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INDIGENOUS PEOPLE DAY



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Several hundred people celebrated Indigenous Peoples Day Oct. 9 by gathering at Westlake Park and then marching to City Hall for a traditional meal, indigenous singing and dancing and speeches by community leaders.



PHOTO BY CHRISTEN MCCURDY

Karen Wells stands next to her mailbox on the front porch of her home in Portland's Alameda neighborhood

Reworked 'In Our America' Sticker Appears

Metro area residents reporting more anonymous, harassing stickers and flyers

By Christen McCurdy
Of The Skanner News

At the end of August, Karen Wells looked in her mailbox and found a sticker, without an envelope, address or stamp.

It looked a lot like the signs that have become a common sight in many Port-

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AP PHOTO/JOHNNI LOCHER

Flowers, candles and other items surround the famous Las Vegas sign at a makeshift memorial for victims of the mass shooting in Las Vegas. Stephen Paddock opened fire on an outdoor country music concert killing dozens and injuring hundreds.

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Tenants Sought for Alberta Commons

Successful applicants are offered reduced rent at the new development

By Melanie Sevckenko
Of The Skanner News

After contentious community debate and a shifting of anchor tenants, construction began last fall on the long-vacant parcel of land at Northeast Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and Northeast Alberta Street.

The 20,000-square-foot site, called Alberta Commons, is being developed by Majestic Realty and African American, family-owned Colas Construction as the general contractor. Completion is slotted for next month.

With Colorado-based Natural Grocers at the

helm, the development is dedicating 50 percent of the lot's commercial space as affordable for local businesses from underserved communities.

To help fill those spots, Alberta Commons is participating in Prosper Portland's Affordable Commercial Tenanting Program, which will secure business space for four to five successful applicants at reduced rent through its master lease with Majestic.

In addition, the selected businesses will be offered a tenant improvement package to fund construction costs, as well as technical assistance provided by Micro Enterprise Ser-

VICES OF OREGON (MESO), a nonprofit which grants micro-loans to minority entrepreneurs.

"We're looking for businesses that are going to be a great fit for Alberta Commons and be a great fit together," said Prosper Portland program manager Alison Wicks. "But businesses that don't end up in these retail spaces, there's definitely more opportunities within North and Northeast Portland, so we'll be continuing to work with them."

Prosper Portland is set to begin reviewing prospective tenants on Oct. 13. Afterwards, additional applications will be accepted on

a rolling, first-come first-serve basis until all spaces are filled. The development agency is also working with a retail tenanting subcommittee to help steer the selection process.

Created to address Portland's dramatic uptick in retail rents — exacerbated by a decrease in vacancies — the tenanting program is an attempt to compensate for the loss of several vulnerable businesses that had fallen prey to gentrification in the area.

Its focus, in particular, is to boost businesses from underrepresented communities — mainly those

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Community Rallies Around KairosPDX

The majority-Black charter school is in danger of displacement if new PPS policy passes

By Melanie Sevckenko
Of The Skanner News

While KairosPDX is faced with losing its building next year, community members and elected officials have rallied around the charter school to demand it stay put.

The Portland Public School board is currently tasked with deciding whether or not to pass a policy which

would open two new middle schools and convert several existing K-8 schools to K-5.

The district's proposal is aimed at providing richer and more focused curriculum to all students, while addressing under-enrollment at the middle grade level.

Among the changes, the historically Black Harriet Tubman Middle School would re-open and ACCESS



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAIROSPDX

KairosPDX students

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