



The Other Side of the Fence

E-News from ONI ~ March 2006

Enhancing the quality of neighborhoods through community participation

ONI's \$5.4 million budget request gets nod from Mayor, Commissioners Sten, Leonard

By Amalia G. Alarcón



Other than urging ONI not to reduce the Elders in Action budget, Commissioners Erik Sten and Randy Leonard last week Tuesday supported ONI's basic \$5.4 million budget proposal for next fiscal year starting July 1.

Also, a key (unexpected) piece is that they both want to restore to ONI the \$250,000 that Mayor Potter

directed us to allocate to the visioning project in 06-07.

The meeting kicked off with the Mayor, commissioner-in-charge, presenting the budget. He said he was very excited about what's happening at ONI and talked about the inclusive community budget process we undertook and the Right Budget for ONI. He mentioned that we had been directed to allocate \$250,000 for visioning in 06-07. He thanked all the folks involved in making our budget happen and expressed his full support for our Right Budget proposal.

At that point he turned it over to me and I talked in a bit more detail about the Right Budget, those efficiencies the committee had deemed to make sense, the level beyond which the committee did not support cuts, the fact that we took a larger hit than many other bureaus last year, and the reinvestment of the dollars saved back out to the community.



Doretta Schrock, vice president of Kenton Neighborhood Association

Budget process 'very cooperative'

Doretta Schrock, a member of ONI's Budget Advisory Committee, which came up with the current proposal before Council, describes the process as historic. The 30-member committee "was a great collection of folks" and included citizens, contractors, coalition leaders as well as ONI staff. "In the past, we've never had such broad representation. People worked very hard. It's always hard to talk about cuts... But everyone walked away feeling really good. That's never been the case in the past."

Then I covered the innovations we're proposing within that Right Budget. Linda Nettekoven and Doretta Schrock each made a statement about the transitional nature of FY 06-07 as well as the inclusive and community focused nature of the process.

Commissioners Leonard and Sten asked what we would do if we had the full \$500,000 (pot of money created through our cuts in 05-06) for this next fiscal year.

We presented what had been agreed to at the Bureau Advisory Committee (BAC): increasing the neighborhood grants, increasing communications, adding dollars to help mitigate rising insurance costs for coalitions, and keeping about 10% within ONI to support the work of the BIP Team 8 and 9 having to do with the neighborhood system and public involvement.

Both Commissioners said they were inclined to support the \$250,000 for visioning next year coming out of City one-time funds and not from the ONI budget. They also stated they would not be inclined to support the reduction to the Elders in Action budget.

The Office of Management and Finance then did their fiscal analysis, which fully supported the Right Budget for ONI.

The team then took testimony and about a half dozen people testified, all largely in favor of some or all our proposed initiatives. Elders In Action was there, represented by Vicky Hersen, new Executive Director, and Cam Richardson, BAC member.

Vicky was extremely gracious and spoke to the Commissioners about looking forward to forging closer ties with ONI, the Coalitions and the Neighborhoods to continue to bring the voices and wisdom of elders to the process. Maria Thi Mai was also there from Commissioner Adams's office and she expressed his probable support of Team A's position that Elders budget not get reduced and that the full \$500,000 get reinstated to ONI.

Many thanks to all the folks from SWNI, SEUL, EPNO, CMM, NPNS, ONI staff and Linda and Doretta who sat at the table with Eric King and myself.

Council budget recommendations will be released on March 31, followed by an April 8 budget forum. The location will be announced soon so keep an eye out on the community budget web site.

Labor, employees and citizens at the table

ONI budget forged in collaborative spirit

ONI's \$5.4 million budget proposal for FY 2006-07, endorsed by the Mayor last month and supported last week by two other council members, was crafted by a 30-member advisory committee. It included members from the ONI BAC committee, the ONI Employee/Management Advisory Committee; AFSCME Local 189; Neighborhood District Coalition office; Resolutions Northwest; Elders in Action and several citizens. Facilitating the group was the Decisions, Decisions firm.

The committee has been working on the package since December putting in countless hours of work. The process, said Interim Director Amalia Alarcón, has been transparent, inclusive, respectful, responsive and “full of hope and humor.” The proposed ONI budget represents 1.4 percent of the city’s total General Fund—\$382.5 million.

After looking at separate options of 1, 2 and 3 % cuts, the committee decided to propose the “Right Budget” for ONI. This Right Budget reduces costs through efficiencies that don’t affect service levels and re-invests those savings back into ONI’s community partners.

First, the Neighborhood Inspection Team (NIT) would move back to the Bureau of Development Services (BDS) to refocus ONI’s mission and to facilitate that team in providing seamless services. The move of NIT to BDS would include 19 positions and more than \$2 million of expenditures and their offsetting revenues.

The remaining three ONI Livability staff would move from the Columbia Square building back to City Hall saving \$21,059 a month in rent. BGS is reporting the likelihood that the Revenue Bureau will take over the Columbia Square lease.

Also proposed to meet the 1% cut level was a reduction to the Elders in Action contract of \$33,720 tied to salary savings affected by the departure of a City paid Executive Director and subsequent hiring of a non-profit Executive Director, for a total cut of \$54,779.

Under the 2 % cut option, the ONI director would take over supervision of the NRC and eliminate the need for the NRC Program Manager, who would become a Neighborhood Programs Coordinator for a savings of \$22,320.

Savings from the proposed 1 % cuts and from the downgrade of the NRC program manager position would be added to ONI’s \$250,000 Community Visioning & Empowerment funds. These funds would then be used to do the following:

- \$70,000 for Civic Leadership Academy for communities of color
- \$45,000 for Community Engagement Initiative for Coalitions & Neighborhoods
- \$140,000 Neighborhood Grants Program
- \$60,000 Communications funds to be divided among the coalitions to improve the ability of the neighborhoods to disseminate information
- \$5,000 to the ONI Neighborhood Legal Defense Fund.

The committee proposed continuing the ACCESS program with interagency funding from the Police Bureau. ACCESS has been successful in reducing arrests and crimes downtown.

To see the complete budget proposal report, check out the following website:

<http://www.portlandonline.com/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=108494>



Sarah Keele takes job As HR coordinator

ONI staff bade a hearty farewell to Sarah Keele, ONI's Business Operations Supervisor for nearly two years, at a goodbye party last week

She will start her new job at the Bureau of Human Resources as a HR Coordinator Monday, March 20. Sarah said she is really looking forward to this assignment as she has enjoyed working with Bureau of Human Resources staff and had done so for several years - particularly before she started in ONI and worked in Risk Management handling employment-related tort charges and claims. Sarah will be working with the Revenue Bureau, Printing and Distribution, Risk Management, City Fleet, and Facilities Management. Good luck Sarah!

Eric King appointed as Interim Business Operations Supervisor

Interim Director Amalia Alarcón last week announced the appointment of Crime Prevention Manager Eric King as Interim Business Operations Supervisor, the position previously held by Sarah Keele. "Eric has been with the bureau for over six years in a variety of program and management positions which have prepared him well to take on fiscal, human resources, and other functions during this critical time for the bureau," she said.

Brian Hoop is filling in for Amalia as the interim Neighborhood Resource Center Manager through the end of the fiscal year or whenever a new permanent ONI Director is hired. Nickole Cheron, Disability Coordinator, will be filling in half time to assist as the interim Neighborhood Program Coordinator through this spring. Other ONI staff will also likely be assisting with Neighborhood Program duties this spring.

Brian, Nickole (.5 FTE), and Carol Justice (.2 FTE) will continue to manage/coordinate District Coalition contracts, assist with ONI Standards and non-profit issues, leadership training for Neighborhood Associations with the Coalitions, maintenance of the database, neighborhood directory, bylaws and maps, resolution of grievances, and assist with several Bureau Innovation Project committees and other special projects at the request of Council.





Stephanie Reynolds named Interim Crime Prevention Manager

Stephanie Reynolds started her new job as Interim Crime Prevention Manager this week Monday and brings a wealth of crime prevention experience, including Director of the Women's Strength Program and her work as the SW Crime Prevention Coordinator, said ONI Interim Director Amalia Alarcón.

"ONI will continue to face some staffing "musical chairs" as we fill the gap left by Stephanie's appointment. I will keep you posted as to changes and opportunities, so please stay tuned," said Amalia.

Stephanie was raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She moved to Portland in 1985 to go to college and never left. She is married, no kids, and lives in inner Southeast Portland. From 1989 to 1997, she worked for McMenemy's and volunteered for the Police Bureau's WomenStrength Program as a self-defense instructor. She was director of the program in from 1997 to 2002. She was hired as Crime Prevention Program Coordinator in 2002 and worked out of the Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. office.

Anne Peterson hired as Downspout coordinator

Anne Peterson, a longtime community organizer, has taken Lauren Norris' place as Downspout Disconnect Coordinator. A Southeast Portland native, Peterson founded the grassroots group Neighborhood Pride Team and helped create the Brentwood-Darlington Community Center. She was also part of the Marshall High School cluster and director of ROSE Child Care Neighbor Network.

"I know a wide range of people who work in government, non-profit and community development organizations from my years of work coordinating the Outer Southeast Caring Community, and I'm looking forward to working with old friends and meeting new ones in my new post," she said.



"In my free time I like to work in my garden which is my own "24-hour fitness center." I maintain an established landscape and grow a range of fruits and cane berries as well as a summer vegetable garden, and I like to entertain family and friends with summer barbeques and yard parties. I like to build props and make costumes which has been a fun way to be involved in some local arts-related organizations " Welcome aboard Anne!

David Allred to provide BES/ONI partnership outreach



David, a planner/community organizer with Neighbors West/Northwest since 1996, will take over for Joleen Jensen-Classen providing community outreach for the BES/ONI partnership on sewer related capital improvement projects.

Starting next week, David will provide outreach to businesses, residents and interested stakeholders affected by old sewer maintenance projects, new sewer construction including some combined sewer overflow (CSO) big pipe project, and some watershed protection projects. Some key upcoming projects will include the Westside Tanner Creek/Sunset Highway and West Burnside St. projects getting underway in the next several months. Joleen is now working as a public involvement specialist with the Portland Development Commission.

In his NWNW planner role, David assisted Neighborhood Associations activities and planning for drafting community policy and zoning plans. This included reviewing land use proposals

and facilitating citizen response and assisting citizens with dealing with government bureaus and mediation between development interests and citizen groups. He has a broad range of experiences assisting citizens with key City Capital Improvement Projects, Healthy Streams Project, PGE Park Good Neighbor Agreement, and Portland Streetcar to name a few.

David also has a background in real estate development including a residential site in conjunction with the creation of a federally protected wetlands mitigation area. He is certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners and member of the American Planning Association.

New intern Alicia Crain joins staff

Alicia Crane, new intern onboard, is working to initiate partnerships between neighborhood associations and neighborhood schools. "I am doing outreach not just to the schools themselves, but also to groups like Community and Parents for Public Schools, HOPE for Public Schools, PTAs, and individual citizen activists who see the need for these connections to be broader, stronger, and sustainable."

She came Northwest from the Springfield IL, and spent three years studying rock climbing and yoga at Oregon State



University, with some time saved for Environmental Science and Philosophy. She graduated in 2003, packed her car and

moved to Orlando to work for ACORN but eight weeks later moved back, this time to Portland. She worked for SEIU, completed bartending school in Eugene, and joined Americorps*VISTA at Camp Fire USA.

When Americorps ended last November last year, she landed two jobs— one as crew leader for the Downspout Disconnection Team and the other as a phone surveyor for PSU. She likes to hike, go to the beach, camp, backpack, travel, dine out, see foreign films, dance, chill out at home in NoPo, and work on my bike. She's an avid biker and has applied to the Urban Planning program at PSU to study make alternative transportation not so alternative. And Sisters of the Road Cafe is my favorite non-outdoors/nature-related place in Portland."



Working out of ONI office

Alex Johnson is new intern for Mayor

I will be working as an intern for the Office of the Mayor (stationed in ONI) for the next few months staffing the Bureau Innovation Project Goal #8 meetings. I will be providing support to encourage the involvement of diverse cultural communities and neighborhood associations in this important process.

A graduate of Lincoln School (Class of 2000), I received a Bachelor's of Science in Natural Resources: Cultural Dimensions in Recreation from the Oregon State University College of Forestry in 2004. I will be finishing a Master's of Public Policy in Applied Diversity Policy at Oregon State University this spring. For the past few years I have been working as a Graduate Research Assistant at the Oregon State University Office of Community and Diversity, acting as

a student liaison between our office and the community.

My interests include environmental justice, ethnic studies, photography, Hip Hop production, and International Films.

New volunteer on board to help with graffiti clean up

Marcia Dennis, ONI's Graffiti Abatement Coordinator, announced that a new volunteer joined the program last week. Please welcome Jean Thompson. Jean will be helping out on Wednesdays from 10-2 at Columbia Square (besides doing graffiti removal in her Cully neighborhood). She will also be helping Marcia downtown to help her catch up on administrative work. "She's going to be a great help!" said Marcia

Jean will be working at the computer desk next to Travis in the Crime Prevention cubicle...please say "hi" when you see her.



“Simply” Mo is the artist of the painting above in Commissioner Randy Leonard’s office March 2.

First Thursday celebrates African-American Art

Monica Lester Bell

Of Portland climbed out of a place of pain, disappointment and broken promises by putting together and forging art out of broken pieces of glass she scrounged for in her daily life.

PHOTOS BY NELL WAGENAAR



Information and Referral

Phone Directory mailing project gets a little boost

I&R just completed mailing out about 10,000 of our new Pocket Phone Directories. There are several boxes left so if you have any community events you are involved in feel free to contact I&R to get a supply to hand out at these types of events

The project got a little mailing help from the two Mayas, Woodstock 5th graders in the Mandarin Immersion program. Maya Fulan Yue, at right, is the daughter of I&R staffer Nell Wagenaar.



ONI Safety Committee to implement City Hall CPTED, acquires Columbia Bldg defribulator

By John Dutt

The ONI Safety Committee has begun in earnest to identify and resolve safety issues within the bureau. Over the past month we have been distributing a survey to all ONI staff to ascertain what the primary concerns are regarding safety and wellness in our various workspaces. This data will help guide us in prioritizing issues we need to work to resolve.

At our February meeting we officially welcomed Carol Justice as the 5th member of the committee. Carol jumped right in and volunteered to organize the data from the survey. We were still getting them back at the time of that meeting but hope to have all results by our mid-March meeting.

The committee has also been working with BGS and ONI Management staff to implement recommendations from the CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) Report regarding the office in City Hall. We met with BGS and Harris Worksystems to discuss reconfiguring some office cubicle walls to allow for better staff access between the front and back of the office and to create a better barrier between the staff and public areas in the office.

We are also working with BGS to ascertain options and costs for improving egress from the back "emergency exit" door, installing an emergency notification system, putting in some

convex mirrors to improve sight lines and outfitting the break room to serve as a “safe room” in the even of an emergency that would require such a space.

Safety Committee member Ed Marihart was successful in working with the Office of Emergency Management to acquire a defibrillator at no cost for the ONI office at the Columbia Bldg. Staff at that location will be receiving training on proper use of the equipment this month.

I&R receives nearly 200 applicants for staff vacancy

February 10th was the last day for Nicole Murphy-Garcia, as she left the I&R unit to join the Bureau of Revenue. As a result, we have been very short-staffed as we have been going through the hiring process. The job announcement closed on February 27th and we had nearly 200 applicants. Through the application review process we have narrowed the field to 43 and are now in the final phases of the hiring process. We hope to have our new team member on board by the end of the month.

Despite being short-staffed the I&R program continues to maintain a very high level of customer service and responsiveness. We finished the month of February just a bit under our 90% of calls answered within 25 seconds at 89.5%. March will be another challenging month as we continue to operate down one position.

Crime Prevention – Neighborhood Livability

Forum to look at safety in SE Portland Parks

By Galina Grigoryan

The next Quarterly Public Safety Forum to brainstorm ways we can utilize to help keep our parks safe and clean to enjoy, will be held on Monday, April 24 from 5:30 - 7p.m. at the Brentwood-Darlington Community Center, 7261 SE 62nd Avenue. The selected topic for that evening's forum will be safety issues in SE Portland Parks.

The panel of speakers will include: Rosie Sizer, SE Precinct, Commander; Dan Saltzman, Parks Commissioner; Gary Naylor, President, Laurelhurst Neighborhood; Mark Warrington, Parks Bureau Security Manager; Galina Grigoryan, Crime Prevention Administrator; Jeff Milkes, Parks Zone Manager; Stephanie Reynolds, Public Safety Volunteer, Creston-Kenilworth Neighborhood; Ron Sumner, Co-chair, Brentwood-Darlington Neighborhood; and Mt. Tabor Park Foot Patrol representatives.

Neighborhood Watch and Foot patrol volunteers are encouraged to attend this event to represent their organizational position on this issue during an open dialogue portion of the forum where participants will have an opportunity to ask panelists questions, provide ideas, and suggestions for park safety improvements.

No RSVP is required and there is limited on-site parking. On street parking is available too. Car-pooling is encouraged.

For more information, contact me at 503-823-3432 ggrigoryan@ci.portland.or.us or Rosanne Lee, 503-823-0540 Rosanne.lee@ci.portland.or.us

Neighborhood Inspections

NIT grants Good Neighbor/Neighborhood Awards

By Ed Marihart

Kudos go to several Neighborhood Associations that have responded to the call when asked to help vulnerable people in need that were posted with nuisance violations. The Powellhurst-Gilbert Neighborhood Association was very willing to provide a drop box with a Metro dump voucher to help assist a citizen that had a nuisance posting and due to the individual's health issues and financial difficulties was having trouble with the required clean up. The Foster-Powell Neighborhood Association officers went to a vulnerable property owner in need and picked up a large amount of cardboard and recycled it for them. The Multnomah Neighborhood Association was willing to help a senior that had been posted to remove a dead tree if needed.

Additional Kudos go out to a group of volunteers from George Fox University, led by Jeff Vanderstoop, who have worked several Saturdays over the last several months in assisting with clean ups of several Senior owner occupied properties that have had nuisance postings. They have been great to work with and are providing a GREAT community service to improve Neighborhood Livability.

Again a special thank you and recognition to the above listed organizations that have given so generously of their time and energy. They are true examples of Portland's neighborhood spirit.

Neighborhood Livability improved

This fiscal year sees more property clean ups than last

By Ed Marihart

NIT Statistics for FY 04-05:

Total # of Intakes	9320
Community Court	105
Disabled Vehicles	1095
Nuisances	6543
Housing	1577

Total # of Inspections	19975
Disabled Vehicles	2180
Nuisances	13057
Housing	4738

Total # of Mailed Notices	12748
Community Court	105
Disabled Vehicles	1367
Nuisances	8955
Housing	2321

Total # of Search Warrants Served	347
Disabled Vehicles	85
Nuisances	260

Housing	2
Total # of Cases Contractor Abated	329
Disabled Vehicles	40
Nuisances	289
# of Waivers of Code Enforcement Fees Requested	292
# of Waivers Granted	268
# of Waivers Denied	24
# of Administrative Reviews Held	1249
# of Hearings taken to Code Hearings	47
# of Community/Neighborhood Meetings Attended	275
# of Phone Calls Answered	approx. 20,000

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS FOR NIT FOR FY 04-05 & FY 05-06

<u>Effectiveness:</u>	<u>FY04-05</u>	<u>FY 05-06</u>
- Number of properties Cleaned Up to Code	7639	8093
- Number of Housing Units Brought Up to Code	1578	1525
- Number of Waivers Granted	263	275

Workload

- Number of Nuisance Intakes	7639	7750
- Number of Nuisance Inspections	15238	17500
- Number of Housing Intakes	1578	1625
- Number of Housing/Derelict Bldg. Inspections	4739	4750
- Number of Waiver Requests	288	305

An additional measurement: Average number of days between case in and case close date

- Nuisance Cases	31	33
- Housing Cases	189	175

The average number of days for nuisance cases reflects increased work load/case load with the same number of inspectors, 11. This is evidenced by more Administrative Search Warrants served, more Nuisance Abatements performed and more vulnerable population properties assisted. This reflects an overall positive impact on and an overall improvement of Neighborhood Livability.

The decrease in the average number of days for Housing cases reflects a more proactive working of the cases and case management for resolution by again the same number of Housing Inspectors, 7. This also reflects an overall improvement and a positive impact on Neighborhood Livability by providing safer housing and preventing the deterioration of existing housing.

Landlord training program teaches good management

By Ed Marihart

The Office of Neighborhood Involvement is sponsoring a series of four presentations of the Landlord Training Program this Spring. The all-day free training begins at 8:30 a.m. The program's manual, now in its 12th edition, will be available for purchase at the trainings. The manual is a valuable resource for property management with information on current Oregon landlord-tenant law and key aspects of residential property maintenance requirements in the city of Portland.

The four sessions of the City of Portland's Landlord Training Program Spring 2006 series will be held as follows:

1. Monday, March 13, Adventist Medical Center, 10123 SE Market St.
2. Saturday, March 18, Providence Medical Center - THIS SESSION IS FULL
3. Monday March 20, Adventist Medical Center
4. Wednesday, March 22, Adventist Medical Center

This is the original program, updated to current laws and issues, which has been adopted by over 400 cities and counties across the nation. Presented by the program's author, John Campbell of Campbell DeLong Resources, Inc., the content of the course reflects in-depth research with organizations and individuals in police work, housing maintenance, property management, law, and public housing. Topics covered include applicant screening, rental agreements, lease enforcement, property maintenance, and crisis resolution including problem-solving techniques when working with police and housing maintenance inspectors.

Registration for the Landlord Training Program is also available via the Internet at the website for the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, www.portlandonline.com/oni <<http://www.portlandonline.com/oni>>. This season's training schedule and manual can be viewed and printed at the same site. By phone, information and registration can be also obtained by calling ONI's Landlord Training Program line at 503-823-7955.

NIT initiates new drug lab clean up program

By Ed Marihart

The State of Oregon passed legislation last year to define state designated Meth Drug Labs that are unfit for use and have not been cleaned up within six months as a Public Nuisance. Starting January 1 this year, Neighborhood Inspections began using Title 29's, Property Maintenance Regulations, and nuisance abatement process to clean up meth drug lab contamination on properties that have remained on the State of Oregon's Unfit for Use list for over six months.

Currently there are 11 properties on the Meth Drug Lab List and most of these properties are vacant. 2 of these properties have been on the Meth Drug Lab list since 2000. Of the 11 properties, 9 are more than 6 months old and have been posted as nuisances and are proceeding through the nuisance process. If the properties are not cleaned up and certified for use again by the State of Oregon, then our office will obtain a Search Warrant from the Court,

serve the Search Warrant to enter the property and do a cleanup and allow access to contractors to do an assessment and give a bid. The contractors would be from the State certified list and would do pre testing and propose a Work plan to the State for their approval. Once the work is approved and completed by the contractor, the State would test the property and then issue a Certificate of Fitness. The costs incurred by the contractor would be billed and placed as a lien against the property.

Other Updates from Neighborhood Inspections

- The Neighborhood Inspections Program Brochure has been translated into Spanish and is now at the printers. This was done in house by our bi-lingual staff. A special thank you to Lee Gonzales, Maria Acott and Anna Dibenedetto for taking on and completing this project.
- As a result of a settlement agreement of a lawsuit filed in District Court, All Nuisance Postings, Notices and Letters have been updated with new language informing property owners of their right to request a reasonable accommodation under the ADA: "If you have a disability that makes it difficult for you to comply with this notice, please call 503-823-7306 to request a reasonable accommodation." The new policy formalizes current policy of providing additional time or to help find other non-profit or volunteer resources in order to correct/remove the violations, if the request for a Reasonable Accommodation has been accepted.
- Neighborhood Inspections has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Multnomah County Health Department: Multnomah County Healthy Homes Cooperative to:
 1. provide housing inspections for Healthy Homes Complaints and give a higher priority in responding,
 2. incorporate Healthy Homes concepts and resources and education into housing inspections,
 3. facilitate attendance of housing inspectors at Healthy Homes workshops,
 4. promote Multnomah County Healthy Homes Cooperative through our outreach, presentations and publications where appropriate,
 5. serve on the Multnomah County Healthy Homes Cooperative Advisory Board,
 6. provide links on each other's website.The Multnomah County Health Homes Cooperative is a program aimed to decrease exposure to household hazards for low-income households to asthma and other serious illnesses among children under the age of 6. 200 homes will receive home and health interventions that will address asthma, environmental and housing issues and other health hazards.

Inspectors are available to meet with Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Coalitions or other Community Groups to discuss/explain the Neighborhood Inspections Programs. Please call 503-823-7306 to schedule.

COALITIONNEWS **COALITIONNEWS** **COALITION**

Neighbors Learning from Neighbors

Networking continues in the Southeast Uplift Coalition Area

By Angela Southwick

In February, representatives from eight neighborhoods in the Southeast Uplift Coalition area and other community groups came together to discuss fundraising and grant writing at the



Angela Southwick

most recent Neighborhood Networking Forum, “Adding the Shoes into a Shoestring Budget: Fundraising and Grant writing.” Three presenters discussed their experiences with the “Nothing is Impossible” program in Northeast, the Ardenwald-Johnson Creek Garden Tour, and the individual donations solicited for the 57th Avenue Deli site in Mt. Tabor.

Then neighbors discussed a wide variety of related issues including recruiting volunteers, social venture enterprise, and looking for small grant opportunities. The participants learned a lot about capacity building, raising funds, and finding innovative ways to achieve their community goals.

On Thursday, March 23 this networking opportunity continues with “Neighborhood Power! Advocating for Change at City Hall.” The schedule is set for 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Southeast Uplift, 3534 SE Main.

Then, on Wednesday, April 26 the next Forum titled “Have Your Cake and Eat it Too: Enjoy Running an Effective Neighborhood,” is scheduled from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Southeast Uplift, 3534 SE Main. This is an opportunity for neighborhood leaders to discuss meeting facilitation, team building, visioning, building institutional memory, etc.

Southeast Uplift initiated the Neighborhood Networking Forums in response to the neighborhood leadership’s desire to learn more about the successes and the challenges of volunteering in and serving their neighborhoods. The Forums provide an opportunity for neighborhoods to get together and learn from each other. Neighborhood residents are all welcome to join these great networking opportunities! For more information contact Angela Southwick at angela@southeastuplift.org or at 503.232.0010 x315.

Southwest Neighborhoods to hold Candidates Fair

If you are starting to think about the May primary elections, come to the Candidates Fair sponsored by Southwest Neighborhoods Monday, April 3, at 7 p.m. (information tables open at 6:30 p.m.) at the Multnomah Center Auditorium, 7688 SW Capitol Highway.

There are a number of candidates running for City Commissioner #2 (incumbent Erik Sten), City Commissioner #3 (incumbent Dan Saltzman) and Multnomah County Chair (incumbent Diane Linn). We have invited all the candidates who have filed for these positions. Candidates will have an opportunity to make a short statement regarding their platform, and answer questions important to residents.

Action facts for last quarter

Elders in Action helps seniors with ID thefts

In the past quarter, Elders in Action Ombudsman Volunteers:

- Recovered \$17,000 for elderly victim of identity theft.



- Recouped \$8,600 for elderly victim of identity theft and wrongful billing.
- Educated 308 individuals this past quarter through our Community Education
- Assisted 175 individuals with problems in the areas Housing, Healthcare and Crime and Elder abuse.

If you know of a senior 60 and older, or a person with a long term disability, who is having problems with housing, healthcare, crime, or abuse please call our Ombudsman Services at 503 823-5293.

Keep current on issues facing Portland area seniors and Elders in Action's work in the community. Sign up for our free bi-monthly electronic newsletter at www.eldersaction.org Together we can ensure Elders in Action as a powerful voice for local seniors.

Do you know your city?

Well February's question was another stump town stumper I guess – either that or no one is bothering to read to the end of the newsletter. A little reminder that we are talking about a mega-grand prize for this year's winner come June! No one correctly answered that the world's largest log cabin once lived within the Northwest District Association boundaries before burning to the ground in 1964. It stood near the current location of the Montgomery Park Building.

For this month we'll try one more neighborhood based trivia...

Within the boundaries of what current neighborhood would you have once found the 2nd largest city in Oregon prior to 1948?

The first person to correctly respond by emailing the Trivia Guru at jdutt@ci.portland.or.us will be crowned our monthly winner. At the end of the year we will have a final showdown of our monthly winners to determine the grand prizewinner and the ONI Portland Trivia champ.



The Other Side of the Fence

The Other side of the Fence is a monthly newsletter published by the City of Portland's Office of Neighborhood Involvement. If you have questions or story ideas, please contact Nell Wagenaar, editor, at 503-823-2569 or email nwagenaar@ci.portland.or.us