



The Other Side of the Fence

E-News from ONI ~ March 2003

Enhancing the quality of neighborhoods through community participation.

David Lane and Jonathan Kessler are the proud parents of twins!

Elijah Lane Kessler (male)

Born 1:04 p.m.

2/28/03

7 lbs., 4 oz

19 3/4 inches long

Sophie Lane Kessler (female)

Born 1:05 p.m.

2/28/03

6 lbs., 9 oz

19 3/4 inches long

Civic Involvement Center

Neighborhood Calendar

The neighborhood calendar is now available on the ONI web site.

CIC and MHRC

Its official - CIC and MHRC have now merged! We are excited about the opportunities this presents for all of us to maximize resources and collaborate. Stay tuned for the snazzy acronym name change.

Community Response to NE Hate Crime

ONI/Metropolitan Human Rights Center worked closely with the Portland Chapter NAACP, Albina Ministerial Alliance, NE Coalition of Neighborhoods, Latino Network and others to mobilize the community in response to a bias related shooting spree in which four young white men shot at cars allegedly owned by African-Americans living in the neighborhoods of King, Piedmont, and Humboldt. Over 100 people attended a Town Hall forum Monday, Feb. 3 followed by over 300 who marched along the route of several of the shootings in King on Saturday, February 8. Not in Our Town posters were re-printed by MHRC and are still available for posting in home and business windows.

Interwoven Tapestry Project

MHRC met with three neighborhoods, Cully, Kenton, and Eliot Neighborhood Associations, to discuss assisting them with developing outreach strategies to build relationships with immigrant and refugee communities. Will be working in March with SEUL and East Portland Neighborhood Office to identify several more neighborhoods. These neighborhoods will receive extra staff technical assistance and up to \$2,000 to fund a special project in partnership with an immigrant and refugee group. Also worked with IRCO on developing plans for a lobbying training for immigrants and refugees.

Citywide Public Involvement Standards Taskforce

Over 80 people attended the first meeting February 25 of this taskforce which will be developing recommendations for public involvement standards for consideration by City Council. We have received a lot of great ideas. Next we will be organizing opportunities for different constituencies (neighborhood associations, City staff, community groups of color, etc.) to brainstorm and prioritize issues for which they want to advocate. Five Portland State University students are assisting with research and interviews with City staff and citizen activists.

King Neighborhood Association and Miracles Club

John Canda and **Brian Hoop** led a board retreat for the King Neighborhood Association to assist with their efforts to rebuild the board leadership and develop an outreach plan for their spring Annual Meeting and new board elections. In addition, the group continues to identify ways to problem-solve livability and cultural differences with the Miracles Club, an AA group primarily serving the African-American community.

Burnside Triangle Advisory Group

MHRC continues to assist the BTAG volunteer activists in advocating for gay, lesbian, bi, and trans concerns over the future redevelopment of the SW Stark St. cultural district. The group has completed a survey and is tabulating the findings, which they will be presenting to City Council on Wednesday, March 19, 10:15 AM. The group also met with Abe Farcas, with the Portland Development Commission, to discuss the West End plan.

ABC's of Land Use Workshop

ONI and the North Portland Neighborhood Office are sponsoring a land use basics workshop on Saturday, March 8, 9 AM at the Historic Kenton Firehouse in North Portland. For more information contact: **Brian Hoop**, 503-823-3075. The trainers include Bureau of Development Services and Bureau of Planning staff.

Elders in Action Volunteers -"Help find solutions"

Elders in Action has formed a Special Ombudsman Mobilization Team to link folks to the Ombudsman Services during this critical time of service cuts. Thousands of seniors and people with disabilities living in Portland and the surrounding area have lost vital services because of budget cuts and many are at a loss of what to do. Elders in Action's volunteers can take the time to "help find solutions" and help people access other possible services. These specially trained Ombudsmen are available to assist seniors (60+) and people 18 and older with a long-term disability who may be experiencing problems in the areas of healthcare, housing and crime and abuse. These services are free. If you need an Ombudsman, call the **Ombudsman Services Line at 503-823-5293**.

Ombudsman can help improve the quality of life for these individuals by:

- Providing problem solving assistance
- Advocating for your rights, safety, dignity & well being
- Providing information and link you with 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 client in self-advocacy

West Side Big Pipe Update



Look for this new logo on information related to the West Side Combined Sewer Overflow Projects.

Construction is underway at several locations. The main tunnel shaft is located at NW front and Nicolai. It is 55 feet in diameter and 120 feet deep. The tunnel-boring machine will enter this shaft and dig south to SW Clay Street. A second tunnel-boring machine will enter this shaft and dig north, under the Willamette River to Swan Island where it will connect with the Swan Island Pump Station which is also under construction. This shaft will be 130 feet in diameter and 150 feet deep. A shaft at NW Front and Upshur is also under construction.

This spring construction will begin on tunnel shafts located at SW Naito Parkway and Ankeny and SW Clay Street.

Downspout Disconnection

The Downspout Disconnection Team launches its 8th season! On March 4, 5, & 6th, 24 AmeriCorps volunteers and ONI Canvassers will undergo a three-day training. The training will prepare them to help us meet our steep goals for the season. We plan to knock on 14,000 doors this summer to encourage homes to participate. We will also conduct a 22,000 home survey in our old target area to ensure the accuracy of our success. On top of all that outreach, we plan to disconnect downspouts at 3000 homes and mobilize about 600 diverse volunteers to help. This will result in the removal of about 68 million gallons of water from Portland's busy sewers every year!

Crime Prevention Center

- Crime Prevention, NECN, and EPNO were awarded a grant called Project Safe Neighborhoods from the US Attorney's office. The grant is for \$250,000 over two years and will fund community outreach, training, education, and program coordination to address factors related to gun violence.
- March 14, 2003 the crime prevention Association of Oregon will be offering training on Identity Theft at East Precinct from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Officers Barbara Glass and Jim Lawrence will be conducting the training.
- **Katherine Anderson** has been working with the County, Mayor's Office, management and residents of the Vista De Clara Vista to address crime and complaints from tenants.
- Howard Weiner, the public Safety Chair of Old Town/Chinatown, is working with ONI to develop an application to receive official designation from the Executive Office of Weed and Seed (EOWS) and apply for funding from EOWS.

- On February 13, 2003, ONI participated in the Portland Police Bureau press conference announcing the full implementation of the Senior Neighborhood Officers throughout the City. Kimberly McClain from the Montavilla Neighborhood Association discussed the successes that MNA has had with their SNO and the assistance of **Rhetta Drennan**.

Liquor License Notification Program

- OLCC has convened two task forces to revise current administrative rules related to product restrictions and state recognized impact areas. Potential changes to both of these rules could have some impact on the livability within neighborhoods. OLCC is seeking greater restrictions of certain products, which have a deleterious effect on neighborhoods. The goal of the impact rule is to make the rule less onerous for neighborhoods that are trying to address the adverse impacts that saturation licensing has especially in high crime areas. **Amy Cammack**, **David Little** and **Art Hendricks** are participating on the task forces.
- ONI is working with the City Attorney 's office on draft ordinance language that will provide the City with the ability to restrict problem liquor outlets in Portland neighborhoods. The proposed language will allow Portland to limit the hours of operation of a business that has a pattern of complaints related to noise, trash and lewd behavior from patrons.

Graffiti

Based on the statistics from YEI, graffiti tags were up 50% in 2002 and the number of sites that were cleaned increased by 35% in 2002 from 2001. We are seeing bigger and more difficult tags to clean.

Metropolitan Human Rights Center (MHRC)

- MHRC is preparing to roll out the RFP for the Interwoven Tapestry small grants. These dollars will fund projects that team up refugees and immigrants with neighborhood activists through the coalitions. A similar amount of non-competitive dollars will also be available to fund activities in select neighborhoods that **Brian**, **Paul** and **Amalia** will be working with.
- **Paul Duong** has completed a draft proposal for the creation of an Advisory Committee for the Portland Refugee and Immigrant Coordination Program (PRICP). He provided refugee/immigrant community leaders with meeting notes discussing the development of PRICP's work plan and solicited their input.
- **Paul** assisted Crime Prevention in educating several refugee/immigrant business owners about the process and goals of the Graffiti Removal Program. These business owners had not previously been aware of the program and this proved to be an obstacle for members of the removal crew. Perhaps a program flyer needs to be translated into several languages such as Chinese, Spanish, Korean and Vietnamese in the near future.
- Portland Police Bureau and members of the Asian Law Enforcement Advisory Council of Oregon (ALEACO) are working with the Refugee and Immigrant program to create a system that would inform refugee/immigrant members about the possibility of chemical/biological attacks. There are also plans to translate information on how to prepare an emergency kit into several refugee/immigrant languages.

- **Paul** is participating in the organization meetings for Asian, Slavic annual Youth Leadership Conferences. Additionally he continues to work with the NESEI Student Relocation Commemorative Fund, Japanese American Citizen League, The Asian Reporter, and representatives of the Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, Mien, and Vietnamese refugee/immigrant communities to implement a \$35,000 scholarship program for high school seniors of Indochinese descent.

Information and Referral (I&R) Center

- The big news for I&R for February is that we made our 90% goal for the first time in 4 months! It has been a tough few months with the IRNE phone troubles and the fact that we are still on Qwest while most everyone is switched to IRNE. This means we continue with the 11-digit dialing and occasional phone trouble. It is looking like we will have to continue with this until May or June as that is the expected date of the new ACD coming on board. Despite the obstacles though the crew hit **90.4%** for the month with about 12500 calls answered through a lot of hard work and extra attentiveness to the phones.
- We continue our work on several other projects including the media database and the rewrite of the service database. We are inching closer to the rollout of the service database for public consumption and are working with CGIS to make this part of the new City Portal that should be rolling out this spring.
- We have also decided to go with the City Portal template for the redo of the ONI website. We are at the top of the list for bureaus to make this switch when they are ready to roll it out which is supposed to be in April.
- We also are researching the compatibility of the BDS Neighborhood inspections intake with the I&R unit to see if it makes sense to merge these units, keep them essentially separate, or workout something in between these two options. The NIT/ONI merge looks to be highly probable and for the I&R unit this has some potential impact in both the size of the unit and a diversification of duties if it makes sense to merge the units. **John Dutt** is planning to spend some time with the NIT intake staff over the coming weeks to get a feel for their workload and the compatibility of a merge.

Coalition Information

District Coalition Reports

The District Coalition/Neighborhood Office second quarter performance reports are in and as expected, these groups have been busy. Some key highlights include:

- The coalition/neighborhood offices handled over 11,830 requests for technical assistance, which are more complex information and referral calls. They come in the form of faxes, phone calls, emails and walk-in visits.
- Over 6,165 community members attended approximately 590 neighborhood association meetings during this quarter.
- Approximately 127, 233 newsletters were distributed to the neighborhoods represented by the seven offices.

The Guidelines Ad-Hoc Committee on Public Meetings Law continues to move forward with suggestions to make this requirement easier for neighborhood leaders to understand and comply with.