



HOME OWNERSHIP NEWS YOU CAN USE

FALL 2009

{BREAKING NEWS} CITY OF PORTLAND AWARDED \$4 MILLION LEAD HAZARD GRANT

The Portland Development Commission and the Portland Housing Bureau have received a \$4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to reduce lead-based paint hazards. The Lead Hazard Control Grant provides resources to address lead hazards in 425 low-income households in the metropolitan area.

This new allocation will continue our lead grant program that started in 1998, which has successfully controlled lead hazards in over 1,200 units and helped well over 2,000 families. The program is regional and includes Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties. A matching contribution from the Portland Water Bureau of \$1,425,000 over the three-year life of the grant helps to provide blood lead testing for more than 2,000 at-risk children and provide outreach to 4,500 homes to educate residents about the dangers of lead paint hazards.



In Oregon, more than one in every one hundred children have blood-lead levels at or above the lead poisoning level of 10 micrograms per deciliter. Children in the Portland area are at risk of lead poisoning because almost 88 percent of the housing in Multnomah County was built before 1978 when lead-paint was still used. A 2001 study by the Multnomah

County Health Department examined houses built before 1930 in Multnomah County. Of the homes included in the study, over 70 percent contained lead hazards. There are over 28,000 homes built before 1930 in at-risk neighborhoods where older housing is concentrated. Investigators estimate that more than 6,000 children are at risk for lead poisoning in these neighborhoods alone. Not only does the program work to reduce this hazards, but also seeks to promote job training and economic opportunities for businesses that are involved with the lead abatement program.

October is Lead Poisoning Prevention Month, so take the time to get your children tested for lead. Parents and physicians often do not realize there is a risk of lead exposure, so they do not ask to have young children's blood tested for elevated lead levels. Parents may not know that their children have high lead levels because generally lead poisoning does not have any noticeable physical symptoms. You can also test your home for lead levels with a free dust wipe kit from PDC. If your home was built before 1978, the simple test can help determine if you have unsafe levels in your home.

To order a free dust wipe kit, visit www.pdc.us/leadhazard or call 503.823.3400. The new grant is expected to roll out this winter, so visit the website for updates and new information as it becomes available!

OYO: PDC PREPARES TO LAUNCH LATEST HOMEBUYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

As part of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) was established for the purpose of stabilizing communities that have suffered from foreclosures and abandonment. Using funds from the NSP, the Portland Development Commission is preparing to launch the Own Your Own (OYO) Program, a new homebuyer assistance program. We are in the final stages of development and plan to begin accepting applications in late fall. Prior to opening the application process, the Portland Development Commission and the Portland City Council must approve the program.

OYO will provide second mortgages of up to \$50,000 to income-eligible homebuyers. Homebuyers using the program must purchase foreclosed properties located in certain NSP Target Areas. The funds may be used for a 20 percent down payment, closing costs, and home repairs. The NSP Target Areas include portions of North, North East, and South East Portland, as well as portions of Maywood Park, Fairview and Troutdale. Multnomah County and the City of Portland have allocated enough funding to help at least 24 eligible households.

Due to the tremendous interest in the program, a lottery system will be used to select households from a wait list to access the funding. PDC and the City of Portland are proposing to give preference to first-time homebuyers, meaning households who have not owned and occupied a home in the past three years, and to lower income households. The selection process is subject to approval by Oregon Housing and Community Services prior to implementation.

To learn more about the program, view maps of the target areas, and to join our wait list for the lottery, visit our website at www.pdc.us/oyo.

CITY OF PORTLAND HOUSING BUREAU ON THE MOVE

In July 2009, the former Portland Bureau of Housing and Community Development became the newly formed Portland Housing Bureau under the leadership of Commissioner Nick Fish and new Executive Director Margaret Van Vliet. This fall, staff from the Portland Development Commission's housing department will join the bureau team in its new location.



The Portland Housing Bureau will be located in the Commonwealth Building downtown, at 421 SW 6th Ave. Offices will be on the fifth floor.

Stay tuned to this newsletter for updates in the coming months as the new bureau focuses its efforts on housing in Portland including home ownership, rental housing, ending homelessness, and more. We look forward to serving the residents of Portland and Multnomah County for years to come!

*Investing in
Portland's Future*

Visit Commissioner Fish's website at www.portlandonline.com/fish for more information on this transition. To keep updated on the big move, visit PHB's website, www.portlandonline.com/phb.



REPAIR YOUR HOME WITH PDC

The Portland Development Commission's Neighborhood Housing Program still has home repair funds available in the Lents Town Center and Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Areas.

The Home Repair Loan works with homeowners who may have limited resources but want to increase the safety and livability of their homes. This low-interest rate loan can help with roof repair, electrical or plumbing issues, new windows, or even a new furnace. Make your home more comfortable and energy efficient, saving you money over time!

To learn more about this program, and to see if you qualify, visit www.pdc.us/nhpnews, or give us a call at 503.823.3400.



LENTS TOWN CENTER HOME OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

On September 18, Commissioner Nick Fish joined the Portland Development Commission, Portland Housing Bureau, Albina Community Bank, Cityhouse Builders LLC,



Proud Ground, and community members to celebrate the opening of Pardee Commons, a new ten-unit homeownership project in the Lents Town Center Urban Renewal

Area. This project focuses on affordable housing along with green building techniques. Units were built with state of the art energy efficient features such as solar panels for water heating, energy-efficient appliances and lighting, low-VOC paints, maple flooring, and more! For more information on this homeownership opportunity, visit www.pardeecommons.com to find out how you can tour one of these wonderful homes.

NEWS YOU CAN USE ONLINE

Want to keep updated on current events, programs, and homes for sale? Visit our Home Ownership News You Can Use blog, and save the link to your internet favorites. Visit us often to read the news, submit comments and feedback, and to keep updated on the housing bureau transition:

<http://homeownershipnews.blogspot.com>

Look for our next issue in January 2010.

UPCOMING NHP EVENTS

HOW TO BUY A HOME OF YOUR OWN WORKSHOP, 6:00-7:30 P.M.

November 12, 2009, Lents Baptist Church
5921 SE 88th Ave, Portland, OR

2010 Dates Coming Soon!

To sign up for our workshops, visit
www.pdc.us/nhpnews

HOME BUYER & HOMEOWNER FAIRS

AAAH Homebuyer Fair
Emanuel Hospital Atrium
October 24, 2009, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
501 N Graham, Portland, OR

Fix-It Fair
Roosevelt High School
November 21, 2009, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
6941 N Central, Portland, OR

Fix-It Fair
David Douglas High School
January 9, 2009, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
1001 SE 135th, Portland, OR

Fix-It Fair
Parkrose High School
January 30, 2009, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
12003 NE Shaver, Portland, OR

FIX-IT FAIR SEASON IS HERE!

The City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability presents the 2009-2010 series of Fix-It Fairs. The Fix-It Fairs are free events designed to save you money and connect you to resources. They are held on three Saturday mornings during the winter from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at various locations around the City of Portland (see above for fair dates and locations). Fix-It Fairs are packed with resources for helping you to create a healthy home, including:

- Classes on various home and garden topics
- Money-saving, cost effective tips
- Free giveaways

Join your neighbors and talk to the experts about how to spend less and stay healthy!

Looking for more information?

Contact NHP Staff at

503-823-3400 or nhp@pdc.us

Visit our website at www.pdc.us/nhpnews



OTHERS WHO CAN HELP!

ACORN Housing Corp.
503-788-9989

African American Alliance for Homeownership
503-595-3517

Asian Pacific Islander Community Improvement Association
503-790-7540

Community Housing Resource Center
360-690-4496

Habitat for Humanity
503-287-9529

Hacienda Community Development Corp.
503-595-2111

HOST Development
503-331-1752

Latino Home Initiative
971-409-2237

East Portland Enhancement Project
503-788-8052 x105

Native American Youth & Family Center
503-288-8177 x232

Operation H.O.M.E.
503-823-4623

Proud Ground
503-493-0293

Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc.
503-288-2923

Portland Housing Center
503-282-7744

Rose Community Development Corp.
503-788-8052

Sabin Community Development Corp.
503-287-3496

