



The Other Side of the Fence

E-News from ONI ~ February 2004

Enhancing the quality of neighborhoods through community participation.

Crime Prevention

By Staff

Southeast Uplift (SEUL) Crime Prevention program is up and running and many stakeholders including police, neighborhood associations, and individual residents are contacting us with requests for various types of crime prevention information. Based on these requests 2 targeted car prowling outreach and awareness projects were scheduled for February; 3 neighborhood watch trainings; half a dozen of foot patrol trainings; and approximately 4 other trainings of various nature have been requested including school safety training, burglary prevention, etc. For more information about crime prevention programming at SEUL e-mail Gboyeckho@ci.portland.or.us

From the Southeast Uplift Coalition office: Please join us for the Community Dialogues 2 workshop - February 21, at Sunnyside United Methodist Church, 3520 SE Yamhill; Full schedule of SEUL activities is at <http://www.southeastuplift.org/events.htm>

Neighbors West Northwest Neighborhoods are increasing their opportunities to work with PPB Senior Neighborhood Officers and crime prevention. Residents are especially interested in learning how to reduce their automobile being a target of a car prowling. Similarly, neighborhoods are increasing their awareness on when and how to report graffiti vandalism. Crime prevention coordinator addresses these requests via training, awareness events, and presentations at neighborhood meetings.

Northwest District Association has formally approved their neighborhood's involvement in this year's National Night Out is Tuesday, August 3, 2004. For more information regarding crime prevention programming in the Neighbors West Northwest, e-mail wwarren@ci.portland.or.us

North Crime Prevention has teamed up with North East Crime Prevention and will be providing 'gang awareness' training to the Portsmouth Neighborhood Association. In addition, in response to the continuing citizen reports of drug dealing and low level crimes within the Kenton Neighborhood, North Portland Crime Prevention has teamed up with the Albina Weed and Seed Program, and with Portland Police Bureau (North Precinct) to fund a neighborhood police bike patrol in the area.

For more information regarding crime prevention programming in North neighborhoods, e-mail wgarcia@ci.portland.or.us

East Crime prevention Office News: Katherine Anderson has returned to the East Portland Neighborhood Office and will share neighborhoods and Crime Prevention programming with Teri Poppino. In addition to Katherine's neighborhood assignments (which have not been finalized yet), Katherine was selected as the Block Captain/Special Events Coordinator. In this added capacity, she will work with the Block Captain Steering Committee, plan special events including the Block Captain Recognition and National Night Out. For more information or to volunteer, please e-mail kanderson@ci.portland.or.us

In Southwest Portland, Stephanie Reynolds has been working on a car prowling project in the Corbett-Terwilliger-Lair Hill (CTLH) neighborhood, which has the highest car prowling rate in the Southwest coalition. The efforts of many volunteers and staff involved in this program resulted in a more than 70% decrease in car prowls by early fall of 2003. Efforts to renew the project in CTLH are being coordinated. For more information regarding crime prevention programming in Southwest Portland, e-mail sreynolds@ci.portland.or.us

In Downtown Portland, Samantha Kennedy is actively working on a number of crime prevention projects including the project ASSIST. Goals of the ASSIST project (A = Accessing; S = Shelters & S = Social Services; I = Intervention; S = Support; T = Team) include identification of individuals who are in need of some type of community intervention for their own personal safety or for the safety of the community; outreach to ASSIST partners; and development of community action plans. For more information about this project and crime prevention programming in downtown, e-mail samanthak@portlandpatrol.com

Dave Austin the Crime Prevention Program Coordinator at **Central Northeast Neighborhoods** is working on two major projects including review of all the Neighborhood Watch/Block Captain records at CNN and the Community Partnership Agreement at Villa de Clara Vista. For more information, please e-mail daustin@ci.portland.or.us

NE crime prevention coordinators are responding to a string of shooting incidents in NE Portland via outreach and education to neighborhoods. In addition, crime prevention staff in collaboration with John Canda, Director of NE Coalition, implemented a safety action plan, which addresses strategies for organizing neighborhood watches, recruiting block captains, and encouraging neighbors to be proactive by reporting potential crime and suspicious activity. Chief Derrick Foxworth highlighted the need for citizens to report crime as well as witness information at a recent Chief's Forum. John Canda organized a press conference on Feb 5, 2004 to outline a community response and talk about the community plan. Crime prevention has also been working with the Boise Neighborhood Association on a Safety Action Plan to address crime issues in their neighborhood especially along N Mississippi Ave. For more information, please e-mail pwong@ci.portland.or.us

Information & Referral (I&R)

By John Dutt

- After surviving the first week of the New Year and the unusually bad winter storm, life returned to normal in the I&R Unit. Unfortunately with the siege of calls to start the month we were unable to make it back to the 90% of calls answered under 25 seconds for the month. We did however bounce back from the 80% start of the month to finish at a respectable 88%. For the month we ended up answering just about 13,000 calls.
- Staffing update- The month was dominated by staffing developments. The recruitment for a Spanish speaker churns along. We ended up with 98 applications. After the initial HR screening we had 78 applications to review. The evaluation panel reviewed these applications and narrowed the field to 25. We are now in the process of a written test to these 25 to attempt to narrow the field to about 10. We will then interview these finalists. We were VERY impressed with the applicant pool. The number of very qualified candidates was remarkable. Unfortunately HR has decided that we will only be allowed to fill one position from this list. Any other positions will need to be filled from the regular OSS2 list. We are looking at trying to survey this list as well to narrow the field as we do currently have 2 immediate needs we are trying to fill. The other development is that ONI is seeking to fill a temporary OSS2 position to provide support to Art Hendricks and the Crime Prevention program. This is being offered as an opportunity internally for existing OSS2 staff to apply. Depending on who is chosen to fill this role there could be an additional need to a temporary staff in I&R. Colleen is still with us in I&R pending the results of this recruitment. Also, Teresa Solano has been working with the I&R Unit the last week and a half to help us fill the voids. She is doing an excellent job and also she speaks Spanish so I&R once again has a Spanish speaker in the office. Inspections Team where she had been working for the past 6 months.
- Pocket Directory- The new edition of the Pocket Directory has gone to press. We have completed calling through to the contacts in our Marketing Database and will be shipping these out in the next couple of weeks. If you need a supply of these new directories and we have not contacted you please call us at 823-4000 to get added to our Marketing Database.
- County Printed Directory- We completed an update of the County Departmental Printed directory this month. The County has gone through major organizational changes in the last 6 months so it was a significant task getting all of the information updates in our records.

Website

We continue to chip away at updating the content in our Website. The Web Calendar recommendations document has been completed and presented to BTS. They are presently working on implementing these suggested changes so users should start to notice a marked improvement the the Citywide Calendar tool. John met with taught Todd Coward this month and they discussed plans for Neighborhood Pages. We need to check in with BTS on the progress of moving the ONI Access Database to the SQL server to enable this to happen.

Evolverment

The Evolverment Project Phase 2 is kicking into gear. Phase 2 will incorporate all of North Portland into the project. On February 10th there will be a group forum with key bureau and neighborhood contact to discuss what the new site(s) should be like. Brian and Amalia are also getting involved to help determine how ONI can best assist with providing outreach assistance to make this project a success. The expected launch of Phase 2 has been pushed back a month or so to end of March at this point.

Neighborhood Inspections Team (NIT)

By Ed Marihart

The Get Legal Program is a new customer assistance program recently instituted by Bureau of Development Services of which NIT is a main participant and team member. It's a program to help provide additional specialized assistance to property owners to legalize work that was done illegally without required permits. The Get Legal Team consists of representatives from Zoning/Planning, Residential/Commercial Inspections, Plans Examiner, Compliance Services, Development Services, Appeals and our very own Lynda Byers from NIT for Property Maintenance Code issues. The process is a team focus approach to assess the current situation, develop a tailored work plan to legalize the work and provide assistance with applying for permits and appeals if needed. Some examples of prior work done that would qualify for the program include: converting a garage to habitable space without permits, converting a single family house to a duplex without permits, in other words more difficult and/or complex work without permit cases. NIT already has referred several older Housing cases to the Get Legal Program and has identified several more potential candidates. NIT will be a major referral because of the nature of our work with Title 29 and Housing Maintenance Code Violations. NIT has also developed a new GET LEGAL WAIVER, which would suspend monthly Code Enforcement Fees on Housing Cases that are accepted into the program. Those fees would be suspended until the property falls out of the program or is no longer eligible.

Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC)

By Joleen Jensen-Classen

Coalition/Neighborhood Office Update

During the second quarter of the 2003-04 fiscal year (October through December), the coalition/neighborhood offices handled over 2100 requests for technical assistance, which are complex information and referral calls that require more time, effort and expertise on the part of, staff. The requests come in the form of phone calls, emails, faxes, and walk-ins. Neighborhood associations, neighbors and city staff initiates most of these requests. Approximately 7400 community members attended over 630 neighborhood and coalition meetings this quarter and office staff attended 50% of those meetings. Newsletter production and distribution increased this quarter by 16% for a total of 198,000. The offices continue to support a variety of community projects from clean-ups to volunteer recognition events. They are partnering with over 1420 groups including groups representing immigrants and people of color, other non-profits and government agencies.

Tunneling Work Set to Begin in March

In addition to the West Side Big Pipe being dug by a 14-foot diameter tunnel-boring machine BES is also using a small version to place pipes SW Portland along SW Moody Avenue.

Construction on the Southwest Parallel Interceptor Sewer Project Segment 3 (SWPI 3) will enter a new phase in early March, as pipe installation starts. Environmental Services will use a construction method called micro tunneling to build the pipeline.

This construction method involved lowering the micro tunnel boring machine (MTBM) into a shaft and tunneling toward an adjacent “destination” shaft. Large hydraulic jacks in the shaft push the concrete pipe sections into place behind the MTBM. A crane retrieves the machine from the destination shaft and takes it to the next micro tunneling location.

Steel Bridge Work

Those of you moving North and or South on Naito Parkway may have notices the traffic diversions around and under the Steel Bridge. The work involves drilling holes to inject concrete below the Steel Bridge foundations. This hardened soil and concrete stabilizes the ground under the bridge foundations during construction of the West Side Big Pipe. Traffic controls will be in place and two-way traffic will be maintained at all times. The closures will be in place through March and will affect both north and southbound traffic.

In Other NRC News...

By Jan Campbell

With the snow and ice storm in January the Disability Project received many calls regarding accessibility issues for persons with disabilities not being able to use the sidewalks, curb cuts and busses. Large piles of snow had either been plowed or shoveled along the edge of the sidewalks and to the bottom of the curb cuts, making it impossible for persons with mobility problems to travel. Many callers could not even get out onto the sidewalk, but when the sidewalks were cleared, once they got to the curb cuts there was snow piled at the bottom. The Project Coordinator talked with the City's Maintenance Bureau and they are going to look at these issues. Residents are responsible for the sidewalk in front of their home. Of course, we don't know how many people are aware of this. We talked about the need to educate the people running the plows that they need to try to keep the curb cuts clear. Also there needs to be clear areas on the sidewalks so when people with mobility limitations want to access the buses they won't have to step over a pile of snow, and that there is a clear space for the bus driver to lower the lift or ramp when needed. The dialogue has begun and I believe the City will do everything they can so that in the future our major sidewalks and streets during inclement weather will be useable by everyone.

Neighborhood Service Center (NSC)

By Eric King

Graffiti Abatement

- **Since the Graffiti Service Requests online report system became available in October 2003, it has generated 200 reports of graffiti.** Of these reports, 30 have been “closed”, 159 have been referred. Notification letters have been sent to twenty property owners putting them on notice they should remove the graffiti on their buildings or respond to the letters in a timely manner
- **We have made presentations to four community or business groups, with three more scheduled in February.** In addition, the Graffiti Work Group is reviewing the current contract for graffiti removal services in preparation for opening the bidding process in April.

- **The Graffiti Task Force is working on the proposed shared database**, and another group is reviewing the Graffiti Nuisance Property ordinance for purposes of updating and expanding the scope of Chapter 14B.80.

Community Residential Siting

The 2003 Annual Report is complete: Some of the highlights include:

- Provided information & referral and conflict resolution services for **30 siting situations serving over 1,400 people**. These situations ranged from the siting of housing for individuals transitioning from a correctional environment, to programs and services for the homeless, to adult foster-care home for individuals that are developmentally disabled, to a hospital that is expanding into a neighborhood.
- Some of the highlights of successful siting outcomes include:
 - An ongoing, sustainable communication process between the St. Francis Church, nearby businesses and neighbors, and the homeless to work together to address livability issues impacting the surrounding community.
 - A good neighbor agreement between the Laurelhurst & CENTER Neighborhood Associations and the Providence Portland Medical Center addressing redevelopment issues along NE Glisan
 - With the help of Multnomah County, a compromised design solution to an apartment development for people with special needs to ensure that it fits within the character of the neighborhood.

Continued to implement an outreach strategy to inform citizens about the CRSP and other siting-related issues and perspectives. This includes facilitating or assisting in organizing over **65 outreach events** that provide education and information about Fair Housing Law, land use issues, special needs populations, and siting perspectives

Liquor License Notification

- **The Time, Place, and Manner Ordinance to go to Council on February 11th at 2pm for a second reading:** The [ordinance](#) was first presented to council on January 21st, and a subsequent 1st reading was held on January 28th to respond to feedback and have the Oregon Liquor Control Commission present to answer Council's questions. Based upon feedback received, some of the recent changes to the ordinance include:
 - Creation of a 'Responsible Neighbor Program that would allow licensees the opportunity to pro-actively address neighborhood livability issues by working with their Crime Prevention Coordinator.
 - Clarifying the Administrative Procedures to provide detailed information re: definition of terms, roles and responsibilities, substantiating complaints, and defining the Responsible Neighbor Program;
 - Creation of a review committee to evaluate the effectiveness of the ordinance; and

A stronger connection between the remedies available and the nuisance activity violation.

Coalition News

Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI)

By Sylvia Bogert

Night Work to begin on I-5: At an open house in January, Southwest neighborhoods learned that ODOT has begun its preservation project (resurfacing) I-5 from the Marquam Bridge to Capitol Highway (near the Tigard city line). The work will take place between the hours of 8 pm and 5 am. The entire 6.5 miles will be considered a construction zone, so watch your speed. Officer Lively has been placed on special assignment to enforce construction speed zones during night work. Neighbors also learned that 174 trees, considered hazardous, will be removed in the next 3 months. SWNI is working with ODOT to ensure there is clear communication with residents about lane closures and a coordinated effort with the City of Portland regarding their planned improvements on SW Barbur Blvd for new pedestrian crossings.

Native Plant Sale: Native plants are being offered by pre-order only at very reasonable prices. SWNI partners with the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District and BES to host free Naturescaping workshops citywide. This plant sale is a fundraiser for Naturescaping and other programs offered by EMSWCD. To obtain an order form, email Kathy shearin@or.nacdnet.org. Pick up and pay for plants on Saturday, February 14th, from 9 am 3 pm at Montgomery Park, 2701 NW Vaughn St.

19th Avenue Trail: Neighborhood volunteers worked hard recently to build stairs up the steep slope from Fairmount Blvd in the undeveloped 19th Avenue right of way. From the top of the stairs, the trail continues in the right-of-way past the Stonehenge (formerly KGON) Tower and connects to Council Crest. If the winter weather is getting you down, purchase a Southwest Walking Map for \$5 at SWNI and explore some new trails in Southwest Portland

SWNI Retreat: SWNI is organizing a retreat on February 28th to measure our organizations progress, hold itself accountable, and respond to changing conditions in the external and internal environments in which we operate.

