



# The Other Side of the Fence

E-News from ONI ~ April 2004

Enhancing the quality of neighborhoods through community participation.

## Crime Prevention

By Staff

How important is it to have a “Neighborhood Watch” on your block? Very, according to **Dave Austin, Central Northeast Neighbors’ (CNN)** Crime Prevention Coordinator.

With incidents of crime growing the importance of keeping an eye out for those that live in our community is crucial. Many neighbors may believe that they already have a “Neighborhood Watch” because they currently are vigilant about watching the comings and goings in their area. According to Dave, however, there is much more to a Neighborhood Watch than being alert or just having a Neighborhood Watch sign on your street.

Dave wants to get as many **active** “Neighborhood Watches” functioning as possible so that communications between neighbors, both business and residential, and the Portland Police Bureau can be as quick and as accurate as possible. To make this happen and to make it easy for neighbors to get their “Neighborhood Watches” going, Dave will be hosting an evening Neighborhood Watch orientation on Wednesday, June 16th at CNN’s Community Room, 4415 N.E. 87th Avenue from 6:30—8:00 P.M.

Dave is urging everyone in the CNN Coalition to attend this very important meeting to learn how easy it is to form a “Neighborhood Watch.”

**Southeast Uplift’s (SEUL)** phones are ringing like crazy! With the Spring Break and the warmer weather, we’ve experienced a huge increase in problem-driven calls and e-mails from residents and business owners. Main complaints have been livability driven and were addressed via referral and problem-solving efforts. A number of foot patrol and neighborhood watch packets have been distributed to folks interested in organizing and a number of trainings have been scheduled for April and May.

In addition to our usual problem-solving efforts and commitments, we are actively working on the Public Safety Planning Campaign entitled “SE Portland’s Attitude Against Crime” and are currently in the process of identifying stakeholders and partners, as well as recruiting volunteers for the Public Safety Committee.

The Public Safety Committee (PSC) will work in conjunction with the Crime Prevention Program, South East Uplift Coalition members, Portland Police Bureau, and other agency stakeholders to develop a community-based Public Safety Plan and Strategy for SE area reflective of the community’s diversity, needs, issues, and vision. A special volunteer orientation is scheduled for May 27, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at SEUL to provide volunteers with information about the public safety planning process and to recruit members for the public safety committee.

We are also excited to have Angie Avery our new program volunteer on board. Angie started with us on March 22. She will work here until August 1 on the Crime prevention

internship project, some elements of public safety planning process, and other projects related to crime prevention programming in SE.

For more information about crime prevention projects in SE, please contact **Galina Boyechko** at 503-232-0010 x23 or **Rosanne Lee** at 503-232-0010 x24. Or e-mail them at [gboyechko@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:gboyechko@ci.portland.or.us) or [rosanne.lee@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:rosanne.lee@ci.portland.or.us)

**Southwest Portland (SWNI) Crime Prevention Coordinator Stephanie Reynolds** has been working on rewriting the Community Foot Patrol manual, setting up a city-wide training about identity theft which will take place on April 28th, and preparing to train the Police Bureau's Advanced Academy about how police and crime prevention work together. This month at the meeting of the Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. Public Safety/Crime Prevention committee, Sgt. Eric Schober of the Drugs and Vice Division of the Portland Police Bureau spoke to neighborhood representatives about methamphetamine and meth labs. It was very informative, and Sgt. Schober said he is available to speak to other community groups.

**William Warren**, ONI CPPC, for **Neighbors West/Northwest** reports that the Saturday, April 3rd, Neighbors West Northwest sponsored Crime Prevention Workshop was a promising event! There were attendees beyond the northwest neighborhoods. A full compliment of crime prevention printed materials was distributed to all those attending for inclusion in the free Safety Matters three ring binder given to each participant. The coalition plans to make the workshop an annual event, to be held on the first Saturday of April.

**North Portland Neighborhood Service Center (NPNS)** is supporting the efforts of the Crime Prevention Program, to revitalizing the Public Safety Action Committee (PSAC). PSAC will establish a core group of citizens. This core group will be made up of the Block Captains, Neighborhood Watch Leaders, Apartment Watch Leaders, Business Watch Leaders, neighborhood association members and neighborhood citizens concerned with 'crime and livability' issues at the neighborhood level. The focus will be on North Portland crime and livability issues. The 'action' will be to provide the participating citizens with the knowledge, training and contacts to solve the issues of concern.

Crime prevention will bring a multitude of resources and/ or contacts to the PSAC meetings to provide the training and knowledge to the citizens. The citizens will then take this knowledge and training back to their neighborhoods or organizations and 'act' on the solutions that were discussed at the PSAC meetings.

A continued evaluation of effectiveness would be discussed, at the following PSAC meeting. This cycle would continue and as different issues became a 'focus' in the neighborhoods, Crime Prevention would provide information and contacts to solve the issue of concern.

The PSAC meetings will be held every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Kenton Historic Fire Hall. The address is 2209 N. Schofield. April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004 will be our first meeting. If you have any questions please contact **Walter Garcia** at 503 823-4098.

## Information & Referral (I&R)

By John Dutt

- March was a busy month for I&R. For the month we answered 16453 calls! The month started off especially busy with a lot of calls received in the first week concerning the County's decision to begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The day after the announcement we received about 350 calls for this issue alone. Most wanted to voice an opinion and some just needed procedural information. We did our best to provide as much information as we could to avoid having to send calls to the marriage license office, which was swamped with calls. While many people were reasonable in expressing their opinions, many were not, and the I&R staff did a great job of dealing with the difficult and sometimes abusive treatment by callers.
- As far as stats for the month we had a rough start to the month with barely over 80% for the first week but we recovered nicely and finished the month strong to end up at 88.8% of calls answered under 25 seconds for the month.
- Staffing transitions continue to be a dominant theme for the I&R Unit. We were finally able to complete the hiring process to hire someone to fill the position vacated by Walter in December. Anna Dibenedetto was hired and started working for us on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Anna is a recent graduate of Reed College and had been working as a road side assistance call taker for AAA before coming to work for us. Anna also speaks Spanish. She is learning very quickly and has already demonstrated great skill in working with our customers. She should be a great addition to our team. Doyle Thibert's last day working with I&R was 4-2-04. Doyle left us to begin employment with United Way's 211Info program. Doyle will be able to draw off of his skill and knowledge that he utilized in his work with us. It will be great to have a good contact with 211Info and we know Doyle will do us all proud. We continue our process to fill our other two OSS2 positions. In the meantime Teresa and Aaron continue to do a great job filling in temporarily. So lots of staffing changes and training over the coming months.

### Website

Brian Hoop and Eric King both did a lot of content work on the ONI Website during the month. Brian has done a great job updating and posting content for the different ONI committees including the GREAT Committee and Public Involvement Taskforce. Eric has reorganized much of the site to reflect some organizational changes revolving around the newly coined Neighborhood Livability section.

Check it out at: <http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=29017>

## Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC)

By Brian Hoop

### ONI Guidelines review - GREAT

The Guidelines outline the roles and responsibilities of the neighborhood system - neighborhood associations, coalitions, and ONI. The committee is now considering language relating to the relationship of Business Associations to the ONI Guidelines. GREAT meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 8:30 AM to 10 AM, City Hall, Lovejoy Room.

For more info go to: <http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=29023&> f you have questions contact Brian Hoop, 503-823-3075, [bhoop@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:bhoop@ci.portland.or.us).

### **Public Involvement Task Force**

The Public Involvement Task Force is charged with developing recommendations for improving public involvement efforts by the City of Portland for consideration and adoption by City Council. The working DRAFT report has gone through a significant update and can be found on the web at: <http://www.portlandonline.com/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=43577>. The report has narrowed the number of recommendations from 85 to 30. The group will be finalizing their recommendations by early June followed by outreach to neighborhood and other diverse community groups, and staff and City bureaus. The next Task Force meetings will be Thursday, April 22 and Wednesday, April 28, 5 PM, City Hall, Lovejoy Room. For more details go to: <http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=29118&> Questions: Brian Hoop, 503-823-3075 or [bhoop@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:bhoop@ci.portland.or.us).

### **Evolution Project - A Neighborhood Web-Based Community Building Project**

The Evolution Project is a public/private partnership between the City of Portland, Innovation Partnership, and One Economy (a hi-tech non-profit). The project's purpose is to build user-friendly neighborhood-based web sites that foster community building and dialogue between residents and City bureaus regarding a wide array of City services and neighborhood-based issues. Currently the pilot project has been in The Community Association of Portsmouth neighborhood. Phase two of the project will involve expanding the project to all twelve North Portland neighborhood associations. Two part-time intern positions are currently open to assist with community outreach to help engage the community in utilizing the new sites when they go online in late summer or early fall. For more information on the position openings go to: <http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=32611>

### **In Other NRC News...**

*By Lauren Norris*

#### **Downspout Disconnection Program**

Some of you may have met the new door-to-door disco outreach crew that started in March. We have a fantastic new team! Bob, Alison, Sheri, Julie & Jonah have a wealth of outreach, community involvement, and environmental background that includes organizations like OSPIRG, Green Mountain Energy, Gifford Prichard Mountain project, Enlace Verde Project in Costa Rica & Dignity Village. Two have engineering degrees & two were at our Neighborhood Summit last fall and very interested in neighborhood issues. Sheri has returned to the team for the fourth season and we are very pleased to have her back! They are meeting in the ONI office before they head out each evening. So, if you see them give them a warm welcome.

Volunteer crews won't start disconnecting until May this year: So many homes have participated that we have to give the canvass a running start, because the remaining homes are so spread apart. However, at the end of April, 20 new AmeriCorps volunteers will be joining the list of the 150 members that have crew-lead our 5000 volunteers over the years. We're excited to get started in disconnecting as much as 2500 more homes before October!

### **And In Other NRC News...**

*By Joleen Jensen-Classen*

#### **West Side Big Pipe Update**

The tunnel boring machines are mining away this month. The southbound machine, Clark, is mining south from NW Front Avenue at Nicolai along the Willamette River. The northbound machine, Lewis, is currently under my office (I am not kidding!) waiting for Clark

to dig far enough south so it can start up and mine under the Willamette River to Swan Island. Each machine has trailing gear that is the length of a football field.

A smaller version of Lewis and Clark, a micro-tunneling machine christened Sacajawea, has completed the first tunnel drive and is being prepared to start the second tunnel drive from the Residence Inn to SW River Parkway and SW Harbor Drive.

Design on the East Side Big Pipe is underway and the first open house was held last month. This will be the largest of all the CSO projects. The pipeline will be about 20-feet in diameter (the West Side Big Pipe is 14-feet in diameter and 3.5 miles long) and six miles long. The exact alignment has not been determined but will run approximately from SW McLoughlin Blvd and SE 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the Swan Island Pump Station.

We are still working under the Steel Bridge, to stabilize the ground under the bridge footings in preparation for the tunnel. Plan for the detours to be in place until the middle of this month.

### Other Sewer Projects

If its not connected to the West Side Big Pipe, it is probably connected to Joe Annett, who is working on numerous projects throughout the city.

## Neighborhood Livability Services (NLS)

*By Eric King*

As a follow up from our retreat last month, we are working towards **increasing program education and outreach efforts**. NLS staff has been developing strategies to better coordinate program outreach efforts. These efforts include meeting with other ONI 'Centers' to inventory existing outreach opportunities. These discussions have lead us to create a **two-tier outreach strategy**; the first tier includes groups or organizations that should have a heightened knowledge of program policies and procedures, and the second tier includes those neighborhoods or community organizations that require a high demand for service. These distinctions will help us focus on making program information more relevant for our intended audiences.

Additionally, the **Neighborhood Livability Services section is now on [ONI's web site](#)**. During the next phase of the web site update project, we will be working with our contracting partners to ensure that their links and programmatic information is up to date. We will also be exploring the use of the TrackIt system for mediation intake as well as other livability services beyond the Liquor and Graffiti programs.

Now on with our specific program updates...

### Graffiti Abatement Program

- The **Graffiti Abatement Program database**, designed through the Portland online TrackIt system, was finally **previewed by interested partners** in a hands-on training. We were able to use the training room at BDS so that each person had a computer terminal on which to practice using the system. Ultimately, these partners will be updating the database, providing clean up information and other important data. Online reporting continues to increase, with new subscribers sending reports in almost daily.
- Several graffiti incidents directed at the police bureau (in inner NE Portland) at the end of March were addressed very quickly by the Coordinator's office AND our contractors, YEI. NE Precinct Commander Bret Smith expressed his appreciation for our quick and comprehensive response to these inflammatory incidents of vandalism.

- Thanks to all the "reporters" out in the community who continue to let us know when new graffiti shows up. And, thanks to the dedicated volunteers who help remove graffiti on their blocks and immediate neighborhoods. You ARE making a difference!

### Community Residential Siting Program (CRSP)

- Working with neighbors in North Portland to **review existing good neighbor agreements with several Community Development Corporations (CDCs)** in an effort to address and resolve livability/nuisance issues.
- **Working with the Planning Bureau and Commissioner Lisa Naito's office to update the Outer SE Community plan** to address the siting of special needs housing.
- Helping to coordinate visit from Michael Allen, a legal expert in siting issues. He will be in Portland on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and is interested in profiling the CRSP.

### Liquor License Notification Program

- Included in the Neighborhood Livability Services web site update, is a new [Time, Place, and Manner](#) section that provides a **direct link to the Portland online TrackIt system** to report [problem liquor establishments](#).
- We recently **met with Crime Prevention staff to provide training on TPM enforcement** as well as additional information about the liquor licensing process and how to proactively work with neighbors and liquor establishments to address neighborhood livability issues.
- We have **convened our first Liquor License Team (LLT) meeting**. The primary purpose of this group is to review and substantiate complaints to determine if the nature of the complaint requires further investigation.
- We currently have **2 liquor establishments that meet the TPM criteria**. Upon additional internal review, notices will be sent to the licensee.

## Coalition News

### Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI)

*By Sylvia Bogert*

Markham School Auction: SWNI and the West Portland Park NA co-sponsored an auction on April 3rd and raised \$11,000 to benefit the Markham PTA programs. The event featured the music of The Pranksters Big Band, a 17-piece band and vocalist, which donated their performance fee. Local restaurateur and graduate of Markham elementary School, Steve Ariel, catered the event from his O'Connor's West restaurant. Over 125 businesses donated items for the auction. SWNI assisted with rental costs, publicity, organization, and volunteers.

Fanno Tryon Creek Watershed Open House: SW residents were invited to help decide the future of their watershed on April 8th. Native plants, ladybugs, TriMet bus passes and SW Walking maps were given away as door prizes. Over 60 people attended the event to study maps and charts of sub-watersheds and add their local knowledge to the problems and opportunities charts. BES has contract with SWNI through ONI to do the public involvement piece of this project.

Trail Dedication - Sat., April 17: The SW Trail Group will be celebrating the completion of Urban Trail #1 with a dedication ceremony to Helen Farrens, a dedicated volunteer in Southwest Portland and a strong advocate of pedestrian issues. Meet at Ross Island Grocery, 3338 SW Corbett Ave., at 10 am to start the trail walk (coffee will be provided by Ross Island Grocery). The group will walk to OHSU, ribbon cutting ceremony at 11:30 am outside of the Mark Hatfield Bldg, off Campus Drive; remarks by Don Baack, SW Trails Group chair. Invited guests include Commissioner Jim Francesconi and staff from Portland Department of Transportation; noon celebration at Veterans' Hospital, Bldg.101, Room 201

(use the sky bridge). Enjoy pizza, cake, and a special slide show depicting Helen Farrens' life. REI has agreed to organize a raffle of outdoor walking equipment. All proceeds go to the SW Trails Group. We will complete the walk from OHSU to Hillsdale and return via TriMet. TriMet has generously donated some day passes. Call SWNI at 503-823-4592 to reserve a ticket.

## **Resolutions Northwest (RNW) Mediation**

*By Claire Bell*

- \* 40-hour Basic Mediation Training concludes this Saturday, March 13th and 20 new volunteer mediators will join the 50 plus existing mediators in providing neighbor-to-neighbor mediation services to City of Portland Residents.
- \* We're pleased to announce the addition of a bi-lingual (English/Spanish) part-time, contract staff member who can assist with translation, interpretation and mediation services.
- \* The sun is out and cases are already picking up. We have mediation referral pads so if you're in a position to refer people to mediation, please call us at (503) 823-3152 and we'll be happy to send you a pad.  
We're also interested in meeting with your team to share program information and how to refer people to mediation - please call us.
- \* If you have questions about mediation or if a situation is appropriate, feel free to contact us at (503) 823-3152 and one of our mediation specialists will assist you.

## **Elders In Action**

*By Becky Wherli*

### **Elders In Action Commission Spearheads move to gain Portland City Council approval of new Neighborhood Livability standards for Seniors**

We need you to show support by attending the City Council Meeting on March 31, 2004 at 9:30 am, Portland City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave.

Elders in Action Commission will ask the Portland City Council to implement a series of recommendations ranging from neighborhood design and crime enforcement to pedestrian safety and traffic management in an effort to promote healthy aging in our neighborhoods. Our goal is to see all Portland City Bureaus embrace Elder Friendly® standards, promoting walking while allowing older adults to keep physically active in their neighborhood and support independent living as individuals age.

Elders in Action seeks to ensure these Elder Friendly standards are met in existing projects as well as in new developments, like the South Waterfront area, and all future community design and planning activities relating to pedestrian access, traffic management, neighborhood safety, and affordable and accessible housing.

The following recommendations, based on research conducted between December 2002 and May 2003 by Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), Oregon Research Institute ORI), Portland State University (PSU), and Elders in Action, will be presented by Commissioner Randy Leonard for adoption by the Portland City Council.

### **Factors Related to Walking**

Ensure existence of wide, safe sidewalks constructed of smooth, non-skid material.

Facilitate installation of sidewalks where none exist.

Maintain sidewalks in good repair. Repair cracks and unevenness.

Keep sidewalks free of obstacles. Remove leaves, vehicles, and other objects that obstruct mobility. Trim overgrown hedges.

Add buffer strip between street and sidewalk whenever possible.

Install curb cuts at streets.

Install benches for resting.

### **Factors Related to Transportation**

Encourage reliable public transportation options.

Ensure easy access to public transportation, including safe bus stops.

Improve safety of crosswalks by increasing number of crosswalks on major streets, lengthening signals and adding pedestrian controls, enforcing pedestrian right of way laws, adding audible signals to crosswalks.

Promote walking by adding more traffic calming and pedestrian safety options (ie. curb extensions, pedestrian islands, photo radar, not speed bumps or traffic circles)

Enforce the "Stop and Stay Stopped" and other traffic laws.

Increase education for Drivers and Bicyclists regarding pedestrian safety.

### **Factors Related to Density**

Design housing appropriate for seniors, including accessibility and affordability, within walking distance of public services and retail – grocery, general shopping, library, doctors, pharmacies, bus, park, restaurants...

### **Factors Related to Social Environment**

Include community facilities in neighborhoods.

Increase police response to resident calls about neighborhood problems including homeless/threatening people on street and at bus stops and graffiti/vandalism cleanup.

Promote neighborhood action for clean-up, improvements and crime prevention activities.

Fran Landfair, Chair of the Elders in Action Commission and Dr. Yvonne Michael of OHSU will lead off the presentation scheduled for 9:30am next Wednesday, March 31st.

Elders in Action

501 SW Washington St. Portland, OR 97204

PH: 503-823-5269 FAX: 503-823-5826

E-mail: [volunteer@eldersaction.org](mailto:volunteer@eldersaction.org)

