tem Larry J. Smith. The event starts at 12:10 p.m. in front of City Hall, 415 W. 6th St. Vancouver.

PORTLAND FIREFIGHTERS INVITE PUBLIC TO DONATE BLOOD AT SEPT. 11 DRIVE. Portland Fire Chief Erin Janssens invites the community to join Portland Firefighters in donating blood at PF&R's Station 1, 55 SW Ash St. to commemorate Sept. 11. 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Potential donors are asked to sign up in advance for a time slot at www.redcrossblood.org or by calling 503-823-3700.

EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE HOSTS DINNER AND EVENING 9/11 CEREMONY. Come and see the granite 9/11 memorial that was dedicated last year. The Ceremony of Remembrance with luminarias, one for each responder that died, will begin at 7:30 p.m. Dinner served at 5:30 p.m. cost of dinner is by donation. Station 91, 600 NE 267th Ave. Camas.

Saturday September 13

NATURESCAPING BASICS WORKSHOP. Learn how to design a low-maintenance, chemical free landscape that conserves water and minimizes pollution, all while saving your time. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 4244 SE 91st Ave.

4TH ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY – SHOW & SHINE CAR SHOW. This event is FREE! We will be having free cotton candy, ice cream, face painting and much more, alongside this event we are having a Show & Shine Car Show. 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Open House Ministries, 900 W. 12th St. Vancouver.

PORTLAND FIGHTING FILLIES HOLDING GIRLS FOOTBALL CAMP. The Portland Fighting Fillies Women's full contact football team will be hosting a football skills camp for girls ages 5 – 16 at 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Milwaukee High School, 11300 SE 23rd Ave. Milwaukee. This event is free and No equipment needed.

Monday September 15

EL GRITO. Celebrate Mexican and Central American Independence at the El Grito Festival. This event will feature authentic Latino food, music and live performances. 11 a.m. – 11 p.m. Pioneer Courthouse Square.

Wednesday September 17

SACK LUNCH CONCERT. Cascadia Concert Opera will perform Fidelio – which is Beethoven's first and last opera, originally known as Leonora. Free. Noon – 1 p.m. The Old Church, 1422 SW 11th Ave.

Sunday September 21

3RD ANNUAL SUNDAY TRAILWAYS ON WESTSIDE REGIONAL TRAIL. Participants will find dance and fitness classes, sports and games, basic bicycle repair and much more. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the intersection of Hart Meadows Park and Summer Crest Park in Beaverton.