



The Other Side of the Fence

E-News from ONI ~ May 2003

Enhancing the quality of neighborhoods through community participation.

Civic Involvement Center/ Metropolitan Human Rights Center

MHRC and the Civic Involvement Center have merged!! We are currently looking for a name for our new center - some suggestions include: Leadership and Involvement in Neighborhoods Center (LINC), Neighborhood Empowerment and Action Team (NEAT), Neighborhood Resource and Action Center (NRAC), and the Civic Involvement & Human Rights Center (CIHRC)... Let us know if you have any other suggestions!

Community Residential Siting Program

Several siting situations that the CRSP is working to resolve include:

- ❑ The development of a Good Neighbor Agreement between the Center and Laurelhurst Neighborhood Associations and the Portland Providence Medical Center as part of a conditional use Masterplan.
- ❑ Working with St. Francis and the Buckman Community as part of an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to define 'Day Camping' and recommend any additional rules and regulations to St. Francis and the Police to re-open St. Francis Park as part of a Nuisance Abatement agreement.
- ❑ Working with a stakeholder group to address community safety issues in the Richmond Neighborhood and develop a Good Neighbor Agreement between neighbors and Cascadia Plaza (a mental health facility) to improve communication.
- ❑ Developing a community outreach strategy for a supportive housing development for individuals with a mental illness in East Portland.

Downspout Disconnection Program

Community groups have been busy this spring helping to protect Portland's rivers. About 270 volunteers have mobilized to disconnect enough downspouts to remove 5 million gallons of water every year from Portland's busy sewer! They have also raised about \$4,000 for all the great projects they do in their own organizations. The following groups participated this season in 12 disconnection events this summer: Northwest Service Academy, City Repair Project, Building Convergence, University of Portland, Wattles Boys & Girls Club, Native American Youth Association, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Cleveland, Grant, and Madison High Schools and Tubman, Mt. Tabor and Environmental Middle Schools.

Please also come see the Downspout Disconnection T-shirt Art display in City Hall's atrium. For the past 6 years art students in Portland's schools have competed to design t-shirts that promote the program. As a result, a large body of art, showing why downspout disconnection is important, has been created that has never been shown.

We felt that this art was worth sharing. I hope that you can get a chance to come down and see what gifted students we have in Portland!

Interwoven Tapestry Project

Five projects have been finalized with neighborhood associations in which Tapestry staff will provide technical assistance over the summer in developing their skills to build relationships and improve outreach to immigrant and refugee communities. This is separate from competitive grant proposals. Five projects will be:

- ❑ Kenton Neighborhood Association, Frente Comune and others organizing an International Festival at Kenton Park in late summer.
- ❑ Cully Neighborhood Association, 42nd Ave. Target Area and Hacienda CDC organizing a Back-to-School Fiesta.
- ❑ Eliot Neighborhood Association, Albina CDC, and Somalian and Ethiopian resident leadership teams organizing crime prevention skills building and leadership development.
- ❑ Hosford Abernethy Neighborhood Development working with Asian-American community leaders organizing an oral history projects with High School youth.
- ❑ Lents Neighborhood Association, Lents Farmers Market, and SE Caring Community Latino Committee organizing a Multicultural Fair at the market.

Project Interwoven Tapestry is proud to announce its six small grants for this year:

- ❑ **St. John's Garden Project with the Oromo Community through NPNS** - Project partners will hold four community work parties lead by East African refugees to build a traditional sun/rain shelter in the St. John's Woods Gardens.
- ❑ **NECN and the African Community Dialogues Project** - facilitating alliance building dialogue between the African immigrant and African American communities.
- ❑ **City Repair and VOZ Workers Education Project through SEUL** - Build a "Plaza Latina" gathering place at SE 8th and Ankeny and create events to bring the residents and business of that area together with the day laborers who often wait for work there.
- ❑ **Parkrose NA and the Russian/English Learning Center through EPNO** - Nasha Rech will produce a series of articles in Russian about the Oregon Legislature and will host, together with Parkrose, a forum where immigrants/refugees and neighborhood activists can meet with legislators to educate them about immigrant issues.
- ❑ **Brooklyn Action Corps and c-layan/KPK SEUL** - will build leadership in Filipino American youth and SE Neighborhood associations through workshops and dialogues using popular education methodology.
- ❑ **St. Andrews and Somali Community Services through SWNI** - St. Andrews, Neighborhood House and the Somali Community Services will plan and host a neighborhood celebration for Somali Independence Day.

Many thanks to our grant reviewers Hongsa Chanthavong from IRCO, Neeru Kanal from the State Refugee Office, Kathy Lotspeich from the Urban Institute, and our own Preston Wong and Joleen Jensen-Classen. And congratulations to the awardees...

Amalia has been invited to go to Washington, DC to ask our national funders for a possible extension of Interwoven Tapestry for one more year. Her visit will also include meeting with other potential funders so the work if this project can continue.

Anti-Racism Discussion Group

Amalia has been serving as advisor for an anti-racism discussion group. This group is comprised mainly of white bilingual women working in the field of social work in the Latino community. The dialogue group is designed to help them get in touch with their motivations for working outside their culture of origin, determine where racism gets in the way and ultimately find ways to be better allies to the community and their Latino colleagues. We have been asked to present on this project at the National Association of Social Workers conference on May 9th.

Multnomah County Cultural Competency Policy Task Force

The Multnomah County Cultural Competency Policy Task Force has drafted a quick survey to get client feedback on their ability to provide culturally competent services. Results will get folded into the draft recommendations, which will then be presented at a series of large community-specific forums for further discussion and feedback. We hope to have the draft policy to the County Commissioners by the end of this fiscal year.

Refugee-Immigrant Coordination Program

- Attended the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (formerly INS) Community Roundtable meetings and requested DHS staff to make a presentation to the various refugee/immigrant communities, to share information about the INS reorganization.
- Attended the Seventh Annual Slavic Youth Leadership Conference, which was held at Mount Hood Community College on April 11, 2003. The event was a big success with more than 300 Russian speaking high school students participating in the full day conference.
- Continued to organize the Eleventh Annual Asian American Youth Leadership Conference, which will be held at Lewis and Clark College on May 14, 2003.
- Attended the Asian Reporter's and Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative's Scholarship Banquet at Legin restaurant on April 26, 2003. It was a pretty successful event with more than 800 participants including Commissioner Leonard. In the keynote speech, Dr. Carreon, President of Portland Community College, thanked the Portland Refugee and Immigrant Coordination Program for helping PCC's outreach efforts in the various ethnic/refugee/immigrant communities.

Citywide Public Involvement Taskforce

This taskforce is developing recommendations for Council considerations of citywide public involvement standards. At April meeting attended by over 40 people the group brainstormed ideas for types of issues to develop into recommendations. Next step is for group to organize constituency meetings for neighborhood leaders, City staff, business leaders, and community leaders of color, etc. to help identify and prioritize issues for which they want to advocate. PSU students continue assisting with research and surveying for this project.

GREAT - ONI Guidelines Review

Significant progress is being made. Draft language has been finalized by subcommittees working on public meeting requirements, diversity outreach and Communities Beyond Neighborhood Boundaries. Coalition directors are meeting to merge language on roles and responsibilities of Neighborhood Offices/Coalitions, and are beginning to define roles and responsibilities of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. This draft document will be reviewed by the GREAT committee at the May 13, 2003 meeting.

King Neighborhood Association newsletter

Brian worked with a volunteer crew in the Neighborhood Association to complete the layout and printing of a neighborhood newsletter. The newsletter is designed to assist this group in increasing turnout for their Annual meeting and board elections. They have faced conflict on land use issues and need to rebuild their leadership team. The entire newsletter is bilingual in Spanish.

Contractor List

Bureaus are continuing to use the pre-approved public information/public involvement contract list. Sixteen contractors have received contracts that total over \$163,465.00 since the beginning of the 2002-03 fiscal year.

West Side BIG Pipe Project

The West Side Big Pipe Project will become more visible after the completion of the 2003 Rose Festival season when BES will begin construction of two additional tunnel shafts. The Ankeny shaft, located in Waterfront Park across Naito from the Central Fire Station will be 52 feet in diameter. The Clay Street shaft located adjacent to the intersection of SW Clay and Naito Parkway will be 54 feet in diameter and will represent the upstream end of the tunnel. The tunnel boring machines will arrive in Portland in June. They will enter the ground at the Nicolai shaft. One will begin digging under the Willamette River to Swan Island and the second will proceed south to the Clay Street shaft. The TBS's will dig an average of 120 feet below the ground surface.

ONI Diversity Committee

The committee released the Diversity and Cultural Competency Survey in April. They were due back April 25th; 24 surveys were returned – which is not a bad return. The City's Affirmative Action office tabulated the results and we should be receiving that back shortly. We look forward to analyzing the data and announcing focus groups soon. Committee members are Amalia Alarcon Gaddie, Brian Hoop, J. Lauren Norris, Amanda Shepard, Carol Justice, Joleen Jensen-Classen, Stephanie Reynolds and Juan Mayoral. Feel free to contact any of them with questions, comments or concerns. Thank you to all whom took the time and thought to respond to this very comprehensive survey regarding ONI culture and diversity.

Coalition News

Coalition Performance Reports

The Coalition/Neighborhood offices have submitted third quarter performance reports for the 2002-03 fiscal year. During the period of January through March, the offices handled 17, 772 requests for technical assistance and supported over 6000 community members attending 650 neighborhood and coalition meetings. Neighbors participated in over 480 community involvement projects that included developing a community based food-buying co-op in North Portland and working to develop a healthy business district in East Portland. Approximately 203,000 newsletters were distributed to areas represented by the seven district coalition/neighborhood offices.

SEUL Fundraiser

Southeast Uplift Fundraising Event at Bagdad Theatre & Pub

When: Tuesday, May 6, 5:00 PM to close

Where: McMenamins Bagdad Pub, 3702 SE Hawthorne

Southeast Uplift and McMenamins Bagdad Pub invite you to have great food, talk to people and have a drink. Why? Because McMenamins will donate 50% of ALL sales after 5:00 PM to Southeast Uplift! Gift certificates and the movies also count!

Movies showing will be:

Adaptation - 8:00PM and 10:15PM

About Schmidt - 5:30PM

Sorry, no one under 21 allowed admitted to the theatre. All ages welcome for food and beverages in the pub.

Crime Prevention Center

Kids Risk Symposium

On March 26 and 27, 2003, Marcia Dennis attended the Kids Risk Symposium at the Harvard University School of Public Health on behalf of the Hands Are Not For Hurting Project. The Project paid all the expenses for Marcia and Ann Kelly to attend. The focus of the symposium was to more fully understand the “risks to children, with on-going research in several areas including injury prevention, medical risks, environmental hazards, and depiction of risks in entertainment media.”

We learned the number one cause of death for children age ten and under in the United States are car crashes. Children who die in car crashes are either not in a car seat or seat belts, or are in improperly installed car seats/booster seats. Heather Paul, PhD, Executive Director of National SAFE KIDS talked about what is being done through better parent/public education to improve kids’ safety in vehicles.

Our “Hands Are Not For Hurting” presentation was given in partnership with Dr Neil Shulman, MD, the “real” Doc Hollywood, and was very well received. We introduced a ten-minute video, *The Power of One*, still a work in progress. The video was and is going to be a valuable tool in spreading the Hands Project message. Dr. Shulman’s talk was about “reaching out to children with positive messages to encourage good choices.”

Other presentations were “Violence as Entertainment is a Public Health Issue” by U.S. Senator Sam Brownback from Kansas. Dr. Michael Rich, MD, MPH spoke about “Media and Public Health: Peril and Promise.” Dr. Rich has a unique perspective as a former movie producer who is now Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. He incorporated video excerpts from violent movies, games, and a *60 Minutes* television show featuring Lt. Col. Dave Grossman (Teaching Our Kids to Kill). By the age of 18, the average child in the US will have witnessed (via the news and entertainment media) 180,000 acts of murder! On another related issue, John Murray, PhD, Prof of Development Psychology at Kansas State University, discussed his research project on “Media and Children’s Brains.”

Team Building Works in Southeast

For the past year, Southeast crime prevention specialists have been working with the SE precinct to build a problem solving team. Starting with Neighborhood Response Team officers and crime prevention specialist, this team has grown to include: Deputy District Attorney, City Attorney, OLCC, Parks & Rec., Parole & Probation, Noise, Housing Inspection, and School Police. This team meets the first and third Tuesday of each month, and reviews a list of area

problem locations/situations. All team members can submit to the list. In addition, each team member brings his or her own unique skills and resources to addressing each entry on the list. List items include drug houses, problem alcohol licensees, vacant property with camping issues, problem clubs, prostitution, and more. Each item is reviewed at each meeting until the issues are resolved and then removed for the list.

The Southeast Problem Solving Team works well together and allows multiple disciplines to work together. For instance, in dealing with a drug house situation, police, crime prevention, the Deputy D.A. and housing inspection are all needed to successfully address the problem. Police work on building the case and making arrests, Crime Prevention trains neighbors in proper reporting and establishing a Neighborhood Watch. The Deputy D.A. prosecutes the case, and the housing inspectors work on compliance issues. Together, these efforts create an improved state of livability for all neighbors.

The Southeast Problem-Solving Team continues to build its membership by adding more and more disciplines, and bringing more tools to address the issues effecting our community.

Elders in Action

Elders in Action has specially trained volunteers available to assist seniors (60+) and people 18 and older with a long term disability with:

- Handling threat of eviction
- Denial of services by health plan
- Identity Theft/Scams
- Other types of problems

Ombudsman can help improve the quality of life for the same clientele by:

- Providing problem solving assistance
- Advocating for rights, safety, dignity & well being
- Providing information and linking to community services
- Providing emotional and peer support
- Providing physical support in making phone calls, filling out paper work, accompanying clients to appointments
- Educating and encouraging clients in self-advocacy

These services are available free. Elders in Action volunteers are also available to speak to senior and community groups about "**Senior Scams and other Bad Stuff**" and "**Breast Health Awareness.**" If you need an Ombudsman, or to arrange for a speaking engagement, call our Ombudsman Services Line 503 823-5293.

Information and Referral (I&R) Center

- April was a good month for the I&R Group as far as meeting our call statistical goals. For the month of April we answered just a bit under 14000 calls, with 91.2% of them answered under 25 seconds. This was well above our goal of 90%. The call volume

was pretty busy but with the initial outbreak of the war and the resulting concerns dying down we got back too much more normal call levels and types.

- We are working on updating the County printed directory. This year the County has decided to print only a few copies and to make this directory available on CD and through their website. Barbara has primarily been working to update these documents and we plan to have this done and issued in the next couple weeks.
- John has been working a lot with our Filemaker consultant to get the rewrite of our database done. This has been a slow and tedious process but we are getting very close to having a final product. This will be a tremendous accomplishment in that it will pave the way for us to accomplish several **goals** we have had for a long time.
 1. Improve the efficiency of how we navigate and use the database to track calls.
 2. Allow us to share this database with others through both the Intra- and Internet.
 3. Enable us to exchange data with the county to maintain and update their databases and ours.

Along with this effort to rewrite the database, we are working up a proposal for the CGIS to put our database on the new PortlandOnLine site.

The I&R Group did a site visit to the Neighborhood Inspections office and the 1900 building. Mitch McKee, one of the senior inspectors, was our main tour guide, and he did a great job of showing us around. We had an opportunity to see where each department of BDS was located in the building and meet a few staff. We then spent some time with the NIT support staff, Joonie and Tiffani, to learn about what they do. We are hoping to be able to arrange some ride-a-longs with inspectors next month.

ONI Website

Amanda and John met with Dan Bauer from BTS to discuss ONI's migration of our website to the new PortlandOnLine portal. They are about ready for us to move forward with them on this project. They have been busy up to this point creating the web tools and working with bureaus like OMF, Fire and the Auditor's office to work out the kinks and start loading content into the site. At this point our plan is to work out a basic design with CGIS using software called TreePad. Amanda is working on getting this draft together, plugging in categories and subcategories that we had previously come up with. The choices are based on the work that the committee (Brian Hoop, Amanda, John, and Stephanie Reynolds) had done with Todd Coward as well as the input we got from those at the ONI all staff meeting a few months back.

Once we have this draft together, Brian is going to put together a focus group of interested neighborhood office and coalition staff to provide input and feedback on this. We will submit our basic structure to the CGIS staff and they will create the framework for our site. Then we can begin to move our content to the new site. For a period of time, we will have 2 websites that can be linked. There was also a City webmaster meeting during the month that John attended. At this meeting the new Chief Technology Officer, Matt Lampe was introduced. He is very supportive of the Portland OnLine product. There was a presentation on the Portland OnLine project and it seems more bureaus are going to start moving their sites to this new portal. Fortunately we have already started working with CGIS on this and should be a bit ahead of most of the rest of the bureaus with regards to getting this going.