



The Other Side of the Fence

E-News from ONI ~ June 2004

Enhancing the quality of neighborhoods through community participation.

Administration

A message from ONI Director Jimmy Brown

Regarding ONI Center Restructures & Program Enhancements

I would like to take this opportunity to announce several changes that are occurring in the operation of ONI. Effective June 1, 2004 ONI will implement changes impacting the Crime Prevention Program, the Neighborhood Resource Center and the Neighborhood Livability Center. These changes will provide us with an opportunity to better integrate services across organizational lines, maximize program activities designed to enhance the livability and safety of the community, and to provide additional resources for core functions impacting citizen and community involvement.

When I came to ONI in December 2003 I made a commitment to meet with all ONI staff to get a sense of the challenges and opportunities that existed within the Bureau. A common theme that emerged was that there were not enough opportunities for staff to work collaboratively with each other across different ONI centers. I also learned that, due to several years of budget cuts, certain staff-members were unable to pursue key activities (i.e. technical assistance, training, outreach and board development, etc.) for District Coalitions and Neighborhood Associations. With so much staff time committed to completing the work of the Guidelines Review, Empowerment, and Assessment Task Force (GREAT) and the Public Involvement Task Force, there were limited opportunities to conduct training at the neighborhood level and to assist in various outreach initiatives.

On May 20, 2004 we were for the first time able to provide ONI staff with the opportunity to meet one another and gain information about the different centers within the Bureau. Commissioner Leonard and I shared our vision for the direction of ONI and then asked staff for their input in the form of questions and concerns. Again, a common theme that emerged was staff's desire for a more integrated environment within the Bureau. The following changes are designed to enhance the services ONI provides.

Effective June 1, 2004, Crime Prevention Coordinators will report to Eric King of the Neighborhood Livability Center Program. Integrating the Crime Prevention Program into the Neighborhood Livability Center will enable Crime Prevention staff to better utilize tools available to Noise Control, Housing Inspections and the housing administrative support group. Crime Prevention staff will continue operating out of the Coalitions but will be provided space for collaborative efforts with other Neighborhood Livability sections at the new Columbia Building site. The Crime Prevention Program still remains as a specific program inside of ONI.

I am convinced that in making these structural changes we will better integrate a set of services that are designed to enhance living conditions within the community and to further promote a solution-oriented culture.

Also effective June 1, 2004, the Neighborhood Resource Center will gain the expertise, skills and community building experience of the former Crime Prevention Manager, Art Hendricks, who will function as a Neighborhood Resource Development Coordinator. This position is intended to renew ONI's commitment to citizen and public involvement at the neighborhood level and will be charged with four primary functions: 1) develop ONI's ability to identify new resource streams (e.g., grants) for Coalitions and Neighborhood Associations; 2) seek out resources to advance ONI/Coalition efforts to increase diversity in the neighborhood system; 3) manage Resolutions Northwest contract and Community Residential Siting Program; and 4) work on special projects as assigned by the Neighborhood Resource Center Program Manager.

I am committed to building a stronger, more vibrant neighborhood system. I am committed to ensuring that ONI is seen as having the best interest of Portland citizens in mind. I am committed to listening to and engaging those who reside, work, play and do business in this City and to building a neighborhood system that works on behalf of all citizens. I am committed to ONI's future.

I believe these changes will move us forward and do so with Vision, Commitment, and Passion.

Neighborhood Livability Services

By Staff

Liquor License Notification Program

Time Place and Manner

To date two abatement letters have been sent and one is in preparation for Time Place and Manner for locations in NW Portland. The program is progressing quite well as the group settles into a work format at the bi-monthly meetings of the Liquor License Team. Like any new program, they have already started to make changes by adding additional correspondence for locations that continue to receive complaints after the abatement letter is sent.

Thanks to Walter Garcia, Crime Prevention and Shannon Hoffeditz at OLCC, the group has avoided sending a notice for one location in North Portland, in the Friends of Cathedral Park neighborhood area. Walter and Shannon called a meeting with the owners, the complainants, PPB, Liquor Licensing Specialist Kimberly Mark-Villela, and the Graffiti Abatement Coordinator Marcia Dennis, to identify each concern and give verbal warning to the owners of the location from of each individual program that could enforce state and city code violation on their location. Kimberly Mark-Villela is happy to report that she has received correspondence from one of the complainants that the issues have started to abate. Additionally the owners of the location reported they have completed their insulation project and will start to work on the air conditioning in order to keep the doors of the business closed during operating hours. Interestingly this location is zoned residential, however the business was there before the change in zoning so they are allowed to operate until midnight every day. Everyone involved is very happy with the problem solving that resulted from the new program.

Renewals for the licenses South of Burnside

Samantha Kennedy in Crime Prevention, Paul Wickersham at Portland Police Bureau, and Kimberly Mark-Villela worked together on the request for equal restrictions of the off premise sales licenses. The restrictions are in place on many stores/markets in the downtown area already, however many still have no restrictions. The restrictions requested would be for issues around street drinking. The only response the group received from

OLCC was to the Police Bureau saying our request came after the deadline for response. However they are researching the matter and Paul Wickersham is working on visual maps of the area to show the significant street drinking issues for South of Burnside.

OLCC website contains useful information

Remember that you have access to new outlet information and changes in ownership on the OLCC web page at <http://www.olcc.state.or.us/> Information is listed under "Licensing and Enforcement" on the left side of the web page.

Crime Prevention Program

Southwest

Stephanie Reynolds has been working with the two Neighborhood Response Team officers, Scott Westerman and Steve Andrusko, on problems related to homeless camps in the forested areas of Southwest, particularly in Corbett-Terwilliger-Lair Hill. That neighborhood has reactivated its Livability committee to work on these issues. Stephanie has also been updating the Neighborhood Watch and Foot Patrol manuals and preparing for National Night Out. Southwest Portland had 28 parties for NNO last year, and will probably have at least as many for NNO 2004.

Northwest

Livability issues related to the Westport Villa are gathering increased media attention. Reporters have visited this single room occupancy residence located within the Northwest District Association's boundaries and interviewed neighbors, residents of the Villa, police, and the property owner. A coordinated team approach to the address the impact of the Westport Villa upon the neighborhood is well under way. Commissioner Leonard, along with his staff, Ty Kovatch and Aaron Johnson, are assisting in the coordination of the problem-solving team approach. NRT officer Matt Engen is heading the multi-bureau plan.

NRT officers Katie Goodner and Jeff Myers are working steadily with neighborhood volunteers to heighten the car prowling education message in Sylvan Highlands and the Pearl. Those are just two of the Neighbors West Northwest Coalition neighborhoods to receive the message as summer begins.

The Pearl in partnership with Chinatown and Old Town, under Zimmerman Center's Pat Rummer's leadership, is creating a most inviting National Night Out event for Tuesday evening, August 3rd. Aside from the standard fare of police involvement, fire's presence, and delectable treats to feast upon, there will be the addition of terrific musicians and the multiple two minute crime prevention tips for all to enjoy.

Southeast

Both Galina and Rosanne have been quite busy with the kick off of the "*SE Portland's Attitude Against Crime*" Public Safety Committee, Neighborhood Watches and Good Neighbor Agreements.

Galina is taking the lead on the Public Safety Committee which had their first meeting on May 25th where the group decided to move forward and for the next few months concentrate on organizational issues including goal setting, recruiting additional members, and beginning the public safety planning phase. She is also shepherding the Good Neighbor Agreement process in the Buckman and Central Eastside Industrial Community (CEIC). Organizing two new Neighborhood Watches in Montavilla, two in Center, and one in Mt.Scott-Arleta have also kept Galina busy in addition to the usual problem-solving issues.

In addition to partnering with Galina on the Public Safety Committee activities Rosanne is currently working on two neighborhood street lighting CPTED (crime prevention through environmental design) requests for Eastmoreland and Creston-Kenilworth neighborhoods through a pilot project with PDOT. If it can be determined that additional lighting (in some cases putting in lights where there weren't any to start with) can help deter crime in a specific area neighbors can pay \$350.00 for a light which the city will install and pay the operating costs. Rosanne is also busy assisting with Good Neighbor Agreements in Creston-Kenilworth and Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood Development. She reports a successful team effort with ONI Housing Inspectors, Portland Police Bureau, ONI Crime Prevention and persistent neighbors in cleaning up a property in the area of SE 58th and Raymond St. The issues are ongoing but the property is ever so much better in appearance! Rosanne notes increasing requests for Neighborhood Watch trainings and assistance with problem locations.

Northeast

After a two-month leave Preston Wong is back at work.

Information & Referral (I&R)

By John Dutt

- May was a historic month for Information and Referral. After many months of working through the process we have finally completed the process of filling our I&R Specialist positions permanently. On May 17th, Teresa Solano joined us as a permanent member of the team. On May 24th, Nicole Murphy-Garcia was added to the team. Both Teresa and Nicole are proving to be wonderful additions. Teresa had worked for us in the recent past as a temporary employee. She possesses excellent customer service skills and has proven her ability to handle a huge volume of calls as demonstrated by her setting the all-time single month call mark with over 4000 calls answered when she worked for us as a temp earlier this year! Nicole is a true Portland native and former Jefferson High School valedictorian. She has proven to be a very quick study, is a great individual to work with and is doing an excellent job already. We are very excited to add these two employees to the team and feel like the public will really benefit from the skills that the whole team brings to the job as we gel together as a team.
- On June 9th City Council passed an ordinance to reclassify the I&R positions from OSS2 to I&R Specialist. This is the result of several months of effort by many folks in the I&R Program, ONI and Human Resources. This is very good news for the I&R Program as we now possess a clear job description of what the job duties consist of and the qualifications to be successful in the job. This should make future recruitment and selection of qualified candidates a much easier process.
- May continued our trend of busier than last year phone volumes. It was an excellent month for the I&R unit with just over 92% of calls being answered under 25 seconds. 13109 calls answered for the month of May. This is especially impressive given the amount of staffing change and training. So far through the first 5 months of the year we have answered **4.3%** more calls than in the same first 5 months of 2003.
- With all of the staffing changes most of our time and resources has been dedicated to training but we have also been working on cleaning up the databases to prepare for migration to the new database. We have nearly completed all of these cleanup tasks. John has also done some recent work with Alan Poole to complete the rewrite of the database. Alan should be finishing up the latest updates and we plan to have staff do

some testing by the middle of June, complete any last revisions and then roll it out in July. John is also working with BTS to get this database up on the Web once this product is complete.

Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC)

By Joleen Jensen-Classen

Coalition/Neighborhood Office Update

During the third quarter of the 2003-04 fiscal year (January through March), the coalition/neighborhood offices handled over 24,680 requests for technical assistance that are complex information and referral calls that require more time, effort and expertise on the part of staff. The requests come in the form of phone calls, emails, faxes, and walk-ins. Neighborhood associations, neighbors and city staff initiates most of these requests.

Approximately 900 community members attended 570 neighborhood and coalition meetings this quarter and office staff attended 50% of those meetings. Newsletter production and distribution increased to over 200,000 this quarter. The offices continue to support a variety of community projects from clean-ups to volunteer recognition events. They are partnering with over 1450 groups including groups representing immigrants and people of color, other non-profits and government agencies.

Obtaining adequate and affordable insurance continues to be a problem for the coalition offices. Changes in the industry since the 9-11 tragedy have created high hurdles for non-profits to scale.

ONI/BES Partnership

The West Side Big Pipe just keeps “tunneling” along. The northbound machine is now mining under the Willamette River heading toward Swan Island. The southbound machine continues its progress parallel to Front Avenue. Work in the downtown area will stop to observe the Rose Festival Moratorium from June 4 through June 14.

An Environmental Services team is working on the preliminary design for the East Side Big Pipe and this will really be a big pipe. Over 6 miles long, 100 feet deep and 21 feet in diameter, this behemoth will run from SE McLoughlin Blvd through the Central Eastside Industrial Sanctuary to Swan Island.

The Parks Bureau has contracted with ONI to use Joe Annett’s expertise to advise them on public involvement during the Three Bridges construction project. Joe has developed a great deal of expertise in this particular area.

The Intergovernmental Agreement between Environmental Services and ONI enter its fourth year in July 2004. We will be hiring a new outreach worker to assist staff in the Willamette Watershed group with their public involvement efforts. The final announcement should be ready mid-month.

Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. also has a contract with Environmental Services to engage the public in the Fanno and Tryon Creek Master Plan. This contract helps fund SWNI’s annual all-household mailing and is a great example of the benefits of this bureau-to-bureau partnership.

Request for Standard Services Contract for Public Information and Public Involvement Contracts

On March 26, 2002 City Council approved flexible services contracts with five firms for citywide public information services and nineteen firms for public information and public

involvement services for the period of March 1, 2002 through June 30, 2004 for an amount not to exceed \$100,000 per firm. On September 12, 2002 City Council approved an additional two firms for public involvement services and one additional firm for public information and public involvement services for the same time period and within the same financial parameters.

Because of budget reductions, the Office of Neighborhood Involvement does not have sufficient staff to manage the contract. Therefore, the Office of Neighborhood Involvement will not issue a new Request for Proposal once this contract expires June 30, 2004. All work being done under this contract must be completed by June 30, 2004. If you need an extension of the contract to complete a project in progress, one can be granted until September 30, 2004. Please contact Joleen Jensen-Classen at (503) 823-2822 or joleenj@bes.ci.portland.or.us.

By Brian Hoop
Evolverment

The highlight of the month with regards to ONI's involvement in the North Portland Evolverment Project was completing the hiring process for the two Community Service Aid intern positions. Brian Hoop spearheaded this task and after processing nearly 100 applications we feel we have found 2 excellent individuals to fill these positions. Maria Elena Guerra was chosen to fill the bilingual Community Service Aid position and Kay Cha to fill the other position. They will start their work mid-June. Both candidates bring excellent skills and experience to the positions and we look forward to working with them to help get the community of North Portland informed and involved in this important project. Also during the month John attended a couple of Management Team meetings. There was also held a Steering Committee meeting. Both groups have been working primarily on determining capital and content policies. We have also began work on the outreach and marketing plan by partnering with Innovative Partnerships, a non-profit organization, who helped get this idea off the ground during Phase 1 of the Evolverment project.

30th Anniversary of Portland Neighborhood Associations



Neighborhood float brings associations together from across the City

Neighbors from across Portland came together to complete an amazing float entry for the Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade. The float featured seven houses representing the

seven District Coalitions and 95 Neighborhood Associations. A planning committee of over a dozen neighborhood leaders has been organizing a number of activities to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Portland Neighborhood Associations being recognized by the City of Portland. Scott Vala, a SE Uplift leader, was the creative energy behind designing and building the float. Donations and contributions came from the District Coalitions, neighborhood associations and businesses. A special thanks to Mayor Katz's office for a significant contribution.

The party continues this Saturday, June 19 with a Birthday Party celebration of Portland's Neighborhood Associations. The event takes place from noon to 2 PM outside City Hall at SW 4th Ave. between Jefferson and Madison. Music will be provided by the great Brazilian dance music of The Lions of Batucada as well as Samson and Delight-Ya, with a wide ranging repertoire of classics. Bonny McKnight, as master of ceremonies, and Jimmy Brown, Director of ONI, will introduce special guests including Mayor Katz who will join all present to join in a ceremonial cake cutting. A cake walk will display baked goods from area bakeries with donations going to the District Coalitions. The neighborhood float will also be on display. District Coalition informational display booths will be set up. For more information contact: Bonny McKnight at bonnymck@teleport.com.

Neighborhood Inspections Team (NIT)

By Ed Marihart

The proposed City Code Changes before the City Council, which would reassign responsibilities between ONI & BDS has been postponed. The proposed Code Changes would provide greater flexibility in how fines are charged and assessed, would provide additional enforcement tools and would create a new Title 3.97 to allow ONI to enforce and provide the administration details in enforcing both Title 18 (Noise) and Title 29 (Property Maintenance). We expect to make some additional changes and move forward with the Code Changes sometime next Fiscal Year. Until the new Code Changes are adopted we have been operating under a Memorandum of Understanding between BDS & ONI. The Memorandum of Understanding will be continued for next fiscal year to allow us to continue to operate under existing code language.

Some exciting and interesting statistics to share: as of June 1st the number of open housing cases older than 2 years has dropped significantly over the last several months to a total of 281 out of a total number of 689. The concerted effort to resolve and close older cases is really evident in our Monthly Reports. The number of older cases older than 2 years ago several months ago was over 310. The number of open Housing cases that have qualified for waivers of Code Enforcement Fees is 111. This number has increase dramatically from 6 months ago when we had less than 50 waivers. The types of Waivers that we grant are: Low Income, New Owners, Get Legal, Paint & Roof, Renovation, Warehousing, Administrative, Demolition Delays, Non Profit.

Last Saturday, June 5th a group of us, along with Ty Kovatch & Aaron Johnson from the Commissioner's Office, volunteered for a group work project at Habitat for Humanity @ 4414 NE Killingsworth. Habitat for Humanity – Portland is currently building 7 side x side attached dwellings. We had a great time installing windows, attaching siding, digging ditches, moving dirt, taking down scaffolding, installing scaffolding, building platforms, framing and worked along with several future owners. A campfire group provided lunch. It was very rewarding, educational and fun. After wards we went to McMenamins – Kennedy School for drinks and socializing. We plan to offer another group/team work project for a Saturday later in the summer. I challenge all ONI employees to participate and join us. If interested please let me know. I will keep you posted on the date.

Coalition News

Elders In Action

By Vicki Hersen

Portland Steps Out With Walkable Neighborhoods

Walking down to the corner market just got a little bit safer thanks to the work of Elders in Action volunteers.

This spring, the EiA Commission presented Portland City Council more than 20 ways to make Portland neighborhoods safer for our most experienced pedestrians: seniors. The City adopted the recommendations unanimously.

“I’m really, really excited about the partnership,” said Mark Lear of the Portland Department of Transportation. “I’m really impressed with the professionalism of the staff, and the knowledge of the volunteers.” In what Mark called the most focused effort yet, the city is investigating ways to make neighborhoods safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

Elders in Action provided concrete recommendations based on an OHSU study of 10 Portland neighborhoods, including wide sidewalks in good repair, curb cuts, enforcement of traffic laws, and housing within walking distance to stores and public services.

On May 20, 2004 Elders in Action participated in a pedestrian crossing enforcement action at the Southeast Multicultural Center conducted by Portland Police and Portland Transportation. The purpose of the event, was to raise public awareness around pedestrian safety, change motorist behavior and communicate to the public that pedestrians have the right of way at all intersections, regardless of the presence of marked or unmarked crosswalks.

In speaking to reporters, Elders in Action volunteers shared their experiences as pedestrians crossing the street not only at this location but at similar locations throughout the city. Through their personal stories shared with the media, they reminded drivers to slow down, stop, and stay stopped for pedestrians crossing the street.

Police issued 12 citations, each carrying a \$237 fine that will go into the Portland Traffic Safety Account to improve traffic safety and neighborhood livability for all pedestrians. People are reminded to call the 503 823-SAFE (7233) HOTLINE to report traffic safety concerns.



Oregon Doctors Report Unfit Drivers

Effective June 1, 2004, Oregon law requires physicians and other healthcare providers to

report at-risk drivers to the Driver and Motor Vehicle Services (DMV). This can include any person with functional or cognitive impairments that are likely to impact the safe operation of their vehicle. Some important information about the Medically At-Risk Driver Program is found below:

Who is required to report under this new law? Primary care providers (PCP) and other healthcare providers practicing in Oregon.

For purposes of the program, what is a “healthcare provider”? A chiropractic physician, naturopathic physician, nurse practitioner, occupational therapist, physical therapist, optometrist, physician assistant and podiatric physician or surgeon.

Does this program unfairly target seniors? Reporting for the law may not be based on age, or on a person’s medical diagnosis or condition. It is based on any cognitive and functional impairments that affect a person’s ability to drive.

What types of impairments must be reported? Functional: vision, peripheral sensation of the extremities, strength, flexibility, motor planning and coordination. Cognitive: attention, judgment and problem solving, reaction time, planning and sequencing, impulsivity, visuospatial, memory, losses of consciousness or control.

What happens if you are reported to the DMV by your PCP or other healthcare provider? When a person is reported under the DMV’s new mandatory requirement, their driver’s license will be suspended. The driver will receive a Notice of Suspension in the mail, and their license suspension will take effect 5 days from the date on the notice. In most cases, the driver can contact the DMV and request the opportunity to challenge suspension by taking vision, knowledge and driving tests. Their driver’s license will be reinstated after passing the required tests.

What if I get a notice? Accommodations (scheduling, paper exam vs. computer etc.) to take these tests can be made, but you to need call the DMV at 503-945-5000.

