



The Other Side of the Fence

E-News from ONI ~ January 2005

Enhancing the quality of neighborhoods through community participation

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**New
Mayor
looks
forward to
bright
future for
Portland
where
people's
needs
come first**

PHOTO BY
NELL WAGENAAR

Potter: What does it mean to be in community?

By Nell Wagenaar

At the end four years, new Mayor Tom Potter would like Portland to be known as the city where people take care of each other—our children, seniors, folks who can't take care of themselves.

“Everyone deserves a roof over their head, a full stomach, a living wage job and their medical needs met,” he said during a recent interview at City Hall.

It’s a tall order but Potter feels that if enough people believe it’s possible, it can happen. And it’s finally not so much about resources as it is about a change of attitude.

“Aligning people’s lives with the common good is the answer. In four years, “people will feel differently about Portland.” It will feel like a different city, he said.

An idealist? Yes, totally.

“What does it mean to be a good neighbor? What does it mean to be in community?” Potter is convinced that addressing these essential issues will keep Portland one of the most livable cities in the nation. “How we treat each other is key.”

He promises to be a hands-on kind of leader. He’s already reached out to schools, unions, to the homeless trying to bridge gaps. He’s also going to go out into the neighborhoods and ask citizens what their priorities are and then figure out how to meet them. And if the weather is decent, he might be riding his bicycle.

“The most important part of this job is to build relationships, locally and globally.”

“I’m at the pulpit, the bully pulpit as Teddy Roosevelt referred to it, using my position to advocate change.” Roosevelt, the 26th President who spoke softly but carried a big stick, is one of Potter’s heroes because he created the national park system and was a pioneer in protecting our environment. Potter also admires Martin Luther King Jr. and Gandhi for their personal courage in the face of great odds.

Two of his local heroes are Irene Tate, a community activist who got rid of gangs and drugs in her neighborhood, and Sharon McCormack, a powerful community builder. “Portland is rich with people like that.” Portland is unique.

The Yellow Bin Syndrome

For the past 10-15 years Potter has been thinking about what he calls the Yellow Bin Syndrome, a total commitment to take little steps each day to improve our environment. Portland already has one of the highest recycling rates in the country. Potter would like to see that consciousness transposed to our social environment as well.

We need to recycle and conserve energy locally as well as globally if we are to stop global warming, he says. We need to figure out what to do with old computers, how to re-use wood products, consume less and live a more simple life.

Potter himself is a serious recycler. He painted his house with Metro recycled paint. He rides a bike and drives a hybrid car. He wants to make the Toyota Prius the new city car. You can see it parked at City Hall where the blue limo used to be.

He and his wife, Karin Hansen, enjoy the outdoors and low impact vacations, like their 17,000-mile cross-country camping trip in their 1990 Volkswagen van shortly after they were married in

1997. They also enjoy cooking together, doing crossword puzzles and playing with their two brand new kittens.

“We can take small actions everyday to make society stronger—read a book to a child. Did you know that almost 40 percent of families in Portland are headed by single moms, who are often living below the poverty level and dealing with hunger everyday? We say we value kids and families but do something else. We need to value human beings.”

That’s why he ran for Mayor. “I decided to get back into public life because of our children.” His proudest achievement is raising his own four children. “They brought me the greatest joy” and now he has 14 grandchildren. Kids are the future, he said, and early childhood, from birth to three years old are the most crucial, formative years.

Potter, 64, was Portland’s police chief until he retired during Mayor Katz’s term in office. As a former cop, he knows what it’s like dealing with the “back end” of problems. Now he wants to start at the “front end,” preventing social problems before they become epidemic. He’s a strong believer in social justice and is committed to ending homelessness and the huge methamphetamine problem in Portland. He will also strive to create more living wage jobs and find new ways to fund our public schools.

The metro area will grow by one million people and nearly half a million jobs in the next 20 years, he says. Portland itself will accommodate one-quarter of the new household and one-third of the new jobs. Good planning and strategic choices have to be made now and Potter wants citizens to participate in shaping that future.

Making neighborhoods safe

“Making neighborhoods safe, clean, righting the wrongs is more important than what I did as a cop reactively.” He started his police career in the Brooklyn and Sellwood neighborhoods in 1968 and he thanks neighbors there for teaching him not only how to be a good cop, but also how to be a good community builder.”

His vision for ONI, which he plans to keep in his portfolio, is to have in place a mechanism to increase civic engagement from all corners of the neighborhood—residents, the business and faith communities, and to have neighborhood leadership be more reflective of the diversity in their neighborhoods. “I want everyone to be a community leader.”

Articulating a 30-year vision for Portland with other civic, business and community leaders is going to be a major theme during Potter’s administration.

Potter says he loves Portland. “We’re unique. We don’t have to imitate anybody.” Portland is a highly desirable place to live and work and is becoming known nationally and internationally as a place of innovation, civic-mindedness, tolerance, open government and a high quality of everyday life.

Keeping it that way will be his challenge.

‘We can take small actions every day to make society stronger—read a book to a child...We need to value human beings.’

--Tom Potter



Unity Rally draws over a thousand to Southwest Portland.

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE REYNOLDS

ONI helps organize Unity Rally ***1,350 Portlander show up to deflate hate activity***

By Nell Wagenaar

A Skinhead rally fizzled out Saturday in Southwest Portland. Instead, about 1,350 Portlanders gathered at the SW Multnomah Center and at Gabriel Park to show solidarity against hate activity in the city, reports Stephanie Reynolds, rally organizer and crime prevention specialist in Southwest Portland.

Mayor Tom Potter and ONI Director Jimmy Brown were among the speakers at the Multnomah Center Saturday afternoon where the “Unity Rally” was held. The events were organized after a local Skinhead group announced plans to distribute anti-Jewish literature and recruit new members in the Southwest neighborhood.

Organizers for the Unity Rally included ONI, Southwest Neighbors Inc., the American Jewish Committee, the Coalition Against Hate Crimes and Basic Rights Oregon. Leading the planning effort were Reynolds, SWNI Executive Director Sylvia Bogert and Emily Gottfried, director of the Portland American Jewish Committee chapter of SWNI.

“While driving to the Center, I was thinking, wow, I hope we get at least 300 people,” said Reynolds. “But when I got there, more and more and more people started filing in. It was overwhelming. It was so hard not to cry to see so many people stand up for the diversity that is Portland. It was a beautiful thing,” she said.

They began planning a rally early last month, a week after hearing from Police that Skinheads were planning the event.

Planners decided to hold the rally at a different site than Gabriel Park so as to minimize chances for confrontation.

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“It was overwhelming and so hard not to cry to see so many people stand up for the diversity that is Portland. It was a beautiful thing,” she said.



ONI Director Jimmy Brown speaks out against hatred at Saturday's Unity Rally at the Multnomah Center.

“The first step in fighting hatred, racism and prejudice is to take a stand!!”

So said ONI Director Jimmy Brown, one of the key speakers at the Unity Rally on Saturday in Southwest Portland.

“Today, in this community of Multnomah Village, in the City of Portland, County of Multnomah, we have come face to face with those who would seek to define us as less than equal, less than valuable and less than important to the fabric of this community.

“This menace has come forward and passed its rhetoric of hatred throughout the metropolitan area: Hillsboro, Wilsonville, Beaverton, Tigard, Vancouver and now Portland. We need to ask ourselves why? Why now? Why here?

“Need I remind us all of what this community, this country has experienced in just the last year? We have gone through a costly campaign to provide same sex couples with the basic rights afforded those heterosexual couples through marriage; I have never heard more venomous comments coming from throughout the community.

”The name of God in heaven was invoked; the same heaven that my recently deceased mother has now gone on too. And I now know just how wrong those who hate truly are; my mother believed in a loving God, a caring God, a just God and the beauty of that place called heaven. . .

We must ask ourselves why now, why here?

“We have suffered through another divisive presidential election; one that has the pundits viewing the country in shades of color, blue here, red there.

“The bitterness toward those who dared question the international policies of this country, who simply asked: how do we feed our children, educate our young, take care of our elder parents and those marginalized by poverty and homelessness, provide jobs for the able and willing? while spending billions on a war waged against brown people in the name of democracy and freedom?”

We must ask ourselves why now, why here?

“And yet we still wonder why these young Neo-Nazi thugs believe they can come into this community, spread their hate and venom and do so with the air of “lets play games with the police scanner”.

We must ask ourselves why 17, 18, 19-year old young men burn crosses in the yard of our Jewish brothers and sisters and say: “We meant no harm, it was just a prank.”

Can we look back to the Mulagata Seraw murder and say we effectively stopped the hatred by solving that crime?

Hatred alive and well . . .

“Hatred is here...in Portland, in Tigard, Wilsonville, Lake Oswego, Beaverton and in the State of Oregon. Yes, in this country, hatred is alive and well.

But we have effective weapons against hate. We have the ability to stand up as caring, loving citizens, neighbors to our brothers and sisters that may speak a different language, hold customs and celebrate culture differently than ourselves.

We have the ability to work with elected officials who have a history of doing “the right thing”; the Portland City Council and the Board of Multnomah County Commissioners.

Today we go a long way toward showing how deeply we love our community, value the diversity and richness of this region, the many people, the languages and lifestyles. The 1st step in fighting hatred, racism and prejudice is to take a stand!!

Thank you my friends for all you are doing today and will continue to do on behalf of the residents of this community.”

Spirit of Portland Awards honors Jan Campbell

Former ONI employee, Jan Campbell, whose tireless efforts to break down barriers for the disabled, was awarded City Employee of the Year by former Mayor Vera Katz at the Spirit of Portland Awards ceremony Dec. 16 at City Hall.

Jan has been in a wheelchair since the age of three when she got a virus that paralyzed her legs. She got a degree in elementary education but was told in 1970 she couldn't teach because of her disability. "There were no laws to protect us then." She shifted her focus to civil liberties and worked for the state in affirmative action programs at PSU and U of O. For the next 22 years, she worked as Disabilities Project Coordinator for Portland and Multnomah County. She helped develop the MAX original Wayside Lift facility and was one of the first examiners of low-floor rail vehicles. She spent years helping bring this technology to Portland, the first such in North America.



Jan Campbell wins the prize after 36 years of trying to break down barriers for the disabled—physical, emotional and attitudinal.

"We've come a long way in terms of laws but we still need to work on changing attitudes about the disabled. That's the biggest hurdle."

Campbell currently works part-time as an information specialist on the Helpline for the county's Aging and Disability office.

The Spirit of Portland Awards was a tradition revitalized by former Mayor Vera Katz in 1994 who wanted to publicly recognize the volunteers who helped improve the quality of life in the city.

Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong was awarded the Neighborhood Office/Coalition Employee of the Year. She was noted for her community building work with SEUL and neighborhood revitalization projects, which include the Homelessness Working Group, Healthy Neighborhood Project, Diversity

and Civic Leadership Committee and the Diversity and Representation Committee. Last week she was named as new Mayor Tom Potter's Neighborhood & Education Policy Manager.

Other civic-minded individuals given awards are:

- **Don Green**, for his work with the Wilkes Community Group, its annual picnic, and with the hearing and sight impaired
- **Susan Lindsay**, Buckman Community Association Board Chair whose focus is land use and transportation issues and creation of a community center at Washington High School
- **Ross Monn**, chair of the Wilkes Community Group, designer of that neighborhoods Rose Festival float and his community activism
- **Roy Reynolds**, principal of Parkrose High School, for his leadership in improving community standards at the high school
- **Jane Roffey Berry**, Argay Neighborhood Association and designer of a perennial flower bed for Portland Parks and Recreation
- **Verna Russell**, for her generous spirit and consistent, behind-the-scene aid to those in need in her neighborhood
- **Emily Ryan**, homeless for four years and now a student at PCC, is a member of the Multnomah Youth Commission, and a committed advocate for homeless youth
- **Dapo Sobomehin**, PhD, founded Operation Easy and links high-risk youths with support services and employment opportunities
- **Scott Vala**, co-chair of Southeast Uplift, created the first ever Neighborhood Association entry in the Grand Floral Parade which won the Community Spirit Award

Other winners were:

- **Morrison Child & Family Services Latino Program**, Non-profit Organization of the Year
- **Fanno Creek Clinic**, Small Business of the Year
- **G.I. Joe's Sports and Auto stores**, Large Business of the Year
- **Cherry Park School**, Youth Volunteer of the Year
- **Friends of the Reservoirs**, Volunteer Group of the Year
- **Washington High School Project Advisory Committee**, Volunteer Group of the Year



Former Mayor Katz receives a bouquet of roses.

The Mayor's Awards were given to **The Portland-Sapporo Sister City Organization**, for maintaining good relations between Portland and Sapporo, Japan for 45 years, and to **The Northwest Design Collaborative**, which bolsters the quality of design talent in Portland, from architectural to fashion design. At the close of the ceremony, Ross Monn presented the Mayor with a bouquet of yellow roses for her 10 years supporting the SOP Awards. Nancy Blackledge, from ONI, organized the event. SOP winners are selected from nominations submitted by citizens. Each year, the selection committee is comprised of representatives from Council Members' Offices, the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, neighborhood coalitions, neighborhood business associations. and past recipients.

City Hall folks share stories, a fabulous sit-down meal



Continuing a popular tradition

Once a year, City Hall employees, including the Mayor sit down together to catch up and enjoy a delicious meal including turkey, ham, macaroni and cheese, veggies, salads and a table of scrumptious desserts.

**PHOTOS BY
NELL
WAGENAAR**

Working behind the scenes cookin' up a storm

Potluck Committee members, from left to right, are Lesley Kelley, Government Relations; Phillis Pace, Treasurer; Nicole Murphy-Garcia, ONI; Barbara Rice, Commissioner Leonard; Peg Genne, Auditor; and Lyne Martin, Commissioner Saltzman. Not shown are Committee leader Angie Harris, and members Jessi Rhodes, Pam Chapel, Diana Dines, Kim Sneath, Reva Schippers and Robert Cowan.



Information & Referral

I&R may be designated an “essential service”

By John Dutt

Mayor Tom Potter's office is considering whether to designate the I&R Program as an “essential service” during weather or other emergencies. If so designated, it would mean 503-823-4000 would be open for business and staffed even if the rest of the City's “non-essential” programs are closed. Other essential services include police and fire and maintenance.

The news came after a press conference Friday at City hall called by Mayor Tom Potter, County Chair Diane Linn and TriMet General Manager Fred Hansen to let the community know that their local government was prepared for predicted cold winter weather.

Last year during a 5-day winter storm that left the City virtually paralyzed with snow and icy roads, Mayor Katz' office said that I&R was not considered an “essential service” and the 823-4000 line was not staffed. On the one day that the City was closed last year the 823-4000 line received about 1200 calls.

The news conference highlighted the City, County and Tri-met roles in assuring an effective response to any disruptive weather event. Mayor Potter stressed the importance of citizens being prepared by having emergency supplies on hand for their families and encouraged everyone to use public transit if at all possible. Chair Linn stressed the importance of taking care of each other, especially the elderly and disabled in our communities in the event of a winter weather emergency. Overall the different local government entities appear to be making a better effort to coordinate activities to ensure the safety and well-being of those in our community.

Correct and timely information is crucial in any weather emergency, and this is where 823-4000 comes in to the picture. Last year there was much confusion by members of the public as well as government staff regarding government services availability, street closures and who was supposed to report for work. With the failures in communication from last years' event fresh in the minds of many, the City/County Information and Referral Program staff has been working over the past several months to improve lines of communication between themselves and the various City and County bureaus and departments.

I&R Supervisor John Dutt has worked to foster better relationships with emergency management officials and public information staff. He feels confident the next time a weather emergency occurs, I&R will be as informed as anyone. Emails and 24-hour phone numbers have been exchanged between key staff. The County has improved its communication plan by clarifying communication channels for staff and by the passage of a County emergency communication ordinance last week. This time around the Chair's Office will know if any particular County Agency or office closes. The Chair Linn also indicated her office would be making decisions on openings and closures much earlier in the day then they did last year.

Know-it-Alls start New Year with a bang!

December marks the 9th consecutive month that I&R exceeded the 90% of calls answered under 25 seconds! It was a squeaker. It took a day before New Year's Eve rally to pull us up over 90%, to finish with **12,115 calls** answered for the month at **90.02%**! Doesn't get much closer than that!

In December, I&R celebrated our 10th year of service to the community. We celebrated with a display in the Portland Building lobby the first two weeks of the month and were fortunate to get some good press in both *The Oregonian* and *The Portland Tribune*.

This was an excellent opportunity to get some free publicity for a program that all in the community should know is a resource for them to use. We also received a congratulatory letter from Mayor Katz and County Chair Diane Linn. An excerpt from this document states: "The success of the program in assisting over 1 million callers to the 503-823-4000 line over the past 10 years is a customer service model for all of our city and county departments to follow."

Neighborhood Livability Center

SE Crime Prevention seeks community input

By Galina Grigoryan

SE Portland's Crime Prevention Office is gearing up for the New Year and a more comprehensive approach to crime prevention programming. We are getting the community involved in this process by asking them to provide feedback related to our Crime Prevention programming specifically on the crime prevention community-based training curriculum. A community-wide survey was e-mailed and mailed to all of our current block captains and neighborhood association leaders to get their input on this topic.

The goal of the survey is to get the community to decide what crime prevention trainings should be our priority next year based on our current training curriculum which includes Burglary prevention; Gang Awareness; Identity Theft and other commonly requested training modules. At the same time, we are asking the community to consider new training topics and propose those topics to staff for review and implementation. So far, we've received suggestions on the following new training ideas: How to Get a Streetlight via the Neighborhood Watch organizing Pilot Project; How to prevent homelessness; Commercial Burglary Prevention, and more.

Our goal is to complete the survey process by mid February and develop our 2005 training curriculum by the end of February with an implementation of trainings to begin in March 2005. The following two trainings are already on our horizon in 2005:

- Burglary Prevention Training on 02/28, 7-9 p.m., at Mt. Scott-Arleta Community Center, sponsored by the Mt. Scott-Arleta Neighborhood Association, and
- Business Foot Patrol Training on 03/03, 6-9 p.m., 3558 SE Hawthorne - upstairs Sellin-eiler Properties suite, sponsored by the Hawthorne Blvd. Business Association.

As we enter into 2005 Rosanne will be focusing on continuing work on developing programming in partnership with Bureau of Developmental Services and John Campbell that will support landlords in learning how to implement strategies that will assist them in creating and managing crime-free rental properties. Currently we are working on scheduling a Fall 2005 session of John Campbell's Landlord training classes. It is hoped that this will encourage landlords who are experiencing crime problems on their rental properties to take advantage of learning effective management techniques that will reduce crime and reduce tenant turnover.

Rosanne also will be combining work on the state-wide MethWatch committee with ONI's goal to do outreach and education to our neighborhoods on the impact of methamphetamine in our families, neighborhoods, schools and community at large. The Meth Watch committee is currently looking at establishing statewide business and youth sub-committees. It has become profoundly

evident there is a thirst for education on how to recognize meth related activity, what happens after the police serve the warrant, what happens to the property, how the court process on the criminal acts is different from the civil law/code enforcement issues.

Rosanne can be reached at (503) 823-0540. Her email address is rosanne.lee@ci.portland.or.us.



Amy Brown, left, and daughter and at right, the Woodstock Foot Patrol members after receiving awards.

SEUL recognizes public safety volunteers

On Friday, December 3, SEUL and the Office of Crime Prevention recognized a number of volunteers for their incredible commitments to the SE Portland's neighborhoods and community at the Brentwood-Darlington Community Center. Among recognized, many public safety volunteers were highlighted for their work on both crime prevention and the community policing issues and projects including:

Marion Fuller, who has been a volunteer at SE Police Precinct for decades coordinating the victim call back for customer service and the crime prevention information; as well as the Precinct Advisory Council.

Randy Lauer from American Medical Response, who co-chairs the Central Eastside Industrial Committee's (CEIC) Community Policing Committee. Randy's group has been very instrumental in various community policing efforts and missions in CEIC and currently the group is coming through with vans for JOIN in the joint JOIN and police initiative on homelessness and camping.

Woodstock foot patrol in Woodstock neighborhood was recognized for their commitment to organize a community foot patrol on a neighborhood-wide level, which is truly one of a kind effort in the City of Portland.

Phil Maynard, the Neighborhood Resource Team officer from the Portland Police Bureau, was recognized for his active participation and leadership with the Hawthorne Blvd. Business Association.

Todd Teats, the Neighborhood Resource Team officer from the Portland Police Bureau, was recognized for on-going support of crime prevention efforts in SE Portland, including extensive problem-solving work in Foster-Powell and Mt. Scott Arleta Neighborhoods.

Augusta Hayter, Safety committee volunteer from the Center Commons Apartment, was recognized for her leadership of the safety committee at Center Commons for over a year and her role in organizing problem-solving meetings; facilitating the monthly safety committee meetings on-site; organizing landlord-tenant meetings and organizing an apartment watch at the senior-residential building at the complex comprised of approximately 150 tenants.

Kary Aloveah, from Fruit Dale Neighborhood Watch in Foster Powell, was recognized for her instrumental role in organizing the Fruit Dale Neighborhood Watch Network, which includes 6 city blocks and has 6 block captains. Her group is just forming, but they are quickly becoming a strong crime prevention voice in the Foster Powell community.

Amy Brown, LNHA at Baptist Manor, was recognized for making her community safer via the CPTED of her building and the near by city blocks, organizing tenants of her building in a building watch and reaching out to the Montavilla community to help organizing a network of block watches on and around the Baptist Manor located at 900 NE 81st Ave.

Hike in crime reported in Peninsula Park

Within Peninsula Park, located at N. Albina and Portland Blvd., spring and summer of 2004 went by reeling from high numbers of reported crime and a high volume of police related calls. From June through August 2004 the following emergency calls for service were responded to: 2 shots fired, 17 juvenile problems or unwanted persons and 22 disturbance / fight / threat related incidents. In the fall of 2004 ONI Crime Prevention, the Bureau of Parks and Recreation and youth gang outreach programs worked together to do a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) study of the park. The Bureau of Parks is currently carrying out the recommendations of this study. The next proactive steps slated to reduce emergency calls for service for spring and summer of 2005 are:

1. Assisting the Park Bureau in planning a Job Fair for the spring of 2005. The first meeting of job skill providers occurred in December 2004. Targeting at-risk youth ages 17 to 21, who currently are not within the age range served by the Park Center programs was proposed. Some job-training providers offered to run periodic skill training programs at the Park Center throughout the year as well as participating in the one time event Job Fair.
2. Continuing to meet with the Piedmont Neighborhood Association and request sponsorship for Neighborhood Watch programs, earlier park closure hours (10 pm) and the 2005 Job Fair event.
3. Continuing to work with the Bureau of Parks, Portland Police Bureau (Police Athletic League) and youth gang outreach programs regarding the need for intervention with youth within the Park.

Irving Park (NE 7th and Fremont) had a high incidence of emergency calls for service in September of 2004. As offered to Peninsula Park youth intervention and CPTED have been applied to Irving Park. ONI Crime Prevention trained several neighborhood watch programs adjacent to the park in the fall of 2004. In 2005, Irving Park will continue to receive youth gang program intervention efforts in partnership with ONI Crime Prevention staff reviews of park and area needs regarding additional neighborhood watch training and CPTED surveys.

High rate of E. Portland property crimes linked to Meth

Crime Prevention staff is busy with on-going projects and developing strategies to address new and expanding crime issues in East Portland. Katherine Anderson coordinates the Marshall-Eastport Task Force. This multi-agency group formed 12 years ago to address crime and safety issues in the area of Marshall High School and Eastport Plaza. The group meets quarterly to discuss current activity at the school, the mall and in the neighborhood; to promote community activities and resources to advocate for gaps in service.

Teri Poppino chairs the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Committee, which is comprised of fellow Crime Prevention staff: Rosanne Lee, Katherine Anderson, William Warren, Walter Garcia and Tom Peavey.

The committee is designing a basic training for our crime prevention peers so that CPTED information and services available on a neighborhood level will be standardized citywide. We are working with Mark Warrington, Parks & Recreation, to formulate a CPTED task force of representatives from other city bureaus. Our intent is to institutionalize CPTED principles within appropriate disciplines and ensure that those bureaus apply CPTED strategies to projects or issues brought before them.

Methamphetamine continues to be the driving force behind the high rates of property crime in our neighborhoods. Katherine and Teri are working with the East Precinct Neighborhood Response Team officers and Block Captains and to develop and support strategies to lessen the opportunity for crime and victimization, to strengthen home security and to reduce car prowls. The east Precinct Block Captains meet bi-monthly on the last Wednesday. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 26th from 6-8 p.m. in the East Precinct Community Room, 737 SE 106th.

Child safety has not completely fallen through the cracks of budget cuts. Teri triages requests for child sexual predator training, grouping together multiple requests when possible, and provides seminars citywide to interested adults.

She has worked through churches, neighborhood associations and social service agencies to get the information out to the community. She is working with Cory Jewell Jensen, a sex offender treatment therapist, and partners from Washington County Sheriff's Office and Hillsboro Police Department, to arrange a train-the-trainer seminar sometime this spring. The targeted audience will be school personnel, law enforcement/crime prevention and child safety advocates.

NW Crime Prevention to plan National Night Out

William Warrant will coordinate the logistics for Crime Prevention's city-wide special events, two of which are: activities related to the yearly celebration of National Night Out, Tuesday, August 2 and the October Block Captain Recognition and Training Event.

Additionally, William is an active partner in the development of a multi-agency approach to create a pro-active crime prevention atmosphere in Housing Authority of Portland properties--several are in Northwest neighborhoods.

New intern volunteers for neighborhood service

Jason Long arrived last month as ONI's new Neighborhood Resource Center intern. His charge is to contact all the neighborhood associations to make sure their bylaws are up to date and other ONI "odds & ends." He will be getting leadership training workshops going again this winter and spring and be here on Tuesdays and Thursdays until June.

The 33-year-old ("nobody believes I'm that old") is a senior at PSU completing a double major—one in community development and the other in sociology.

His eventual goal is to work at ONI or the Planning Bureau and do community development in East Portland for middle and low-income populations.

"I've always been interested in people, architecture and urban planning," he said. He was born in Virginia but was raised in Tacoma, WA. He used to work as a drafter but decided to pursue urban planning in Portland. "All the text books



Jason Long, a friendly new face at ONI, came to Portland to study urban planning and community development. On his downtime, he enjoys photography and hanging out with family and friends.

Neighborhood Resource Center

eVolvment team to introduce North Portland Online at Open House

The eVolvment Team would like to invite you and your family to the Community Open House of North Portland Online Tuesday, Jan. 25 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the North Portland Library Computer Lab, second floor.

The library is located at 512 N. Killingsworth. We will, among other things, present the website and together, explore the dynamic features offered. For those who are already active members, come join us in an evening of celebration with entertainment, refreshments and interesting conversation.

Council work session to tackle Measure 37 Jan. 25

By Brian Hoop

For those interested in Measure 37 and the City of Portland's response, the 2nd Council work session for Measure 37 has been rescheduled and confirmed for Tuesday, January 25 from

9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers. Neighborhood Association presidents, land use and transportation committee chairs are encouraged to attend.

Council work sessions are different than regularly scheduled Council meetings. Work sessions are not opportunities for public comment. The public can only observe. I do not have any more details as to the agenda or scope of issues to be covered at this meeting.

Also, the next Citywide Land Use Forum meeting will be Monday, January 24 at 7 p.m. at City Hall in the Lovejoy Room, 2nd Floor. This is a citizen-led networking meeting for neighborhood association land use chairs and others interested in local and metro area land use planning issues. They meet the 4th Monday of every month. This group will be actively working on Measure 37 issues. For further information, contact Brian Hoop at ONI's Neighborhood Resource Program at 823-3075 or bhoop@ci.portland.or.us.

Neighborhood Inspections

Inspection activity up 29 % from FY 2003-2004

QUARTERLY & YEAR TO DATE REPORT STATISTICS FOR FY 2004- 05

	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31	July 1 - Dec. 31	% Inc. from FY 2003 - 04
Total Cases Opened	1536	4366	29%
Community Court	23	48	(14%)
Disabled Vehicle	213	518	16%
Housing	394	785	16%
Nuisance	906	3015	37%
Total Cases Closed	1876	4897	
Community Court	35	64	
Disabled Vehicle	246	556	
Housing	349	754	
Nuisance	1246	3523	
Total Inspections	3849	10,573	21%
Disabled Vehicle	473	1107	8%
Housing	1030	2207	10%
Nuisance	4913	2346	27%
Total Mailed Notices	2563	7248	27%
Community Court	23	48	(21%)
Disabled Vehicle	338	749	19%
Housing	571	1133	6%
Nuisance	1631	5318	35%
Total Search Warrants Served	74	156	7%
Total Waivers Granted	104	149	
Total Administrative Reviews	304	618	76%
Total Hearings	2	8	
Total Cases Opened in Lents/ Brentwood Darlington Weed & Seed	67	181	17%
Total Housing Cases older than 2 yrs	267	251	(18%)

Spike in housing concerns reported to Elders

Personal help is available

Sharon Sonoco (right) volunteers weekly as an Ombudsman at Center Commons because “assisting people in finding their voice and taking action to help themselves is the greatest source of satisfaction for me!”

You can help. If you know someone who needs personal problem-solving assistance, have him or her call the Ombudsman office at 503-823-5269.



Calls to Elders in Action for help with housing problems are on the rise. More than 110 seniors have called for assistance since September; this represents 39% of all incoming calls, up from 25% of calls just one year ago.

The downturn in the economy, coupled with cuts in state services have made housing an issue of growing concern for a large numbers of seniors living on fixed incomes. As a result, our senior neighbors are more likely to be faced with the dilemma of whether to spend limited resources for prescriptions and food or housing

Nationally, the median family income of older homeowners is \$23,409 while the median family income of older renters is just \$12,233. A whopping forty-one percent of older adults spend more than **one-fourth** of their income on housing costs. Locally affordable rent for an individual with a \$15,000 annual income is considered to be \$375 per month, yet the fair market rent for a one-bedroom apartment in the Portland Metro area is \$625. That is more than half of a low-income person's income!

In downtown Portland alone, the number of affordable-rent buildings has decreased from 77 to 44 in the last ten years according to NW Pilot Project. There are nearly 7,000 seniors who are currently eligible for, but not receiving subsidized housing assistance in Multnomah County. And this is just the tip of the iceberg.

What is Elders in Action doing about it?

Our 41 trained volunteer Ombudsmen have helped 341 seniors in the past year solve housing issues - weatherization, energy assistance, home repairs, and rental assistance.

One woman cited by the housing inspector for numerous violations called Elders in Action Ombudsman services for help. Working in concert with community agencies, new Elders in

Action volunteer Larry Mason is resolving issues outside the home (cars in the yard, over grown trees, general debris) and the Adult Protective Service worker from Multnomah County is assisting with issues resolved inside of the home (heat, accumulation of papers and clothing, smoke alarms). For the first time, we have placed volunteers in six senior housing projects on a weekly basis to provide problem-solving assistance on site at Northwest Towers, Gallagher Plaza, Medallion Apartments, Center Commons, Rosemont Court, and Ruth Haefner.

Elders in Action believes that "affordable and accessible housing choices for all seniors and people with disabilities in our community is a basic human right." The 31 volunteer members of the Elders in Action Commission have joined other advocates in:

- Fighting for \$11 million in the 04-05 City Budget to address low-income housing and homelessness.
- Opposing cuts in the HUD Section 8 voucher program and encouraging the Housing Authority of Portland to keep all current Section 8 Vouchers while ensuring a fair distribution of potential rent increases among residents.
- Calling for continued funding of the Multnomah County Housing Emergency Fund.

Do you know your city?

On Memorial Day of 1948, a catastrophic natural disaster claimed Oregon's second largest city at the time. Name this city.

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 fiscal year in June, we will have a final showdown of our monthly winners to determine the grand prizewinner and the ONI Portland Trivia champ for 2004/2005.

Congratulations to Joleen Jensen-Classen, our first time two-time winner. Joleen was the first to answer that the event in 1905 that attracted visitors from across the world to the Rose City was the Lewis and Clark Exposition. She even owns an original commemorative plate from the fair that she promised me as my next birthday gift!



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