

On the market: pricey Portland penthouses

By Janet Eastman
jeastman@oregonian.com
November 21, 2015

At least once in your life, you should live high in the sky and see birds out your windows instead of trees.

For this week's real estate gallery, we look at homes on the market or recently sold with penthouse views.

Not only are the listing prices lofty, but so are the homeowner's fees and the price per square foot. Multnomah County's median list price is around \$400,000 or about \$252 a square foot, according to the real estate source Redfin, based on information of the market over the last 90 days.

Now look up.

A 3,273-square-foot Pearl District penthouse is listed for just shy of \$3.25 million, which breaks down to a skyscraping \$993 a square foot.

Another Pearl District penthouse, which is smaller than the first at only 2,484 square feet, is \$1,087 a square foot based on the asking price of nearly \$2.7 million.

Buying the place is only some of the expense. A penthouse comes with steep property taxes too. One owner pays \$42,539 a year for a place on top of Portland's Nob Hill. Homeowner's fees are another \$1,981 a month, or almost \$24,000 a year.

Why are some people willing to throw money into the air for the top floor of a highrise? Status. Glamour. Unobstructed views.

And let's not forget how penthouses have been promoted in our culture. As Lisa Douglas sang in the 1960s sitcom "Green Acres." *I just adore a penthouse view. Dah-ling I love you but give me Park Avenue.*

What's a top floor condo without walls of windows? Look at the views at 3601 SW River Pkwy #2907 in Portland MLS #15309390. Photo provided by Sean Z. Becker Real Estate.

