

Morrison cont'd from pg 1

disappearance. Information released by the Clark County Sheriff's Department's cold case unit says her boyfriend — who is described as a light-skinned African American man who was between five-foot-seven and five-foot-ten inches tall — is not a suspect in the case.

The sheriff's office is working in conjunction with the Portland Police Bureau's North Precinct to distribute information about Morrison and her boyfriend throughout the North Portland area. Investigators think the couple lived near the Swan Island area due to her partner's job.

“In terms of a vague background picture, this is as vague as we've ever seen”

“It's been nagging us for 40-some years,” Clark County special deputy Dennis Hunter told *The Skanner*.

Morrison's sister told investigators that in 1973 Morrison participated in a job training program in Phoenix, Ariz. There she met her boyfriend and the two of them moved to Portland, where her boyfriend is believed to have worked in the ship yards.

“In terms of a vague background picture, this is as vague as we've ever seen,” Hunter said.

According to information released by the sheriff's office, after her disappearance Morrison's boyfriend contacted her mother and father to ask if anyone had seen her. Family members said he told them that they had had an argument, and that a neighbor had told him he saw her leave with her belongings after they left for work. Her boyfriend then went to the Eugene/Springfield area to check places they had seen together during her visit.

A flyer distributed by the Clark County Sheriff's Office and written from Morrison's perspective says her boyfriend was “the only person who looked for me after I disappeared.”

Hunter told *The Skanner* investigators are looking at other cases similar to Morrison's to see if there may be connections between the crimes.

“In the period of 1971 to 1974, we have eight or nine cases of young girls either being homicide victims or disappearing and never being seen again, so we're looking at all of those in conjunction with Martha's case,” Hunter said. But without more information about Morrison's case in particular, it's hard to say whether there is any link between the cases.

Hunter said investigators are hoping a landlord, neighbor, coworker or someone else who may remember Morrison or her boyfriend will be able to come forward with a little more information about the case.

Those with information about Morrison's case are encouraged to call the Clark County Sheriff's Office Cold Case tip line at (360) 397-2036 or Crime Stoppers of Oregon at (503)283-HELP (4357).

The Clark County Sheriff's Office is offering a reward of up to \$2,500 cash for information leading to an arrest in the murder.

Storm Cleanup

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R)'s Urban Forestry division (UF), coordinating closely with the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) is working to address areas where has ice and snow have resulted in downed trees impacting roads, rights-of-way and/or private and park property. The focus for work crews is on safety and access, rather than immediate clean-up. If you come across a downed tree or limb, look up as well as down at the ground. Proceed carefully, knowing that the tree branches came from somewhere nearby and potential other hazards may remain. If anyone sees a new issue of hazardous tree in a City right-of-way, please email trees@portlandoregon.gov, or call (503) 823-TREE. You will need the site address, a good description of the issue, and to provide your name and contact info in case of any questions.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Housing cont'd from pg 1

creases and no-cause termination of tenancies, the 144-page report undoubtedly confirms that Portland's affordability continues to worsen.

With little surprise, the persisting housing crisis has disproportionately impacted the city's most vulnerable residents, including communities of color, low-income people, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

Wrote Saltzman in the report's forward, “Rents and home prices continue to rise, and housing instability and involuntary displacement are a constant presence for far too many Portlanders.”

Between 2000 and 2014, Portland's population increased by more than 83,000 individuals, currently estimated at over 612,000.

Yet five-year projections from 2014 suggest a decline in the city's African American population, particularly pronounced in the North and Northeast neighbor-

hoods of MLK-Alberta and Interstate Corridor.

“The nerve of some people to say, we're going to celebrate the African American community in these areas where we're not even prevalent. That, to me, is a

“Unaffordability just pushes people out to the less desirable, less supportive areas, that's the way gentrification works

slap in the face,” said Cheryl Roberts, executive director of the African American Alliance for Homeownership, a nonprofit that provides access to homebuyer resources for underserved individuals.

With displacement due to soaring rents that outpace incomes, Portland's racial makeup is shifting outward. The highest concentration of people of color tends to be located in Southeast Portland and Outer East. In fact, almost every East Portland neighborhood has experienced double-digit in-

creases in the proportion of the population that is from communities of color.

“Unaffordability just pushes people out to the less desirable, less supportive areas, that's the way gentrification works,” said

Roberts.

She cites other factors that also lead to the displacement of communities of color — including a lack of investment in certain areas and gang violence — which could further perpetuate a segregation of neighborhoods by income.

Roberts is calling on the city to be more inclusive in decision-making processes that affect affordability, such as how urban renewal funds are spent.

Read more at TheSkanner.com

Vacant Lot cont'd from pg 1

cent of the lot's commercial space as affordable for up to six or seven local minority businesses.

The city-subsidized project holds through a 10-year master lease agreement with the PDC and rounds out the third phase of the commission's Vanport Redevelopment. Phase I and II resulted in Vanport Square, a cluster of retail shops and small businesses, and a string of single family homes.

“All the minority and small business owners located at Vanport Square are excited to see this site finally getting developed, after years of controversy and delays,” said Jeana Woolley, secretary of Black Investment Corporation for Economic Progress Inc., a group that engages in socially responsible commercial development in Portland's North and Northeast neighborhoods.

For some Black community members and business professionals, Alberta Commons will be the culmination of what they've long wanted in the area,

regardless of past disputes over a viable grocer.

“To continue the economic development opportunities in the district, it

“All the minority and small business owners located at Vanport Square are excited to see this site finally getting developed

didn't matter what the anchor was, as long as there was some retail space that we could depend upon for minority businesses,” said John Washington of the North NorthEast Business Association, and chair of public art for Alberta Commons.

While the planning process has been arduous, Washington said it's also been an exercise in community engagement. Forgoing city steering that offers little transparency, Alberta Commons has relied on neighborhood input to drive the project.

With just over 5,000 square feet of

commercial space at their disposable, the team behind the project — a mix of businesses owners, PDC personnel, community organizers, architects and

artists — is seeking “businesses that not only culturally engage the community, but provide a service that's cost efficient, cutting edge, and lends credibility,” said Washington.

While the tenants are yet to be decided, among the types of retail businesses the Commons is vying for are restaurants and clothing shops.

“Obviously the emphasis is going to be on entrepreneurs of color,” said PDC's Tory Campbell, who co-chairs the project's retail committee.

Read the full story at TheSkanner.com

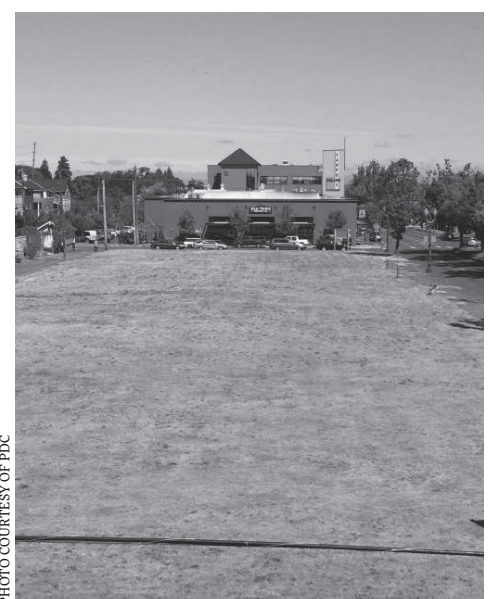


PHOTO COURTESY OF PDC

Alberta Commons is the new development at the long-vacant lot at NE Alberta Street and NE MLK Jr. Blvd. The anchor-tenant is Natural Grocers, with 50 percent of the lot's commercial space dedicated as affordable for local minority-owned businesses.