Neighbors gather outside, around potlucks, barbecues, music
Portland comes alive with NNO festivities

An everyday hero spreads good will

Above, Officer Bert Combs introduces “Brutus,” star of the Canine Unit, to kids at Peninsula Park during National Night Out Festivities there Aug. 1.
Northeast parties included clowns, music and NNO stickers at Saratoga and 25th, food and fellowship at Peninsula and Fernhill Parks and old friends getting together at Dunckley and 31st.
Mayor Tom Potter chats with folks at the Clara Vista Apartments at 6706 NE Killingsworth in the Cully Neighborhood. Above, gathering around hotdogs at the New Columbia complex is one way to build community.
Perfect weather and lots of advance planning drew folks out to various neighborhood parties that offered giveaways including temporary tattoos for the kids… Parents in East Portland seemed to enjoy them too.

Click here for National Night Out information
Amalia Alarcón wasted no time in getting down to business. Immediately after flowers and congratulations from Mayor Tom Potter and her staff, she sat down, pulled out a notebook, went around the room and asked each staff member what they envisioned for ONI.

ONI had been in transition without a permanent director since Jimmy Brown left to join the Water Bureau in early January.

"I am thrilled to have her lead this critically important organization as we work to expand civic engagement at all levels of community decision making. I am confident she will serve the community and the City well," said Mayor Tom Potter. "Amalia has established excellent rapport with neighborhood associations, community organizations and city staff in her seven years with the bureau, he added.

The first day of summer was a happy one for Amalia and all of ONI. Mayor Potter presents Amalia the “letter of offer” and a dozen red roses at the all-staff meeting June 21. PHOTO BY DAN DOUTHIT

After a 3-month search and 45 candidates later

**Amalia takes helm as ONI Director**
ONI and Mayor lead Roll/Stroll to focus on disability issues

By Nickole Cheron

On June 19th the Mayor took a roll literally through the South Park blocks over to the Old Church at 1422 SW 11th Ave. The Roll, organized by ONI's Disability Program, was an awareness-raising event to bring attention to some of the challenges folks in Portland encounter living with disability. He recommended all council have such an experience as well as folks like Fred Hansen, TriMet General Manager.

He said he appreciated the opportunity to experience getting around in a wheelchair. He felt that the half hour he spent traveling to the Old Church was worth two hours of discussion about others’ experiences. He acknowledged the difficulties with curb cuts. He mentioned that some were so steep that they made him nervous. He watched more experienced wheelchair users to learn how to be more stable. The Old Church is noteworthy because members raised a half million dollars to make it ADA accessible and hired a special architect who designed the ramps and other changes to blend in with the historic nature of the building. Call Nickole at 503-823-2036 to help ensure those with disabilities equal access to City programs.
BIP # 8 evolves into ‘Community Connect...’

New research coordinator hired for Mayor’s project

By Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong

We have some new information to share that will significantly help our ability to move forward in our work to support community participation in our city. The purpose of the Mayor’s Bureau Innovation Project # 8, recently renamed: Community Connect, Community and Government Working Together is to deepen the community’s role in local government in an effort to strengthen each of Portland’s communities. This system will empower all Portlanders to be involved in local decision-making and implementation of policy.

Johnell is no longer alone in coordinating the project. We have hired a Research Coordinator, Sanj Balajee. If his name sounds familiar, it is because he comes from the larger BIP process. The fabulous thing is that he has a wealth of knowledge and information about quantitative and qualitative research. He will be working with both the Models and Current Systems subcommittees to help them organize and distill information, he will also be working to develop tools to measure participation in the current system, and work with the Auditor to include participation measurements in their annual survey. All this information, taken together, will allow us to put forth a well informed, well thought out proposal by January. Sanj is a year-round bicyclist who, in his free time, likes to go karaoke-ing. You can reach him at 503-823-4431 at the Visioning Office, 830 NE Holladay St., Suite 45 or email him at sbalajee@ci.portland.or.us

And last, we are currently advertising for a Project Coordinator position to help support the Steering Committee, Work Groups and coordinate all of your efforts. The Coordinator will also help with community relations and PR for the project. To find out how to apply for the post, click on the following link. [http://www.ci.portland.or.us/jobs/mayor/bip8.pdf](http://www.ci.portland.or.us/jobs/mayor/bip8.pdf)

Also, staff from Visioning, Charter, Community Connect and Public Involvement have been having excellent meetings to talk about how we coordinate our outreach and messages.

Mayor launches blog to communicate directly with citizens

Mayor Tom Potter has launched a blog as part of his City of Portland website to communicate his thoughts directly to the community on the news and events of the day and for the community to contact him. Access the Mayor’s blog by visiting [www.portlandonline.com/mayor/blog](http://www.portlandonline.com/mayor/blog). Recent postings include the Mayor’s thoughts on the appointment of Rosie Sizer as Portland’s Chief of Police, the Children’s Bill of Rights and the launch of the Street Access for Everyone (SAFE) initiative. “I am excited at the blog’s potential to engage the community in a dialogue on the issues and help Portlanders feel more connected with government,” said Mayor Potter. “Never before has a Portland mayor had access to this technology.” In addition to the blog, the Mayor is sending out a weekly e-newsletter, published every Friday. The e-newsletter – aptly titled “Mayor Potter’s e-Newsletter” – includes news and information from the Mayor’s Office. You can find out how to subscribe by visiting the Mayor’s website – [www.portlandonline.com/mayor](http://www.portlandonline.com/mayor).
City-wide landlord forums coming again this fall

If you own or manage rental property in the City, do you sometimes wish you had a peer group to problem-solve with? Would you like to hear from the experts on topics that can help you keep your rental property safe and livable? If so, ONI’s Crime Prevention Program is offering landlord forums again this fall from 6-8 p.m. free of charge at the East Precinct Community Room, 737 SE 106th Ave. on the following Thursdays: Sept. 21; Oct. 19; Nov. 16; and Dec. 21. Contact Crime Prevention Coordinator Rosanne Lee for more information at 503-823-3505 or email her at rosanne.lee@ci.portland.or.us.


Neighborhood Inspection Team bids farewell to ONI

By Ed Marihart

On July 1st, Neighborhood Inspections returns home organizationally and administratively to The Bureau of Development Services after three years with ONI. We will miss our family at ONI and will continue to work closely with our partners here at ONI, especially the Neighborhood Coalitions, Crime Prevention & Neighborhood Livability.

We will temporarily remain at our present location at Columbia Square 111 SW Columbia St. Ste. 670, until December 31st of this year. Then we will physically move back to the 1900
Building. Our phone numbers and email addresses remain the same. Neighborhood Inspections information will remain on the ONI website during a transition period and Citizens can still file nuisance and housing complaints through the ONI website. To file a complaint either call 503-823-7306 or on line at: www.portlandonline.com/oni

Neighborhood Inspections currently has 19 full-time employees and 2 summer employees and a budget of approx. $2 million. The program is funded 85% by Program Revenue and only 15% by the General Fund. Some statistics on services provided last fiscal year, July 04 - June 05:

Total # of Intakes = 9320
Total # of Inspections = 19,975
Total # of Mailed Notices = 12,748
Total # of Search Warrants Served = 347
Total # of Cases Contractor Abated = 329
Total # of Waivers of Code Enforcement Fees Requested = 292
Total # of Waivers Granted = 263
Total # of Administrative Reviews Held = 1249
Total # of Phone Calls Answered = approx. 20,000
Number of properties cleaned up to code = 7639
Number of housing units brought up to code = 1578

Crime Prevention

The PRIDE Parade and Festival June 18 included the Portland Police Bureau WomenStrength program and the Sexual Minorities Roundtable of the PPB and Multnomah County Sheriff Department. Police Chief Sizer, Mayor Tom Potter, Sheriff Bernie Giusto joined in the march.

PPB sexual minority group marches behind own banner
By William Warren

Members of the Portland Police Bureau's Sexual Minorities Roundtable marched for the first-time behind their own banner in this year's annual June Pride Parade. The Roundtable presence at the two-day event was evident with the Public Safety Village, a term coined by PPB Assistant Chief Jim Ferraris-the bureau's liaison to the GLBTQ community.
WomenStrength, part of PPB's Family Services Division, participated. Their temporary tattoos were especially popular with festival attendees. Other Village participants included PPB Bias Crimes Detective, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, PPB Recruitment, ONI Crime Prevention, PPB K-9, and the Oregon Hate Crimes Coalition.

For nearly 12 years, since the signing of the original PPB Sexual Minorities Partnership Agreement, police command staff and community members have marched together in the parade and participated in the annual softball game and the festival. Multnomah County Sheriff's Office added its name and participation in 1996. ONI Crime Prevention is represented on the Roundtable by William Warren, an originator of the 1994 Partnership Agreement.

ONI’s Crime Prevention program partnered with the Police Bureau’s WomenStrength Program in offering a free workshop July 18 for members of the GLBT community on how to stay safe from personal attacks and hate crimes. The training was offered by WomenStrength's Director Sara Johnson and ONI Crime Prevention Coordinator William Warren. This is first-time training specific to the sexual minorities community.

Interns invaluable to Crime Prevention, NRC

Interns Ryan Arnold and Huma Ellahie from PSU have been working with the Crime Prevention Program since earlier summer and have been super helpful in planning for National Night Out and other projects.

ONI bid farewell to Demarcus Richard and Inna Kilyushki, who were working with Brian Hoop updating databases contact info for the diverse community organization list. They were part of the City high school internship program administered by the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO). Inna goes back to high school as a senior this fall. Demarcus finished up week before last and headed off to college in Wyoming.

Ryan, here since June 23, is working downtown, splitting his time between liquor applications and notifications with Kimberly, E-Alert! a camera project development with Walter Garcia, and Neighborhood Watch file updates with Katherine.

Ryan is a senior at Portland State University. He moved from Eugene to the PDX area last year to major in Criminal Justice/Criminology. He worked for three years in the loss prevention department at the University of Oregon Bookstore before moving here. “I am currently interested
in developing a career in crime analysis or intelligence analysis with a focus on white-collar crime (although my interests are constantly changing). I will be graduating from PSU in the fall, but may continue on to graduate school.

His hobbies include photography, film, and travel. I have also been exploring the Portland area and familiarizing myself with new cultural events, neighborhoods and restaurants. In addition, when not studying and working, I have recently spent time vacationing and taking pictures in Vancouver B.C.

Huma will be working out of CNN with Galina, assisting her in doing outreach and organizing with the residents at Hacienda properties in the IBTF Cully/Killingsworth target area. Huma came on board June 21.

She just finished working on National Night out at Clara Vista and Los Jardines and is currently working on getting a bilingual grant for ONI/CNN. “We are applying via the Oregon State Service Core which is in association with Americorps. We are hoping to get funding so we can have someone who speaks Somali or Spanish to help with outreach,” she said.

She started her undergraduate degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice in Spokane, Washington at Gonzaga University. She is currently completing her degree in Criminal Justice at Portland State University.

Huma lived in Nottingham, England and worked as a community mental health worker for a crisis service. She has experience with the Portland Somali refugee population, at risk youth, and law. She speaks Urdu and a moderate amount of Spanish. Huma was referred to ONI by Criminal Justice professor Kris Henning, whom she assisted with a Crime Analysis course at PSU.

Her future plans include applying to law school, the FBI, or even for a real estate license in the state of California where her family still resides. Huma’s hobbies include spending time with friends (and her dog!), traveling, and being active.
**Graffiti vandal sentenced for ‘Caveman’ tags all over Portland**

By Marcia Dennis

Jason Ehlers, age 27, of Vancouver WA, was recently sentenced in Multnomah County Court by Judge Jean K. Maurer to 26 months in prison. Ehlers, on probation for previous graffiti vandalism when he was arrested last year, had been responsible for more than 80 documented incidents of graffiti this time around. This time his tag was "CAVEMAN" and he had written it on property all over Portland, including city street signs, utility poles and property, and numerous residential and business properties. He pled guilty to 6 felony counts. Judge Maurer also handled his previous cases and had given him a sentence in 2002 that included substance abuse treatment and counseling, probation and restitution payments to his victims.

Portland Police arrest an average of 10 taggers (graffiti vandals) each month. Currently one officer is assigned to investigate and prepare cases to send to the District Attorney. It is an enormous task to put together a successful case against a graffiti vandal. Congratulations to the Portland Police and the District Attorney’ office (DDA Chuck Mickley) for the outcome on this case! And, thanks to the business people who took the time to send letters to Judge Maurer, expressing their concerns about graffiti and the cost to the community.

**Stephanie Reynolds co-chairs Mayors’ SAFE Initiative workgroup**

On Mayor Tom Potter’s recommendation, the City Council created a workgroup to address street disorder and sidewalk nuisance problems such as aggressive panhandling, public drinking, low level criminal activity, and intimidation and harassment in Portland’s downtown and neighborhood business districts.

**The Street Access for Everyone – or SAFE Initiative** – is an effort to develop community-driven strategies such as neighborhood action plans and community policing actions in specific business districts, partnerships to address homelessness and unemployment, and investments in public amenities like restrooms and benches.

"While Portland is still a very safe city compared to other cities our size, I have heard the concerns of business owners and visitors about the problems on our streets," said Mayor Potter. "We need to do more than just strengthen our laws or just hand out more citations. We need to get to the root causes of some of these problems."

The SAFE workgroup will be comprised of representatives from businesses, social service agencies, Portland Police, and neighborhood crime prevention organizations. The workgroup, which Stephanie Reynolds co-chairs with Maria Rubio from the Mayor’s office, will report back to Council by November with their recommendations.
The Neighborhood Mediation team at Resolutions Northwest, working with many volunteers, handled 943 cases last year serving about 2,600 people providing family, neighbor to neighbor, landlord-tenant and victim offender mediation. From l-r in back are Shari Bandes, Kevin Carlisle, Director Judith Mowry, in front, Carol Remington, administrative assistant, and Betsy Coddington, RNW Executive Director.

County, City and Resolutions Northwest meet to update Good Neighbor Agreement process

ONI Crime Prevention Coordinators met in June with Portland Police Bureau, Multnomah County District Attorney's Office and Resolutions Northwest (under contract with the city to supply mediation services) to devise a plan to refine the application and archiving process connected with the use of Good Neighbor or Partnership Agreements. The group discussed the need to supply template examples for application on specific types of preventative or proactive usage. Also discussed was the need to refine the archiving process and the need to create guidelines for different types of agreements and how they are used. More meetings on these issues are slated in the near future. If you have questions or desire any input into this process please contact ONI Crime Prevention Program Manager Stephanie Reynolds for additional information at (503) 823-2030.

Information and Referral

New defibrillators arrive at City Hall, Portland Bldg.
By John Dutt

City Hall and the Portland Building recently received a shipment of new defibrillators. Each floor of City Hall now has a defibrillator mounted to the wall at the South End of each floor near the men's restrooms.
Last month two CPR/Defibulator trainings were held in City Hall. Anna DiBenedetto, John Dutt, Lisa Leddy, Walter Garcia and William Warren attended these training. The AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) machines are quite amazing, easy to use and significantly improve the chance of saving a life of a cardiac episode victim.

We purchased three, 10-person 72 Hour kits. One for our City Hall office and two for the Columbia Building location. We are investigating cost and availability of individual kits for out-stationed staff. Also, attached is a handy guide regarding the most important piece on information you should know in the event of an earthquake… Click on link below to learn more about Drop, Cover and Hold…print it out, share with your friends, family and co-workers...
http://www.portlandonline.com/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=39926

Welcome new I&R staffer Susan Barr

Susan Barr came on board with the I&R team July 17, replacing Laura Araza, who moved on to another job. Susan, who hails from St. Cloud in northern Minnesota, has been living in Oregon for 20 years and spent 19 of them hosting a morning radio show at a country station. “I also have been a news reporter and traffic reporter, so traffic jams are of particular interest to me. Happily, now I take the bus to work, so the interest is purely academic. I love all things Portland and felt at home here the first time I set foot in the city. The 'Keep Portland Weird' philosophy may have something to do with it.”

“I have a techie husband, two dogs, two cats and I live above the Willamette River, where we can see a glimpse of water, especially when the leaves fall off the trees. For my first ten years here, I lived in Hawthorne and still consider it my neighborhood for all the good food and always entertaining inhabitants. I garden, love exploring city parks, and am just thrilled to be here.”

Out and About

Willie Brown appointed interim director at Northeast coalition

On Thursday July, 13 at an Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN) Executive Committee meeting, the Executive Committee resolved to hire Mr. Willie Brown as their Interim Executive Director. Brown has been a member of the NECN Board for close to 20 years and for the past two years served as Board President. Mr. Brown will assume the daily duties and responsibilities of the Director position effective Monday, July 17 through October 31, 2006. Please welcome Mr. Brown in this position. He can be reached at the NECN office at 503-823-4575, or by email at necn123@hotmail.com.

Samantha Kennedy accepts permanent ACCESS position

Samantha Kennedy was recently appointed as the permanent Neighborhood Intervention Specialist for the ACCESS Program downtown. “For the past few years Samantha has contributed greatly to the reduction of crimes in Downtown and Old-Town Chinatown by
coordinating treatment and housing for chronic repeat offenders who are often homeless, while leveraging enforcement and criminal justice resources and partnerships. Please join me in congratulating her,” said Eric King, ONI Business Operations Supervisor.

South East community volunteers receive White House award
By Cece Hughley Noel

Community volunteers in Southeast Portland received an award from the White House Drug Policy Council for their hard work and community organizing to make their neighborhood more livable by transforming a former drug property into a positive, community-owned center.

Director John P. Walters presented the Community Anti-drug Excellence Award to the members of the Mt. Tabor and South Tabor Neighborhood Associations and the Atkinson Elementary School PTA at a press conference Thursday, July 20th at 11:30 am at the site at 57th & SE Division Street. The Atkinson-Tabor Community Commons is on the site of the former Wake-Up Deli, 5633 SE Division Street in southeast Portland. Director Walters met with community members before the award ceremony to talk about the details of the project and this remarkable story of community engagement.

Do you know your city?
Congratulations to Dana Gantz, the first person to correctly answer that Lola Baldwin of Portland was the first female police officer in the U.S., that Penny Harrington was Portland’s first female police chief and that 1974 was the year the Office of Neighborhood Associations was officially recognized. Can you answer this one?

Besides rain and the Blazers, Portland is also famous for its coffee and beer. Our fair city is home to the oldest Oregon brewery. Can you name it?

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 503-823-4064 or email nwagenaar@ci.portland.or.us