



The Other Side of the Fence

E-News from ONI ~ January 2003

Enhancing the quality of neighborhoods through community participation.

Welcome to Commissioner Randy Leonard!

Randy Leonard, the City's newest Commissioner, has been appointed the Commissioner-in-Charge of ONI. ONI staff and managers have been meeting with Commissioner Leonard to update him and his staff about ONI, its programs, and issues we're working on. Commissioner Leonard attended the December All Staff meeting and is already out and about meeting with neighbors and various constituent groups.

Brent Canode is the Commissioner's liaison to ONI. Brent brings years of experience with him including working with Senator Wyden's office. Brent "hit the ground running" and is already up to speed on ONI issues.

Civic Involvement Center

Westside CSO update. Construction is underway on the West Side Big Pipe Project. Tunnel Shafts are being construction at three sites. Luckily for our intrepid public involvement staffer, Joleen Jensen-Classen, these three sites are out of the public right of way and posing no problem to nearby businesses.

A special thanks to **Eric King** and **Amy Cammack** for helping to add necessary features to the West Side Big Pipe Access Database. Their work saved BES hours that would have been billed to a consultant contract.

Joe Annett will have his hands full in Northwest Portland as the Tanner Stream Diversion project resumes full strength after the holiday moratorium. Works will begin on West Burnside above NW 24th Place. The real fun is all the work to take place on NW Flanders from NW 18th to 24th Place.

RFSS Open House a Success! The open house for the Public Information, Public Involvement Flexible Services Contracts was a great success. Contractor representatives and bureau staff had a chance to meet and gain a better understanding of services available and services needed. Thanks to **Joleen Jensen-Classen** and **Brian Hoop** for their leadership on this important interbureau project.

Neighborhood Small Grants Program. Work is proceeding on the proposed ONI Small Grants Program. The committee met before the holidays and developed a draft program outline and application form. The next meeting will take place January 14, 2003 at Noon in the Pettygrove Room of City Hall. City Council authorized ONI to develop an implementation strategy for a small grants program that allows neighborhood associations and other community groups to leverage community resources, encourage volunteerism and carry out local projects. ONI has been directed to craft program guidelines, approval process and budget recommendations for City Council review and approval by February 1, 2003. If anyone has ideas on this exciting, program, please contact Joleen at (503) 823-2822 or joleenj@bes.ci.portland.or.us.

- ◆ **CRSP News.** CRSP Staff—okay, **Eric King**—is getting ready to complete the Annual Report, so look for more detailed information about CRSP activity in next months Newsletter, in the meantime, a sampling of some of the current siting cases that the CRSP is working to mediate or facilitate include:
 - Working with stakeholders from the St. Francis Church, the Buckman Community Association, Businesses, and other nearby neighbors to discuss next steps.
 - The signing of a Good Neighbor Agreement for the siting of an apartment complex housing individuals with mental illness and drug and alcohol issues in the Powellhurst-Gilbert Neighborhood will be presented at a public meeting on December 18th
 - Design issues for an affordable/special needs housing development in the Kenton Neighborhood through an advisory committee. The group is working to incorporate elements identified in the Kenton Downtown Plan into the design of the development.
 - Working with the Mediation Center to negotiate an agreement between neighbors, Tri-met, Multnomah County Developmental Disabilities Division and Portland Office of Transportation concerning a foster care home and tri-met lift bus service.
- ◆ Some of the policy issues the CRSP is working on include:
 - The CRSAC is working to develop a public education/information plan on siting. This plan will be reviewed at the January quarterly meeting. The goal is to inform citizens about the services offered by the CRSP as well as educate the public on addressing the need to provide housing for people with special needs.
 - Working with PDC to develop languages that incorporates the siting of special needs housing into their housing strategies for the active urban renewal areas that they are currently developing.
- ❖ **Pioneer Courthouse Square Ice Rink.** ONI was approached by Pioneer Courthouse Square to help with developing public forums for the proposed seasonal ice rink in the Square. **Brian Hoop** is working with several of the neighborhood offices to organize a series of public meetings where people can hear about the proposal, see an architectural model, and provide input. Thanks to the Parks Bureau for helping to get ONI involved!
- ❖ **2003 Neighborhood Summit.** ONI will be organizing this year's Neighborhood Summit in early March. We are looking for a location. Every ONI staff member and Center will be involved; discussion about the Summit began at the December All-Staff meeting.
- ❖ **ONI GREAT/Guidelines Review Committee.** Over 15 neighborhood leaders continue to debate and make changes to the ONI Guidelines and Portland City Code, chapter 3.96 dealing with neighborhood associations. The committee is actively working on how to incorporate outreach to under-represented constituencies as a role of the neighborhood system within existing resource constraints. Brian has been interviewing community leaders of color to identify issues and concerns they have on the “communities beyond neighborhood boundaries” concept that has been in the guidelines since the mid-90's but has not been utilized by any group yet.

Crime Prevention Center

- ◆ **Katherine Anderson** is working with Multnomah County, PPB, Parks, and community providers to address public safety concerns at the Vista De Clara Vista. Residents are concerned about increased gang and criminal activity.
- ◆ **Liquor License Program Update.** The LLAG has received feedback from neighborhood associations regarding liquor licensing. The LLAG will complete its report in January. Coinciding with the LLAG report, OLCC is revising its Alcohol Impact Rule, hopefully to make it easier for neighbors to address problem alcohol locations.

- ◆ **E-Volvement Project.** ONI crime prevention in partnership with PPB, Innovation Partnership, AT&T Broadband, BIT, Corporate GIS will be launching E-volvement in the Portsmouth Neighborhood Association. E-volvement is a pilot project that will link neighbors through the Internet in a virtual community policing web site. **David Lane** is on the Steering Committee and **Melissa Delaney** will be the lead from ONI in this new e government project.

Metropolitan Human Rights Center (MHRC)

- Staff coordinated the Refugee & Immigrant Consortium forum meeting on December 17 to discuss current issues such as IRS reform including customer services.
- **Brian Hoop** is working on updating the Community Resource Handbook for communities of color; **Paul Duong** is helping.
- MHRC helped to organize Cambodian, Chinese, Hmong, and Vietnamese cultural performances to celebrate the installation of the elephant statues on December 14, at the North Park Blocks. The bronze statues were a gift from China to the City of Portland.
- Staff met with leaders of the Somali refugee/immigrant community and neighborhood activists as part of networking efforts and also to develop a future plan to bring Bantu refugees to Oregon.
- **Paul Duong** participated in the Honor Seniors Luncheon event for refugee/immigrant elders at Lutheran Community Services Northwest. The event was part of the Senior Service program, which is a joint program of Oregon refugee/immigrant service providers comprising of Catholic Charities Resettlement Program, Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, and Jewish Children & Family Services.
- Staff organized and participated in planning meetings for Asian, Hispanic, and Slavic Youth Leadership Conferences and continue 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.

Neighborhood Mediation Center (NMC)

SILVER JUBILEE & SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO EDDIE COLLINS

Come celebrate 25 years of neighborhood mediation services to residents of the City of Portland. Also help us give special recognition to ONI employee **Eddie Collins** for his 25 years of service to the City.

Event: Silver Jubilee

Date: Thursday, January 23, 2002

Time: 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. with a short program at 6:30 p.m.

Location: King Neighborhood Facility's Community Court Room, 4815 NE 7th Avenue

Refreshments, program, special guests, PLUS...check out the newly remodeled King Facility!

- **Mediation Services to transition.** On February 3, 2003, mediation services will be delivered by Resolutions Northwest, a long-term community-based provider of mediation services. Council approved this change last fall. Trained volunteer mediators will continue to be utilized and service will be accessed using the same phone number and will be located at the King Center.

Administration Center

Budget Season. The budgeting process for FY 2004 has begun. Once again, the bureau is soliciting input from the BAC (*Bureau Advisory Committee*) and the EMBAC (*Employee-Management Budget Advisory Committee*) in order to generate budgeting ideas and to help shape our "requested budget". As is generally the case, however, the timeline is short; bureaus are required to submit this budget version to BFP by February 12th. The following is a *tentative* schedule of other relevant budget events:

- **March 17 - March 28** *Council Work Sessions*
- **March 31 - April 11** *Mayor's Work Sessions*
- **April 29** *Mayor's Proposed Budget Available*
- **May 5 - May 12** *Council Budget Hearings*
- **May 15** *Council votes on the Approved Budget*

The Winter 2002 Neighborhood Directory is now available online and print versions should be reaching neighbors throughout the city shortly via US mail and Interoffice mail. If you have not received a print version by January 10, 2003 and cannot utilize the online version, please contact **Amanda Shepard** at ONI, 503-823-4519, to have one mailed to you. As with previous updates, we are stressing the use of our web based Searchable Directory, which allows the user to design searches and access information that is refreshed every two weeks. Many thanks go to all of the neighborhood coalition and association contacts who sent updated information for this newest version of a very valuable resource. Find the online Searchable Directory, along with static copies of our Directory in PDF or Word format, at <http://www.myportlandneighborhood.org/myneighborhood.html>.

Information and Referral (I&R) Center

- **Phone Switchover Troubles....** With the winter rains came the phone woes to the City of Portland! The City is in the process of switching from the Qwest phone system to the IRNE phone system and any major technology shift is rarely without kinks; this one has been no exception. These kinks are definitely being felt by the I&R group in two major areas that are affecting our ability to achieve our goal of 90% of calls answered within 25 seconds. First of all because the city will be operating on two different phone systems until the switch over is complete, it is currently necessary to dial 11 digits when connecting to any city phone vs. the 5 digit dialing that we are usually able to do. The other major inconvenience has been the high number of phone problems created by the switch over.
- Despite all this phone system unrest, the I&R crew continued to battle and come awfully close to our 90% goal reaching right around 89% for both November and December. December saw a very quick start with a lot of calls because of the County energy assistance program and other social service programs and a big slow down during the holiday weeks. In one day alone, the first Monday of December, we got over 500 calls for Human Solutions, a major provider of social services in East County.
- During December we updated, printed and mailed out a new Pocket Phone Directory. There were some significant changes including the new Commissioner and a new name for OPDR, to Bureau of Development Services. If you need any directories let us know!
- **Quarterly Updates....** December also was time for us to work on our quarterly updates to the services database. Staff is in the middle of getting updates back from our liaisons to bring the database up to date for the various city and county services.

- **Filemaker Update!** We continue our work to rewrite the Filemaker database. As we inch closer to the final product we also have updated and put a new version of the databases on the City's Intranet site. It is still a work in progress to get a nicer, easier to use format but we did resolve the issue with records disappearing in the conversion from Filemaker to Access. We are now targeting the end of January for a completion date on this project and a version on the intranet and at least a trial version for the internet.
- **ONI Website.** We have decided to take a different path with regards to the updating of the ONI website. In December we got news about the city's CGIS group making significant advances with the city's new portal that they plan to use for an integrated city website in the not too distant future. The ONI web redesign group met with Dan Bauer from CGIS and he updated us on their progress and the feasibility of us moving forward using their template for our website. He indicated they are ready for bureaus to begin porting their stuff over and that now would be a good time to do so as we are in the middle of revamping the site anyhow. The new portal they are working on will have many features that we want to make available including on-line interactive calendar and e-notification subscription capabilities. Probably the biggest concern we will need to overcome in this model is with our databases. Their model is database driven and we would want to be able to maintain our Access and Filemaker databases, if possible, given that the city portal will be Sequel database driven. Todd Coward is working with us to see how this and any other issues can be overcome as we move forward. We will meet in January with CGIS to discuss these issues and next steps.