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THE BEE

Friday, January 04, 2013



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Westmoreland's 'Keana's Candyland' continues to fight for survival

Created on Thursday, 20 December 2012 03:00 | Written by [Peter Korchnak](#) |

As THE BEE reported last April, the building that houses Keana's Candyland on S.E. Milwaukie Avenue, just south of McLoughlin Boulevard, has been up for sale by a property investment company that had bought it out of foreclosure.

The "For Sale" sign went down in June, but reappeared at the end of the summer, only to be taken down again before Hallowe'en.

Owner Tanea Storm says she's working to raise \$30,000 for a down payment on the \$389,000 building, originally a house, in order to secure a favorable



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mortgage loan. “We lost the building seven years ago to predatory lenders, and we hope to buy it back,” Storm asserted. “The investment company has been working with us.”

John Regier, owner of JDR Property Investment, says his company extended Candyland’s lease twice to give Storm time to find a lender or new owner to lease from. He said, “I’m not in the position to buy and hold because, unfortunately, we have expensive financing on the building.”

Despite its being cut down by vandals a number of times, Storm said, “The ‘For Sale’ sign hurt the business because people thought we were closing.”

As Mr. and Mrs. Claus entered the building to entertain the kids at the December 1st Chocolate Festival [for information about more Holiday events at Keana’s Candyland, go online to: www.keanascandyland.net], she added, “We’ve been here for 39 years, and we’re still here. We’re like the ‘Neverending Story’.”

In her effort to save Candyland, Storm counts on the support of all Portlanders. As THE BEE went to press, she planned a December 15th fundraising event, featuring the Clauses and a gingerbread house contest. Referring to Candyland’s outreach programs for vulnerable kids, she added, “Everything we do goes back to the community. We help kids make dreams come true. The more people help, the more kids will benefit.”

If she manages to secure the building, Storm plans to expand Candyland into an interactive children’s museum. A minister of 17 years, she also plans to annually improve Christmas decorations on the property, perhaps to make it an Inner Southeast counterpart to the city’s famed Peacock Lane.

Until then, although Regier supports Candyland’s mission, he has found himself under financial pressure. “[Storm] is a nice woman with a good company and I hope it works out for her. But I’ve held onto the building longer than I should have. There’s only so much that I can do.”



by: PETER KORCHNAK - Tanea Storm, owner of Keana’s Candyland, the distinctive candy cane house on S.E. Milwaukie Avenue, overlooking the north end of Oaks Bottom.

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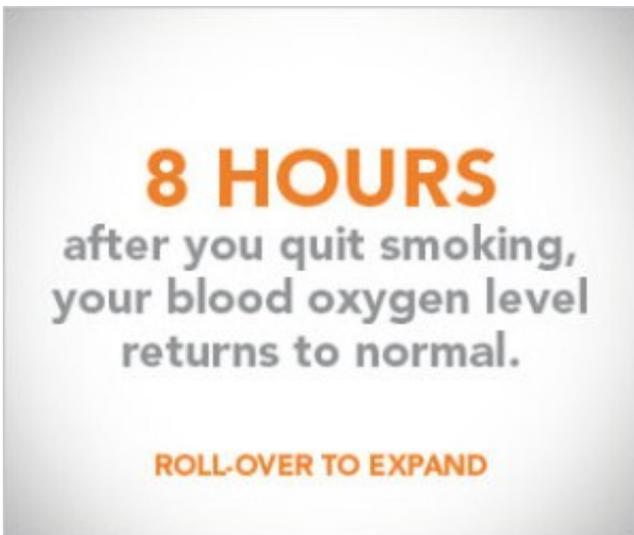
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The Perils of Candyland continue. In the meantime, check it out for lunch sometime soon.



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