



The Other Side of the Fence

E-News from ONI ~ May 2006

Enhancing the quality of neighborhoods through community participation



Award winners

Keturah and Phil Pennington from Hillsdale received several public safety accolades at the Ready. Safe. Go Conference April 29 at PCC Sylvania Campus—one, the honor of having an annual award named after them and winning it.

PHOTOS BY NELL WAGENAAR

Ready. Safe. Go. event a huge success

By Nell Wagenaar

Nearly 300 folks spent the day Saturday, learning about identity theft, gangs, responding to drug activity, disaster preparation and more at the annual Ready. Safe. Go. Conference with

20 individual community members and several groups receiving public safety awards. The conference, held at the Sylvania Campus of Portland Community College, was presented by the City of Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement's Crime Prevention Program in partnership with the Portland Office of Emergency Management.

Months in the planning, this year's event was the first all-day training and the first time the ONI partnered with POEM in the program and award ceremony. Crime Prevention Special Event Coordinator William Warren led the organization effort and served as Master of Ceremonies during the presentation of awards.

Box lunches and beverages were provided with attendees able to mingle and visit various public safety tables, which included exhibits and displays from ONI, the Portland Police's

"The days when Officer Friday drove in to solve the problem are gone. We have to work together... at the neighborhood level."

--Will Crow



Will Crow, Community Safety Committee Chair in Arbor Lodge



Nearly 300 folks sign in, select training sessions, and pick up conference binders filled with public safety tips at the April 29 Ready Safe Go training and award ceremony.

WomenStrength program, Pacific Power, American Red Cross, the Bureau of Emergency Communication and the Parks and Recreation Department.

After registration and coffee, folks walked through the beautiful college campus to the training of their choice. Presented by expert ONI crime prevention staff and emergency responders, the choices were many. They were:

- Fundamentals of Problem-Solving was presented by Tom Peavey and Havilah Ferschweiler, ONI

- Fraud, I.D. and Mail theft, Walter Garcia and Celeste Carey, ONI
- Child safety, Teri Poppino, ONI
- Responding to Drug Activity, Katherine Anderson and Rosanne Lee, ONI
- Disaster Preparedness for Home and Family, Lawrence Behmer, POEM
- Fire Size-up and Using Extinguishers, Rob Mauer & John Nohr, Portland Fire & Rescue
- Heartsaver, CPR, Rob Hawks, Dave Paul, Kerry Kilner, Ryan Mathes, Terry Kimmons, Ted Cassinelli of Portland Fire & Rescue
- NIMS Awareness for already-trained NET member, Patty Hopkins, POEM
- Residential Burglary and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, Tom Peavey and Teri Poppino, ONI
- Personal Safety for Adults, Sara Johnson, Director of WomenStrength, Portland Police
- Reinvigorating and Growing Your Neighborhood Watch or Foot Patrol, Celeste Carey and Havilah Ferschweiler, ONI
- Gangs and Youth Violence Preston Wong and Tom Peavey
- Trauma Intervention, Dawn Pongon and June Vining
- Vectors and Viruses: Preparing for Emerging Environmental Health Hazards, Kari Lyons, and Multnomah County Health Department.

Solving crime issues in business districts & parks, how to keep your NET effective, Good Neighbor Agreements and improving collaboration between NET leaders and Neighborhood Watch were topics discussed informally in various rooms throughout the day.



Keturah & Phil Pennington take part in a round table discussion on disaster collaboration with other neighborhood leaders and emergency personnel at the NET & Neighborhood Watch/Foot patrol conversation led by Crime Prevention staff Katherine Anderson and Teri Poppino.

ONI presents awards to 12 community leaders

“We scheduled the recognition of our crime prevention and emergency management volunteers during this year’s National Volunteer Week, “ said Interim Crime Prevention Manager Stephanie Reynolds.

Winners were congratulated

and given hearty handshakes by Mayor Tom Potter, Commissioner Sam Adams, Assistant Police Chief Jim Ferraris, Fire & Rescue Deputy Chief Mike McGuire and newly appointed Poem Director Shawn McGraff. Here the Mayor hands an award to Allison Newman-Woods. Below at left are members of the Southeast Community Foot Patrol. At right, Mark Cline, Park Ranger, and Mark Warrington, Parks Public Safety Manager, hold their awards.



“Portland volunteers are part of the national effort of people who invest in their community. These are very devoted and community-minded people,” Reynolds added.

The Neighborhood Watch Volunteer & Specialty Volunteer awards went to:

Keith Brown, from Old Town/Downtown/China Town and manager of Plaid Pantry at SW 12th and Jefferson, who is very active in preventing crime downtown. He stopped selling single, small glass vase roses and materials related to meth manufacture, removed two pay phones in front of his store and installed a large light on the south side—all helped reduce calls for service in the area.

Milli Laughlin, Central Northeast Neighbors, a block captain for 17 years in the Cully neighborhood, who organized the Primrose Park Foot Patrol to address prostitution, gang, drug, and other livability issues. The Patrol has completed more than 200 patrols. Milli was a founding member of the City’s Block Captain Steering Committee and served for five years.

Allison Newman-Woods, East Portland Neighborhood Office and a resident of the Parkrose Heights Association, who has breathed new life into the Knott Park Foot Patrol. She organized

walk-through trainings the park with an on-line calendar reserving patrol times and journal things of interests observed during patrols.

Frank and Janet Vanek, North Portland Neighborhood Office, who both volunteer every week to staff the Kenton Community Policing office. They are enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers who promote community policing in North Portland.

3 Corners Block Watch, Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, recognized for its Operation Porch Light , which improves light and safety awareness with the intent to decrease crime. They work with neighbors conducting safety surveys, by replacing light bulbs, installing security lights, cutting back bushes and general clean up.

Dan Anderson, Neighbors West/Northwest and Liquor License Specialty, who is lauded for his years of crime prevention service and developing a standard Good Neighbor Agreement in the serving and selling of alcohol. He managed dozens of GNA and has served on the city's Liquor License Advisory Group. He is now working on dumpsters and sidewalk obstructions.

Southeast Community Foot Patrol, Southeast Uplift. "Working together to make a difference," has been its motto since it began last November to help create a safer and cleaner neighborhood. The patrol offers manpower, training, court watch groups, bicycle patrols and fund-raising. They hope to have foot patrols in all southeast neighborhoods by late summer.

Thea Riggs, Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., who is noted for her tireless crime prevention efforts in her former Corbett-Terwillger-Lair Hill neighborhood. She's served on the association board and represented her neighborhood at the coalition's public safety committee. She helped combat car prowls and residential burglaries and was an immediate responder to problems.

Jean Thompson, Graffiti Abatement, of the Cully district who volunteers four hours a week in the graffiti abatement offices cataloging volunteer records and permission forms. Soon she will be updating info on the city's on-line reporting system, Track It. She also does graffiti removal for elderly neighbors as well as provide administrative support to the graffiti office.

The Public Safety Partner award was given to:

Mark Warrington, Parks and Recreation Public Safety manager, and **Mark Cline**, Park Ranger supervisor, who are recognized for their cooperative work in safety and crime prevention in the neighborhoods and business community citywide. Both are familiar faces to all members of the ONI Crime Prevention staff as they partner in their attention to 10,585 acres of parkland.

The Public Safety Project award, which is citywide, went to:

The Housing Authority of Portland which was recognized for its initiative and cooperative approach to reduce crime and the fear of crime throughout their HAP managed properties by partnering with ONI, Police, and the Multnomah County District Attorney. HAP, guided by chief operating officer Margaret VanVliet assisted by Jacob Fox, has developed apartment watches

and problem solving meetings with residence managers, police and ONI CP staff which has resulted in a more stable environment for residents and on-site staff.

The Penningtons win community spirit award

The Pennington Award, a new award given annually to an individual or couple who exemplify community activism at its finest, was handed to Phil and Keturah Pennington. They are so involved in public safety efforts that ONI named this annual award after them. Active in the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association and the Coalition's emergency preparedness committee, they are NET and Neighborhood Watch leaders, promoters of National Night Out, have built walking trails, do litter patrols, and care for several elderly folks making sure they have enough to eat, get to the doctor and not preyed upon by scam artists. Keturah has taught disaster preparedness workshops and Phil has created a website, www.explorepx.com covering public safety issues, physical fitness, science education and much more. Congrats to two neighborhood heroes!



POEM recognizes eight 'Star Volunteers' for service

Office of Emergency management Awards were given to:

Richard German, who has been a NET member in Multnomah County since 1995. In 1996 he did an amazing job responding to the floods. He has taken advanced leadership training and most recently helped with Operation Welcome Oregon, working tirelessly at the Red Cross shelter to ready the facility for residents of the Gulf States displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Liz Johnston, who completed her Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) training in 2001 and has been team leader of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood NET since 2002. She has assisted in budget recommendations for POEM and Fire & Rescue and testified to city council about the effectiveness of the NET program.

Phil and Keturah Pennington, members of the Hillsdale NET, who were recognized for building a connection with their local fire station and inviting all the SW NET teams to share the benefits. "They are real pioneers in linking NET to fire station crews," organizers said.

Julie Peters is a Lents NET leader and was recognized for her long-term and very enthusiastic activism in the program. She volunteered to lead her team, get bloodied up to be a victim in many drills and handled a variety of administrative tasks that needed doing.

Erika Wolfe Burr has been a member of the Beaumont-Wilshire NET for three years and that inspired her to take EMT training at PCC, which she is now completing. Erika volunteers as a disaster preparedness presenter for POEM and as a first aid provider for Event Medical Services. She says she actually “enjoys” triage.

Clarence W. Harper Jr. (at right) has been a member of the Woodlawn NET since 1995 and involved in advance training. He has helped as a first aid volunteer at the Greek Food Festival and the Rose Festival Parade and promotes NET in the community as a member of the Portland Citizen Corps Council Speaker’s Bureau. Last August he volunteered to staff the exhibit at the Safety Safari at OMSI.



Ed Rentz joined the NET program in 2000. In 2002 he became leader of the Laurelhurst Team and has grown the group from eight to 22 members. He has been proactively involved with POEM, federal officials and the Fire Bureau. As a Red Cross Disaster Action Team member, he helped set up the shelter for Katrina victims at Washington-Monroe High School.

The Beaumont-Wilshire NET Team has 13 certified members and has received the Chevron Kit. The team has fire bureau-approved primary and alternate staging areas and successfully demonstrated use of their phone tree in case of activation. They practice with Station #14 and took part in the citywide NET Earthquake Exercise Day. “Fast, Food and Fun” is their motto and their hope is to be the first NET with a Humvee.



**Some of the folks
who
helped make it
happen**

From left to right are ONI Interim Director Amalia Alarcón, Interim Crime Prevention Manager Stephanie Reynolds and Crime Prevention Special Events Coordinator William Warren, who after months of organizing the event was happy to “STRIKE THE SET!” A big thanks also to Travis Koopman, interns Michael Boyer, Ben Mitchell and Aaron Hodges and to PCC for providing its facilities to the city at no cost.



From left to right are Laura Araza and Lisa Leddy, the two new I&R specialists. Lisa was hired full-time and Laura, part-time, replacing Nell Wagenaar, who moved to the Crime Prevention program temporarily as administrative coordinator.

I & R Program hires new staffers; Nell moves to Crime Prevention admin **ONI welcomes Laura and Lisa as new ‘know-it-alls’**

“I am a new transplant from California (don't hold that against me), “ says Laura Araza, who joined the I&R staff two weeks ago. Her husband had a change in jobs so they moved to Portland. Married for seven years, they have a 3 year-old son named Rustin. “I am loving your City! My favorite thing so far are all the activities that are available for my son. The parks and museums are wonderful! Besides her new job, she volunteers for the Washington County Long Term Care Ombudsman's program.

Lisa started working with the City of Portland in 2004 with the Water Bureau, then Human Resources and now ONI “My favorite thing about Portland is green trees. When I arrived here I thought ‘Oh muy gaud they planted a city in the forest!’ I'm originally from New York City and you have to travel for miles to see really big trees like the ones by the central library.”

Lisa has a BA degree in Psychology and Sociology from State University of New York College at New Paltz. Lisa's first career was as a social worker. “I enjoy helping people and as an I&R Specialist I am able to help people everyday. Most of the callers are really appreciative. My career/life goal is to be an authentic Pollyanna.”

Nell, originally from the Netherlands, moved to Portland from Michigan with her family seven years ago and landed a job at the Neighborhood Mediation Center, where she managed the office and helped coordinate the volunteer training program. She came on board with the I&R program at the front desk three years ago and has been editing the ONI newsletter, which she hopes to continue doing in her new post. She's had many work experiences including being a college teacher, journalist, resort owner, house painter, tarot reader, and mom.

“I love Portland...even the rain. It's so walk-able. An explosion of color in the spring.”

Three interns join Crime Prevention program



My name is Michael Boyer. Currently I am a senior at Portland State University majoring in administration of justice with a minor in business. I am very excited to have the opportunity to finish my bachelor degree by working for the Office of Neighborhood Involvement as an intern. I have lived in the Portland area for most of my life, and feel that this internship will give me the chance to give something back to the community. Outside of school and the internship I enjoy the outdoors (snowboarding, fishing, camping, etc.), gardening, and spending as much time with my family as possible.

My name is Ben Mitchell, a new intern at ONI and a senior at PSU. I grew up in rural Oregon City and joined the Navy at age 17. After four years of travel and adventure, I decided that Oregon was the best place on earth and returned home to pursue a college degree. I sampled several subjects, but was eventually drawn to the fascinating study of crime. I have been an Administration of Justice (Criminology) major at PSU for four years and the experience has been both challenging and fun. After working several different jobs, I have concluded that good people and a worthy cause make for a rewarding experience. So far it seems like ONI has both.



My name is Aaron Hodges. I was born in Boise, ID and lived there until 5 years ago. I am now a proud resident of Portland. I am a senior at Portland State University and I am completing a Criminology & Criminal Justice degree. I will be an intern with ONI through mid June. I hope that this internship will be an opportunity to learn more about crime prevention and community development from the staff at ONI. I would like to thank Galina Grigoryan and Travis Koopman for providing this internship opportunity.

The interns come from PSU under the newly developed "pilot" crime prevention internship program and the relationship ONI has established with its criminology department.

They started their internship on April 3 and have been working about 20 hours per week helping get ready for the Ready. Safe. Go. Conference April 29. Ben and Aaron are stationed at SEUL and can be asked to help in other Crime Prevention offices. Please contact Galina for

more information. Michael has been helping Kimberly Mark-Villela with Liquor Licensing and Walter Garcia with ID theft projects.



Samantha Kennedy nominated for Hero award

Samantha Kennedy, coordinator of the ACCESS Program, was nominated for the Multnomah County Health Hero award last month. The 6th annual event, held April 6, honored people who promote public health in their daily lives.

Crime Prevention Coordinator Celeste Carey nominated Samantha for being a caring bridge between despair and hope, valiantly championing the cause of those living on the street and battling mental illness, addictions, and the silo culture of the local social service agencies.

ACCESS, a partnership between ONI and Police, seeks to help the most at-risk members of the community before they get lost in the system or turn to crime.

Information & Referral

New staff, new phone system, new database mark new season

By John Dutt

A lot of things going on in the I&R Unit over the past month. We hired two new staff, got a new phone system and began implementing our new database.

Lisa Leddy and Laura Araza joined the I&R team recently to fill the voids left by Nicole Murphy-Garcia moving to a new position with the Revenue Bureau and Nell Wagenaar taking a position as an OSS3 with the ONI Crime Prevention Program. Nell will be working temporarily as an OSS3 through October working on Crime Prevention projects such as National Night out as well as providing administrative support to the program.

Lisa joined the I&R team as of April 20. Lisa previously worked for the city as the front desk person for the City's Bureau of Human Resources. Lisa comes to I&R with a great reputation for the great job she did in that role for HR and she is proving to be a quick learner and with just a couple of weeks under her belt is already proving to be a wonderful asset to the I&R team.

Laura joined the I&R team on May 1. She is a new resident to Portland area, relocating from San Bernadino County in Southern California and has already fallen in love with her new home city. Laura brings to the job a great background in both social services and customer service.

Being new to the area she has much to learn but is proving to be a very quick study and already is contributing greatly to the team.

Lisa and Laura are also serving as testers for our new database. They are the first staff to try out the new database and despite a few kinks it is working pretty well thus far. We will continue to roll this out one staff member at a time until it is fully implemented next month.

On March 27 we flipped the switch on our new phone system. This is a totally new phone system with a new ACD (Active Call Distribution) system, new phone sets, computer software, etc. The transition has gone relatively well though we have had a few glitches and are still waiting for a few functions to be worked out with regards to transferring to county phone lines and some of the call monitoring software functions. We are very excited to have this new system as it allows to do things we haven't previously been able to do such as assign different priority call groups and to create a group for our staff that speaks Spanish. This should improve the efficiency of our operation and help us to manage our phone workload.

Being significantly short-staffed the I&R program has had a couple of rough months statistically. Due to the phone system changes we also lost a couple weeks of call data but with the data we have we estimate that we finished March at about 87.1% of our calls being answered under 25 seconds and April we finished at 89.0%. Now that we are back to being fully staffed we should be able to exceed 90% in the coming months.

Committee releases first-ever ONI Safety Survey results

By John Dutt

The ONI Safety Committee completed compiling the results of our initial safety survey. The following is a copy of the Committee's summary of the survey. All results are posted at <http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=42145>

The survey had a 70% response rate – 38 out of 54 employees completed the survey

Staff generally feels that ONI encourages/supports workplace safety (66%) and most (82%) haven't been asked to perform unsafe duties.

However a great majority felt that safety procedures and training were lacking.

- 79% said that safety procedures are not regularly reviewed with employees.
- 61% said that supervisors don't provide safety orientations to new employees.
- The majority (50%) indicated that supervisors do not regularly discuss safety issues with employees and yet 73% indicated they felt this was important, illustrating the need for better management communication regarding safety in the workplace.

Despite the lack of planning and communication regarding safety, 87% of ONI staff indicated they had a good understanding of the hazards of the job they perform and the majority (52%) said that information and resources they need to work safely were made available to them.

Most respondents (50% "no" vs. 24% "yes") indicated that a safety incentive program would not cause them to work more safely. 80% indicated they felt they could achieve and succeed in their jobs and 74% indicated they enjoyed working for ONI.

Looking at the results by location and also by program indicates some slight differences though the overall themes continue. The comments regarding risks and concerns are perhaps the most revealing in terms of specific safety issues for specific workgroups.

The staff working in City Hall indicated they felt less so that ONI encourages/supports workplace safety and more so that risks are overlooked. The comments indicate that this is likely due to the frequent contact with upset and mentally ill individuals that walk in to the office and the inadequate existing layout of the office as well as the lack of safety procedures to provide a reasonable setting for dealing with these individuals.

The staff working in the Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Inspections programs indicate concerns working in the field with difficult individuals as well as hostile dogs. Neighborhood Inspections staff also have concerns about entering toxic buildings as part of their work duties. Some crime prevention staff out-stationed in satellite offices also indicate concerns with worksite safety.

Crime Prevention staff also indicated less than the overall ONI staff (13% vs. 52%) that information and resources needed to work more safely are made available to them. Comments such as concerns about use of personal vehicles for work and lack of reliable communications support this concern.

Conclusions

- All worksites need to develop, implement and review frequently with staff their specific safety plans.
- City Hall CPTED plan needs to be implemented to create a safer environment for dealing with hostile individuals.
- Other satellite office CPTEDs surveys are needed to improve worksite safety in these offices.
- Crime Prevention – use of personal vehicles and improved communications in the field needs to be addressed.
- Dealing with hostile individuals training is needed across the bureau.
- NIT and Crime Prevention – field safety issues- potential dangerous worksites and hazardous buildings issues need to be addressed.

The committee also continues to work to implement worksite safety improvements at both the City Hall and Project Access Office locations. We've ran into a few roadblocks with construction contractors being too busy to get some of the necessary work done but we continue to pester them in hopes that we will be able to implement some of these changes in the very near future.

Administration

ONI Diversity Committee revived with new group

ONI is in process revitalizing its Diversity Committee and met May 2nd to decide next steps. Committee members are currently reviewing results of an earlier survey, may modify some parts and re-distribute it to all ONI staff in order to re-assess our bureau culture around diversity issues. Leading the effort are Eric King and Carol Justice. Committee members are Kimberly Mark-Villela, Brian Hoop, Stephanie Reynolds, Teresa Solano, Kathy Saunders and Nell Wagenaar.

ONI has already developed an Affirmative Action Strategies but more work needs to be done to complete an action plan, Eric reported at the meeting. The Committee may also become integrated with a Labor Management Committee.

Permanent ONI Director slated to be on board July 1

The search is on for a permanent ONI director and hiring committee members are currently reviewing applications for the job. Mayor Tom Potter's office has set the anticipated start date for July 1. A 16-member committee, made up of community members as well as city staff, was appointed in March. Interviews will be held June 7.

Neighborhood Resource Center

Third in series

Diversity outreach workshop set for May 31

The third in a series of workshops on building diverse Neighborhoods, Leadership and Organizations entitled Building Bridges: Reaching Out to Diverse Member of Our Communities will be held May 31 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at 3534 Main.

The workshops, offered by ONI in partnership with NECN, CNN, SEUL and Resolutions Northwest are free and open to the public.

The interactive workshop will include new perspective on neighborhood livability issues, outreach strategies, meeting styles and working with populations traditionally not active in Neighborhood Associations.

Nickole Cheron, Disability Program Coordinator and Neighborhood Program Specialist, who is helping coordinate the event, reports that two previous workshops—one on gentrification and the other on creating a welcoming environment at neighborhood organizations—were very successful. More than 100 neighbors attended a restorative listening circle around gentrification.

More than half of those present said they would continue the conversation. John Canda from NECN and Judith Mowry from Resolutions Northwest will host another circle in the near future.

For more information, call Nickole Cheron at 503-823-2036 or check out:

<http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=41760>

Exodus from Columbia Square brings ONI under one roof

The week of May 1, Liquor License Notification and Graffiti Abatement Programs moved back to City Hall, after years of being relegated to "outside offices". Kimberly Mark-Villela and Marcia Dennis, program specialists for the Liquor Licensing and Graffiti are now sharing space

in the former "small conference room" in the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (Room 110). We both want to thank to Jean Thompson, volunteer extraordinaire, who is helping make order of the boxes and files. Our phone numbers have remained the same, but the new fax number for both programs is: 503-823-3050



SOLV IT volunteers roll up their sleeves and help clean up site in North Portland.

Neighborhood Inspections

Nearly 50 folks dig in to help clean illegal dumpsite

About 40-50 volunteers converged on a North Portland dumpsite April 22 and did a major SOLV IT clean up. This site had been dumped on for many years with more than 2,500 tires! People worked all day. County work crews came out over the next few days to finish the job.

This was very much a collaborative effort. Union Pacific Railroad owned the property and Mario Ortegon, the RR contact, provided signed permission forms, a truck to haul tires away, and most importantly a crane and operator to help load very heavy items in the dumpsters on site. The RR is also looking at a fence installation to hinder future dumping at this location.

Metro provided the bulk of the volunteers on site and also hauled away and covered costs of most of the tire disposal. They were also a major funder of the SOLV IT clean ups at all locations. One employee at Metro in particular, Vicky Papasadero, went above and beyond with her time and energy in the many details to make this all happen.

The business owner across from this dumpsite is also planning to put up a gate at the entrance to the lot to help prohibit future dumps at this location. Last but not least is a big thanks to SOLV IT. Nancy Spieler provided the forms and training and coordination to make all the million details fall into place. She was available and responsive to any questions that arose.

Tall Grass & Weed Season in full swing since May 1

The Neighborhood Inspection office began taking tall Grass & Weed complaints (over 10 inches in height) Monday, May 1st. Grass & Weed complaints are taken seasonally during the dryer months, May - October, this is our busiest time of the year. Title 29.20 Property Nuisances states: Cut and remove and keep cut and removed all weeds and grass that are located in lawn areas and have a prevailing height of more than 10 inches.

Other property nuisances that we take complaints about are: Unsecured structures, Rat Harborage, Holes, tanks and child traps, thickets/vines that conceal hazards, emergency access routes, Trash & Debris, Storage of non-trash items, Disabled Vehicles, Obstructions to sidewalks, streets and other rights of way, Illegal Dumps, Damage to or failure of an on-site sewage disposal system, private sewer line, or rain drain system.

If you wish to file a nuisance complaint, please call our intake line at 503-823-7306 or go to our website address: portlandonline.com/oni.

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Look but don't sit on 'transformed' chairs

At right, "A Throne for my Little Princess & Portrait of Lydia" by Vicky Dekrey is all part of TRANSFORMED CHAIRS: A Recycled Object Art Exhibition at City Hall until the 17th and presented by Art on the Peninsula. Artists were given old, broken and ready to be thrown out chairs to use to make artworks--they could use all of, any of--deconstructed, reconstructed, painted, covered, and embellished -- totally transformed. They could be functional chairs that could be used for sitting or transformed into something completely different. Some chairs still looked like chairs but were only visual editorial comments on a chair's function. They were first exhibited during the St. Johns Window Project in the summer of 2005 where they were scattered throughout the whole business district in store windows. Now the chairs are seen all together and have an even greater impact.



Do you know your city?

March's question brought us a familiar winner- Mr. Dan Collins from Neighborhood Inspections who was the first to correctly answer that within the Kenton Neighborhood where would you have once found the 2nd largest city in Oregon prior to 1948? That city was Vanport and was destroyed in the great flood of Memorial Day weekend 1948. The site of this former city is now occupied by Heron Lakes Golf Course and Portland International Raceway.



Here's this month's trivia question:

One of Portland's most famous homes can be found in the Southwest Hills Neighborhood. Built in 1892, the owner of this very castle looking home was forced to sell it after living in it for only one year because of financial problems caused by the financial panic of 1893. To be this month's winner name this very distinct Portland home?

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



The Other Side of the Fence

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