



The Other Side of the Fence

E-News from ONI ~ September 2004

Enhancing the quality of neighborhoods through community participation

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Brent Canode, barely settled in his new digs at the 1900 building, is making plans for the move to Columbia Square October 15. (Photo by Nell Wagenaar)

New Deputy Director is Man for All Seasons

By Nell Wagenaar

You may not know this about him but Brent Canode studied *haute couture* (high fashion) design, was once a professional skateboarder and, of all things, spent a year monitoring the Religious Right in Texas.

ONI's new deputy director was a graduate teaching fellow at University of Oregon, where he is finishing his Masters thesis in public policy. Next fall he will be assisting with a graduate seminar on new democratic processes and civic participation.

Who is this guy? He's an artist, a writer, a fast talker and a bit of a clown. His sense of humor is deadpan and his laugh, unmistakable.

For starters, he's 31 and came to us from Commissioner Randy Leonard's office, where for a year and a half he served as policy advisor and liaison to ONI and to the Office of Cable and Franchise Management.

Grew up in Northern California

Brent grew up in northern California in the small town of Lake Port. He moved to Eastern Washington where his father taught drama and literature at Burbank High School. While there, at the ripe old age of 14, Brent skateboarded professionally, competing in regional events. "I don't ride anymore." He laughs. He's now into downhill mountain biking and snowboarding at Mt. Hood.

At 18, he moved to Portland to go to art school. He enrolled at Bassist College, now Art Institutes International, where he studied painting and design of avant-garde apparel. When he was a senior in high school, Brent placed in the top three in a fashion merchandising competition in Seattle, and had always been interested in design, and art in general. "Bassist College sent a representative to my school, they had a great track record of designers succeeding here and abroad, so I decided to go for it."

"It's a very competitive, exciting and fast-paced field. At that time in my life it was the perfect fusion of everything I didn't get to experience growing up in a small town. It's also an industry where you either make it big or you suffer.... meaning you don't eat. Also, it got to be very expensive to stay in art school." He still paints occasionally, mostly in acrylics, doing abstracts, and would like to find the time to do more.

Brent brings a wealth of political savvy to ONI. He enrolled at Portland State University, where he got a B.S. in political science in 1997. Immediately after graduating from PSU, he worked in federal politics as Research Director to Senator Ron Wyden. After Wyden's re-election to the U.S. Senate, Brent took a few months off to go exploring in Mexico.

His next adventure was Texas. He was offered a job in Austin, TX as the Legislative Research Director for the Texas Freedom Network, which fought the conservative Religious Right on such issues as race, public schools and gay rights. His job was to monitor the political platform of the Religious Right, and work with legislators and citizen groups to counter these legislative initiatives in the TX Legislature. The first few months of the position were spent in the muggy confines of the Texas Ethics Commission, where he spent a couple hundred hours linking religious right donors to then Gov. George Bush's political campaign.

"It was shocking to see how much power they had... it was a real battle of good versus evil." After a year, the Pacific Northwest called him back and he started a Master's program in public policy at University of Oregon. He is still finishing up his thesis, which began as a case study in political power and legislative processes. He will also be assisting with a graduate course next fall.

Met Randy Leonard in 1999

In 1999, he met Randy Leonard, then state legislator. He started working for him a year later as legislative aide, researching environmental bills. He left that job and spent the following two years

as the Executive Director of Headwaters to Ocean, a non-profit educational organization that worked to increase stewardship of the Columbia and Willamette River Systems. He has fond memories of sailing the rivers on the 65-foot wooden boat, the Captain Conner, with elementary kids and policy makers down to study river ecology.

When Randy won a seat on city council, Brent joined his staff as Policy Advisor. He worked on environmental issues, affordable housing and technology issues. It's rather ironic but when Brent was a graduate student at the University of Oregon, ONI was the bureau he studied as one of the most unique governmental agencies in the country in terms of partnering with neighborhoods and facilitating democracy.

ONI Director Jimmy Brown appointed Brent interim deputy director back in March. "Brent will play a key role in the day to day operation of the Bureau, and will be an excellent resource in helping me deliver on my commitment to make ONI the strongest neighborhood advocacy and service organization in the Country," said Brown.

"This is the job I wanted."

This is the job I wanted," said Brent. "I work around so many high-energy people. I'm excited to see what the next five years will bring to the neighborhood system and the City as a whole."

Urban life present challenges and livability issues such as noise and nuisance abatement, crime prevention, and affordable housing are some of his central concerns. Bringing citizens into the process is one of his major goals.

"It's exciting each day to play a role in such a dynamic system as Portland's network of neighborhoods. The healthy tension that exists makes this experiment in participatory democracy the great success that it is. We work hard to make sure ONI as a Bureau is doing all it can to open the doors to the City process, and make sure everyone has a voice at the table."

Down time? He likes to hang out with friends and is a voracious reader. His favorite writer is David Sedaris, contemporary American novelist who's biting social commentary and dark humor has produced such winners as *Holidays on Ice* and *MeTalk Pretty One Day*.

Brent lives in NE Portland with his partner Stacy (who works in City Hall as Policy Advisor to a Commissioner Randy Leonard), and their baby English Bulldog "Winston."

Neighborhood Inspection Team

ONI, Juvenile Justice team up for neighborhood clean-up

By Nell Wagenaar

A pilot project, teaming up young offenders with ONI efforts to clean up trash debris at public properties around town, has proven to be a win-win situation for all involved. The teenagers were kept busy during the summer with clean up projects that benefited the community and fulfilled their community service requirements. Plus, it gave them job experience that will help them stay on the right track.

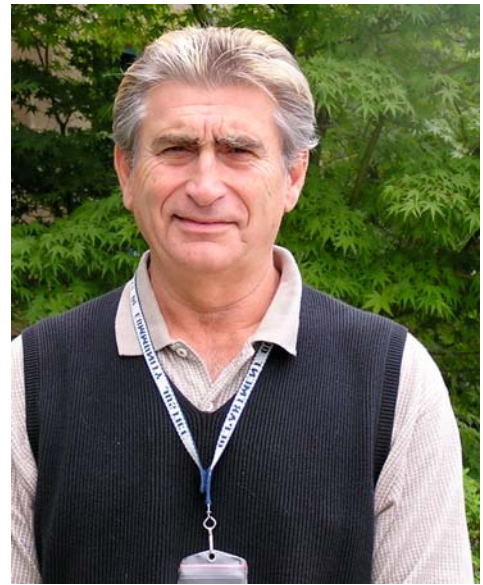
The program has two components—The VIC (Victims Impact Class, which involves about 15-20 kids who do community service project year-around a couple of Saturdays a month and the Summer Stipend program, which kicked off in April with about 30 youth. It includes both boys and girls, from ages 15-18.

Project Coordinator Kathy Saunders, a code specialist III with ONI's neighborhood inspection team, said the Summer Stipend program paid the kids \$7.50 an hour for clean up of trash, debris and overgrown vegetation in the public right of way.

The youth in the Summer Stipend program cleaned projects for Parks and Recreation, the Water Bureau as well as for ONI. Projects included clean up of junk on the sidewalks of an apartment complex in outer Southeast Portland and some ongoing clean-ups on the right of way perimeters of downtown businesses. Crew leaders were Shannon Barnes, Kara Moody, Damon Parsons, Tracy Davis and Johnny Whitehorn.

“I've seen some real hard workers. Youth who cleaned up the transient camp came away with a hard life lesson to stay in school, get some job skills, and not end up on the streets. They saw the importance of an education.”

...*Kathy Saunders, project coordinator*



Will Willhite, coordinator of the VIC Program with Juvenile Justice, helps make a difference in the lives of youth.

Youth in the year-long VIC (Victims Impact Class) program do not get paid but their labor counts toward their community service. They cleaned up a transient camp that bordered on Parks and Recreation property and next to some local businesses. Both were affected by criminal activity in the area.

Back in May, they also power-washed King School with the help of another Neighborhood organization called "Nothing is Impossible" led by Gary Marschke and Bridgit Bayer. These youth were first or second time offenders in shoplifting. They have worked at over 10 sites in Southeast & Northeast Portland. Organizers have collaborated with Police Precincts, businesses, Parks and Recreation and schools to bring this effort together. To date approximately 150 youth have participated and less than 5% have been repeat offenders.

“We are working hard to find creative solutions to a myriad of community issues and this is a terrific project. I commend the ONI Housing staff and the County for getting this idea implemented so quickly, “ said ONI Director Jimmy Brown, who was instrumental in initiating the project.

Neighborhood Inspections invites other ONI staff to community energy project

A couple of employees at Neighborhood Inspections will be volunteering at an upcoming community event on Saturday October 2nd and wanted to invite other ONI employees to participate. The Community Energy Project - help weatherize the homes of low-income seniors and people with disabilities. Call 503-284-6827 to volunteer. Other dates are also available.



What role does the media play in shaping communities?

That was the topic of an interactive panel discussion led by ONI Director Jimmy Brown, left, at the 11th Annual Diversity Conference Tuesday. Journalists from the local print and broadcast media participated. They include from left to right Ani Haines from KBOO radio; Ken Bodie from KOIN 6 News; Bernie Foster, publisher of *The Skanner*; Rev. Renee Ward of radio KKSL; Ronault Catalini, Asian Reporter; Kyle Iboshi from KGW News; Promise King from *The Portland Tribune*. Photos by Nell Wagenaar.



Administration

ONI staff well represented

More than 800 attend Diversity Conference

By Jimmy Brown

The 11th Annual City/County Diversity Conference was held on September 14th at the Oregon Convention Center. Well over 800 City and County employees took part in this daylong event, participating in a number of sessions that both inspired and challenged attendees.

I was fortunate to facilitate two sessions in the afternoon, “Law Enforcement and the Community Working Together” and “The Media: How it Shapes the Community”. Panel members included in the early session police and probation representatives from Portland Police Bureau (PPB), Clackamas County Sheriff, Gladstone Police Department, Multnomah County Sheriff, Department of Community Justice, former PPB Chief Tom Potter, and several community

activists/stakeholders. This session reviewed the strategies associated with community policing and focused on ways in which the policing community and the community at large could better work together on improving livability in neighborhoods. The session was well attended, with a standing room only crowd, and unfortunately had to turn some conference participants away due to the over-crowding.

Themes that emerged from the dialogue included the importance of police officers being “closer” to the community in order to affect relationship building, trust building and community safety. Additionally participants discussed the importance of the community and police working together to improve conditions in the neighborhoods, that, singularly no organization or agency could change neighborhood conditions, collaboratively much could be accomplished. The panelists clearly expressed the importance of having proactive administration focusing on employee training, organizational clarity around the value and behavior associated with “community policing”. Given the experience of each panelists there was some concern that new hires did not reflect a “community first” mindset around policing practices. Comments from attendees suggested the workshop was effective and thought provoking!

Session Two, “The Media: How it Shapes the Community” brought together well-known visual media personalities from KGW and KOIN, with representatives from local ethnic newspapers, mainstream newspapers, local radio and alternative radio. Highly entertaining and informative the panelists delivered spirited comments about their perspectives on the role of the media in our community. Without a doubt the traditional media’s bottom-line was described as “profit-oriented”.

The role of alternative and ethnic specific media was highlighted as a means to maintain connection with ones’ cultural environment, in the case of the immigrant community, with ones’ country of origin. As well, it was noted that neither traditional or alternative media were as effective as the “street media,” words from the barbershops, churches, community centers in its ability to keep community abreast of the “goings on” in the neighborhood.

With the purchasing of locally owned traditional media by national conglomerates (i.e. television, radio and print), the importance of citizens responding via annual FCC reporting requirements (on coverage of local issues by

these mediums) is an effective means to ensure appropriate coverage of the local community, according to the panelists.

Attendees were challenged to acknowledge that the “community shapes the media” versus the shaping of the community by the media. Attendees were provided with strategies to assist in connecting with media representatives, such as the use of effective press releases, developing



Shaila Ramachandran, 11, of Stoller Middle School in Beaverton, performs a traditional Indian classical dance, the BharataNatyam, at the Diversity Conference last week. (Photo by Nell Wagenaar)

relationships with editors and editorial boards, and with beat reporters. This session was also very well attended and comments received from participants indicated the panelists were effective in reaching out to the audience. All in all it was a great afternoon and I certainly enjoyed participating in the day!

Out of the basement and up to the 6th floor...

Noise, Housing, Nuisance, Crime Prevention, Liquor & Graffiti teams set to move to Columbia Square Oct. 15

A goodly portion of the ONI staff is scheduled to move to new quarters in the Columbia Square building at 111 SW Columbia October 15, according to Deputy Director Brent Canode. An open house is planned for sometime in November.

The Noise Control staff at City Hall and the Neighborhood Livability crews at the 1900 building (1900 SW 4th Avenue) will be relocating their offices and work stations in Suite 40 to the 6th floor of the Columbia building, across the hall from the Bureau of Licenses. The admin team—Brent, Sarah Keele and Paul Stewart—will also be moving, as will Carol Justice, administrative coordinator at ONI downtown. She will provide admin support to the Crime Prevention program and to Paul, Sarah and Brent.

“The move will consolidate all the livability services and free up some space downtown at City Hall where there is severe overcrowding,” said Brent. It will be a morale boost for those at the 1900 building, getting out of a depressing basement to a space where the view is much better.

The city owns the top floors of the 1900 building and houses BDS, PDC and the Bureau of Planning at the site. Portland State University owns the bottom floors and needs the space to expand its engineering department.

“The new landlord gave us \$108,000 rent allowance to improve the space,” said Brent. ONI will be saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in rent over the next five years. Some of the rent savings will buy office furniture for the new space. Some of the old furniture will be donated to the coalitions.

Information and Referral

I&R staff tops benchmark for 5th straight month

By John Dutt

August marked the 5th consecutive month that I&R exceeded the 90% of calls answered under 25 seconds. It was another busy month with 14,619 calls answered versus an average of 13,814 calls in August the last two years. Also:

- We are anxiously anticipating the deployment of our new and improved I&R Database application that we have been working on for the past two years. John continues to work with our Filemaker guru Allen and we are now working on the migration of data. We expect to flip the switch within the month for staff to begin using. The next step will be to share data with the County IT folks and to work with the City IT folks to get the online version of this database up on the City Website.

- The ONINotification system has changed. On September 1st we began using the subscription feature on our ONI Website to distribute the news and event info that we use to send out to interested citizens through the email list serve. We currently have about 400 people signed up to receive these notifications. Please spread the word about this new feature. Citizens who subscribe to this service will receive email notifications immediately, daily, weekly or monthly depending on their preference regarding news and events in the community. Many City bureaus and other community organizations use this as a key part of their efforts to get the word out to the community about their organizations community events. Here is the link to more information about this service and how to sign up....

<http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?&a=52379&c=29385>

Neighborhood Livability Center

North Portland office to host first Liquor Ordinance training

We've been working on developing several different training modules for the newly enacted Time Place and Manner (TPM) Ordinance. The first training module will be for citizens and will include an overview of the TPM along with instructions on how to file a complaint. The second training module will be for Police Officers detailing their level of participation and case management responsibilities within the program as well as training on our online case management system.

The final training module will be for other Oregon cities interested in learning more about this program and will give a complete history of its development and implementation.

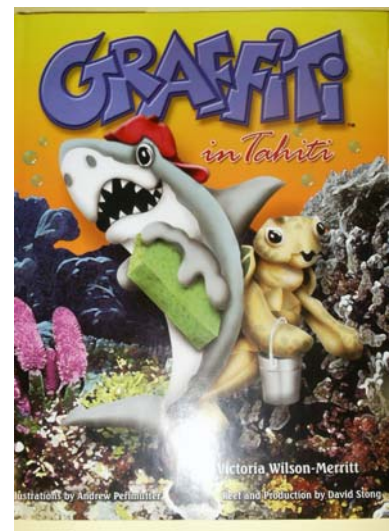
I will be presenting the first training module at the North Portland Neighborhood Services Office to the Public Safety Action Committee on September 22nd, 2004. If you would like more information on this training/presentation please call me at 503-823-3092 or email at kmarkvillela@ci.portland.or.us

ONI to gift elementary schools with primer on effects of graffiti

The Graffiti Abatement Program has purchased 100 copies of the book "Graffiti in Tahiti" and will be presenting one to each elementary school in Portland, David Douglas, Parkrose and certain elementary schools in Centennial and Reynolds School Districts (those within Portland city limits). The presentation will occur sometime in October (Crime Prevention Month) at a press conference.

"Graffiti in Tahiti" is written for the K-4 audience, and delivers a message about the harmful effects of graffiti upon the environment, which children will easily comprehend. This is a step towards realizing one of the Graffiti Abatement Program's long-time goals. A copy of the book will be placed at ONI's front counters in Room 40, 1900 SW 4th and Room 110, at City Hall for anyone to review.

Mark your calendars for **October 9th**. This is the date chosen for a citywide volunteer graffiti removal event. Our contract with Youth Employment Institute has been finalized and they will soon be back in the business of graffiti removal.



However, in the interim, graffiti has increased all over town. We will recruit community volunteers, provide basic training and supplies, and send people forth to remove all the graffiti we can reach on that day. Details have yet to be worked out, but will be available by the end of the month.

Check out the graffiti web page for a "graffiti reporting worksheet" (thanks to Carol Justice!). This is a helpful tool to carry when out and about to mark the locations of graffiti. Then the information can be entered into an online report (www.portlandonline.com/oni) or called in to the graffiti hotline 503.823.4824.

Our graffiti database is going strong. All Neighborhood Response Team officers have been given access to the Track It system... There are just under 3000 reports in the system. Our regional partners are Gresham and Tigard, and more community members are using the system every day.

If you have any questions or comments, please call Marcia Dennis at 503.923.5860

Crime Prevention Program to honor Block Captains

The City of Portland's Office of Neighborhood Involvement Crime Prevention Program will hold its annual recognition of neighborhood block watch captains on Thursday, October 7 at East Portland Community Center, 740 SE 106th Ave., with a training component from 6:30pm to 7:45pm. A recognition ceremony is scheduled from 8pm to 9pm highlighting the volunteer efforts of more than a dozen neighborhood block watch captains in the past year.

Since 1984, October has been recognized by the National Crime Prevention Council as Crime Prevention Month. The month's focus is to recognize successful crime prevention efforts and generate interest and enthusiasm for those efforts. "As part of National Crime Prevention Month, the Office of Neighborhood Involvement's Crime Prevention Program is pleased to offer special training to our block watch captains. This is in response to their request for training about the City's Time, Place and Manner Ordinance and the City's Noise Control Office. Those trainings will be led by our ONI colleagues Kimberly Mark-Villela, Liquor Licensing Specialist and Paul Van Orden, Noise Control Officer," says William Warren ONI Crime Prevention Coordinator, who is managing this special event.

Invitations to the training and recognition event are currently in the mail to the City's more than 500 hundred neighborhood block watch captains.

Southeast Crime Prevention is working to expand partnerships and involve the new public safety committee

In SE Portland, crime prevention issues remain the same, but the problem-solving and crime prevention approach is increasingly changing to expand partnerships, identify and address target areas, and involve the recently formed public safety committee in the process. The main focus for the last few months has been on community organizing and individual case development. The community organizing strategy continues to be the most successful tool in dealing with prevention of crime. In fact, approximately 3 n'hood watch organizations were formed in August with 2 to 4 new groups on their way to being formally established.

This organizing effort had led to decreased level of fear of crime; more comprehensive understanding by involved residents in the elements of crime common to our area and their prevention; and more. The community organizing efforts also include weekly e-mail publications to area block captains and n'hood leaders; crime alerts to effected areas when applicable; problem-solving meetings; and meeting facilitation via mediation.

The case development strategy is another great tool available to crime prevention staff and includes the problem-location exchange of information with Neighborhood Resource Officers; Housing inspectors, and other partners whose areas of jurisdiction offer quick and effective problem-solving results. In fact, this particular strategy resulted in 2 drug warrants in August and an effective target area planning by PPB.

The month of August was pretty busy no matter how you look at it. Starting out with National Night Out where it seemed you could attend a party almost any day of the week! Unfortunately, in the early morning hours of August 5th there was a homicide in Kenilworth Park. As a result of this incident the Creston-Kenilworth list serve came alive with neighbors wanting to know what they could do to help keep the park safe.

Rosanne Lee organized a community meeting in the park on the 25th of August and despite the weather almost 25 people showed up including at three dogs. Many thanks to our Stephanie Reynolds who is the Crime and Safety board representative for Creston-Kenilworth, NRT Officer Phil Maynard, Parks and Recreation Security Supervisor Mark Warrington, and Betsy Redfearn the Park Manager for Kenilworth Park. Several people signed up to be members of a foot patrol (Training will be September 20th at 6:30PM in the park.); participate in Park Watch, Adopt-A-Park, and eight different streets want Neighborhood Watch presentations.

One of the best outcomes from the meeting was that neighbors from different streets all came together to take a stand against crime in their community. (For more information on Kenilworth Park organizing efforts contact Rosanne Lee, SE Portland CPC, at (503) 232-0010 ext. 24.)

Southwest Crime Prevention revising foot patrol manual

In Southwest Portland, Crime Prevention Coordinator Stephanie Reynolds has had a busy month since National Night Out! She has been revising the Community Foot Patrol manual and setting up citywide crime prevention trainings. Stephanie has also been working with a business owner in the Corbett-Terwilliger-Lair Hill area, whose property has been damaged by people using it as a place to sleep and drink alcohol.

The problem is believed to be related to a nearby business and she hopes to put together a Good Neighbor Agreement to alleviate the problem... Neighbors of Hamilton Park had a problem-solving meeting to discuss possible solutions to the noise, litter, vandalism, and drunk driving related to youth partying in the park late at night. In addition to Stephanie, other speakers at the meeting included Neighborhood Response Team Officer Scott Westerman, Noise Control Inspector Kari Meiser, and Portland Parks and Recreation Public Security Manager Mark Warrington. The next step is a Foot Patrol... At the request of Portland Parks and Recreation, Stephanie and one of the Neighborhood Response Team officers visited many area parks in Southwest and assessed whether they were appropriate locations for skate parks from a crime prevention perspective.

Northeast Crime Prevention sees jump in requests

August and the first week in September saw a steadily increasing demand to establish Neighborhood Watch programs or to staff group meetings surrounding the following crime issues: gang activity and drug dealing in area parks; burglary; suspected drug houses; graffiti; vandalism and noise nuisance issues.

In structuring solutions for services requests, the following resources were or are being supplied:

Area parks impacted by gang activity and drug dealing.

Meetings and communication with area residents and personnel from the area and services connected to the Northeast Neighborhood Coalition (Youth Gang Outreach Program, New Approaches to Community Outreach) Parks Bureau and the Police Bureau.

Burglary, graffiti and vandalism.

Supplying materials as well as establishing meeting dates for neighborhood watch training.

Suspected drug houses.

Working with existing neighborhood watch groups in the use of citizen observation as applied to the use of a search warrant (Hayden Warrant)

Noise related nuisance issues.

The restructuring of a good neighbor agreement with a social service location and meeting with a liquor outlet owner at OLCC.

With school in full swing, NW Crime Prevention receives personal safety & block watch training requests

Northwest neighborhoods crime prevention coordinator William Warren reports that the back to school mode is in full swing with his receiving requests for personal safety training, CPTED evaluations, and block watch trainings. Last month William trained new students and security staff at the Pacific College of the Northwest in the Pearl. He has also visited with several condo properties, at their request, in the Pearl District to provide a CPTED Survey. HAP properties in the northwest are eager to have him conduct a training for apartment watch.

Preston moves to Central Northeast Crime Prevention

Preston Wong recently assumed the position of Crime Prevention Program Coordinator at Central Northeast Neighbors. Preston's first goal to attend all of the neighborhood association and business association meetings in the CNN area to introduce himself and talk about specific crime issues effecting each neighborhood. Preston was previously assigned to Neighbor West Northwest and to Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods. Preston comes to CNN with a strong background in police and prevention work.

Two new crime prevention coordinators join ONI staff

Tom Peavey started on August 2nd. He spent his first few days in the 1900 building before moving to NECN. Tom has worked for over 31 years at the Portland Police Bureau. He has experience as a patrol officer and crime analysis officer with a focus on Community Policing. Tom has been instrumental in the development of "Partnership Agreements" and other crime prevention tools. He has a bachelor degree in Police Science Administration from Washington State University. Tom, born and raised in Seattle "in the rain" currently lives in Vancouver, WA, with his wife Lynn and two children, Greg, 16, and Tamara, 20. He's active in youth sports and a now baseball pitching instructor for kids aged 9 –18.



ONI welcomes its two new Crime Prevention Coordinators, Celeste Carey, left, and Tom Peavey. Both will be working out of the Northeast Coalition office at the King Facility. (Photo by Nell Wagenaar)

Celeste Carey's first day on the job as Crime Prevention Coordinator, also at NECN, was last week Tuesday. It's a temporary appointment for now but hopefully will end up as a permanent one. She had been the Albina Weed and Seed site coordinator for three-and-half years. She produces three programs for KBOO Community Radio and is a former AmeriCorp member, a domestic peace corps group similar to VISTA. She was active in the "I Have a Dream Program" for two years and worked with the Housing Development Corporation, a Portland non-profit where she designed and wrote the newsletters. She's been a nurse in the mental health field and in hospitals in Missouri and Kansas. She was born in Indiana, grew up in St. Louis, and spent time in Alaska and the Bay Area. She's lived in Portland for 16 years. "I love the freshness of the outdoors in the Pacific Northwest, the casual attitude of culture here and the seafood." She served on the board of Directors of Portland Cable Access and is working on a Communications degree at PSU. A youth mentor, her passion is kids. She's putting together a broadcast training program for young people. She's also an artist, likes writing poetry, being a DJ and her ultimate dream is to make films about people telling their stories.

Neighborhood Resource Center

Public Comment to begin on proposed ONI Guidelines

By Brian Hoop

Whether it be sidewalks and trails in the Southwest, balancing business and residential concerns in the Northwest, gentrification changing the face of neighborhoods in the Northeast or the rise of homelessness downtown and in the Southeast, Portland city officials are continuing a tradition of seeking public involvement in its decision-making process.

A three-year process of revising ONI's neighborhood rules and language in City Code Chapter 3.96 by a citizen-led committee is nearing completion with a series of public hearings set for October and November.

ONI's GREAT committee has methodically addressed a long to-do list of unresolved neighborhood policy issues. This has included tightening up grievance procedures to resolve internal organizational conflicts, overhauling open meeting and public records requirements for Associations, and establishing procedures for the creation of new District Coalitions and changing affiliation with a Coalition. The committee has had committed leadership by co-chairs Patricia Gardner, Pearl District Association, and Moshe Lenske, Woodstock Neighborhood Association. Our neighborhood system owes a big thank you to them and the entire committee including:

- Kathy Bambeck, Bridlemile Neighborhood Association
- Nancy Chapin, Alliance for Portland Neighborhood Business Assocs.
- Catherine Crawford, North Portland Neighborhood Services
- Leonard Gard, Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.
- Raymond Hites, Lents Neighborhood Association
- Stan Lewis, Downtown Neighborhood Association
- Michael O'Malley, Irvington Community Association
- Jerry Powell, Goosehollow Foothills League
- William Warren, formerly with Central NE Neighbors
- Mark Sieber, Neighbors West/Northwest
- Charles Shi

The Guidelines Review, Empowerment and Assessment Team (GREAT), has completed its review of existing policy and proposed recommendations to update these documents detailing the functions, responsibilities and benefits of Portland's neighborhood system. Public comment will be accepted through Friday, November 12, 2004. Draft documents and GREAT background material can be viewed online at www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=29023&.

Two public hearings will be held. One is **Thursday, October 28**, from 7- 8:30 pm in the Community Room at Central Northeast Neighbors, 4415 NE 87th Ave. at Sandy Boulevard. The other is **Monday, November 8**, from 7- 8:30 pm in the Lovejoy Room at City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave. Additional Q & A discussions will be held in conjunction with District Coalition board meetings and numerous Neighborhood and Business Association meetings in October and early November. (For details: www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=34855)

Portland's Neighborhood Associations were first recognized by the City in 1974 with this directive from City Code 3.96: "Council finds that there is a need to broaden channels of communication between the people of Portland and City officials on matters affecting neighborhood livability."

Over time, policies and rules have been adopted with the intention of ensuring that Neighborhood Associations, District Coalitions, ONI and other City agencies work together to promote early notification on neighborhood livability issues to a broad base of residents within a neighborhood. Also the intent was to promote open participation at Association meetings, ensure transparent procedures for deliberations and decision-making within their organizations as well as measures to hold participants accountable within and without Associations, ONI and City agencies.

In 1987 a set of Guidelines were established describing the, "components and the procedures for the smooth functioning of this neighborhood program." GREAT is proposing to rename the Guidelines as "Standards" to more accurately reflect the directive of Code 3.96.030 establishing

“Minimum Standards for Neighborhood Associations.” City Code Title 3.96 is the authorizing language for the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, which has not been updated since 1987.

The committee has produced an executive summary and informational brochure to further assist Neighborhood Association leaders in better understanding the purpose of the Standards and highlighting the significant changes recommended. The most significant changes are made to the numbering and reorganization of categories that will result in an easier to understand and vastly improved document that brings the Code and Guidelines/Standards language into harmony. (Summary and info brochure at www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?&c=35099)

ONI staff and committee members are available to meet with Neighborhood and Business Associations to answer questions and take comment. Portland’s neighborhood system includes 95 Neighborhood Associations, 7 District Coalitions, 40 Business Associations and the Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

Online comments can be made at <http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?&c=35006> . For questions email onistandards@ci.portland.or.us or call 503-823-3075.

Familiar face returns to ONI to fill outreach position

By Joleen Jensen-Classen

ONI, in partnership with Environmental Services, has hired Rhetta Drennan to fill a public involvement and outreach position. The position is part of the BES/ONI agreement that enlists ONI staff to provide community relations support for BES programs. Rhetta will divide her time between public involvement and outreach for the Willamette Watershed group, the Regulatory Stormwater program and the Sustainable Stormwater program. Rhetta brings considerable community involvement and facilitation experience to this position.

Rhetta will join Lauren Norris, Joe Annett and Joleen Jensen-Classen working with Environmental Services. She will be housed on the 10th floor of the Portland Building.

“Lewis” crosses the Willamette River

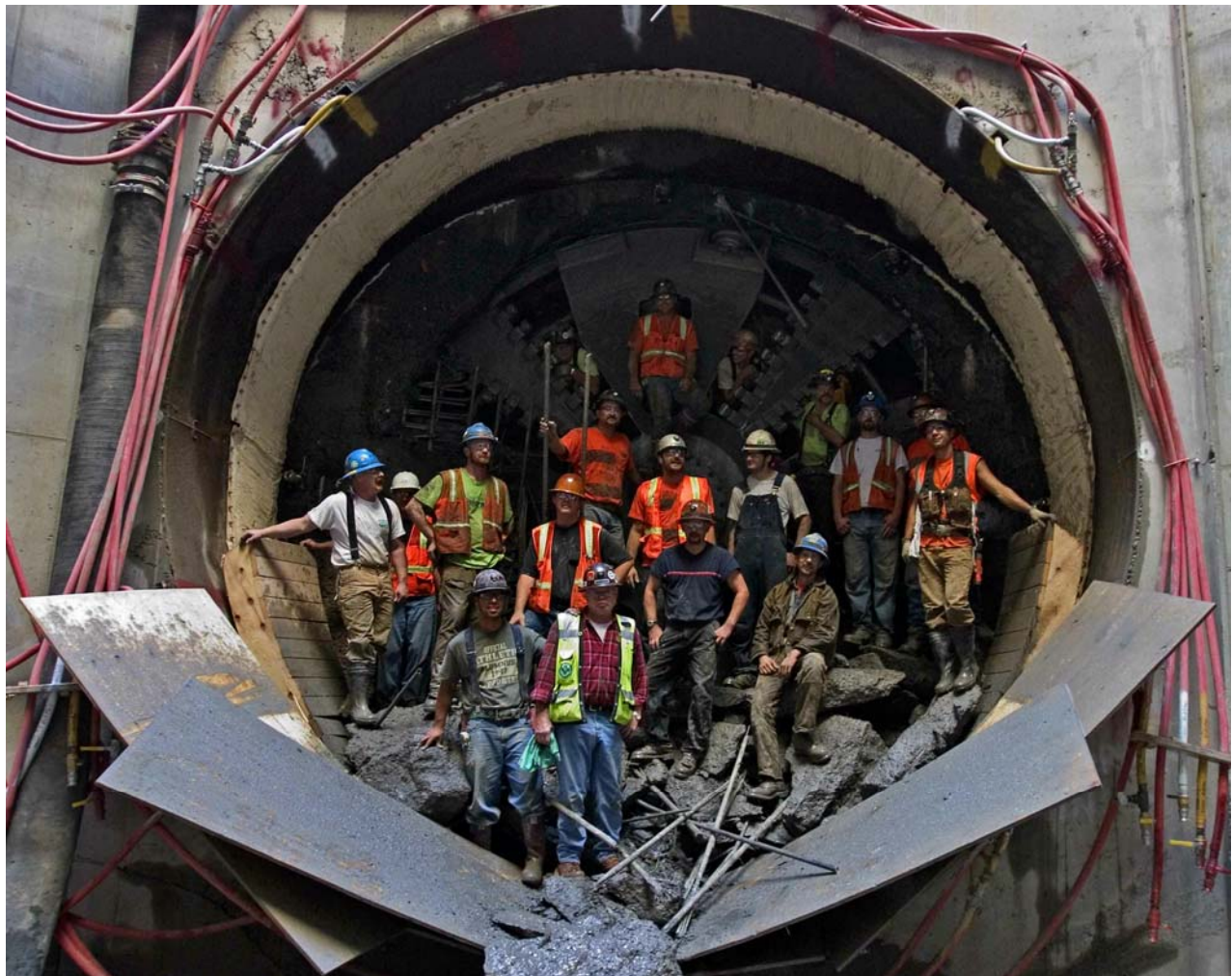
The northbound tunnel boring machine, (“Lewis”), has mined 3887 feet from the Nicolai Street Shaft under the Willamette River and broken through into the Confluent Shaft on Swan Island. The Confluent Shaft is where the Eastside and Westside Big Pipe tunnels will eventually meet. This is a major milestone for the project. “Lewis” will layover in the confluent shaft for some repairs and then continue mining to the Swan Island Pump Station, which is approximately 154 feet from the Confluent Shaft.

The northbound tunnel boring machine (“Clark”) reached the Upshur Street Shaft last month, which is located just north of the Fremont Bridge at NW 15th Avenue. After the Labor Day holiday, “Clark” will continue mining south along the NW Front towards Waterfront Park.

Work Progressing

Confluent shaft
before the arrival
of the tunnel
boring machine,
at right, and after
the arrival,
below.

*Photos by Sue
Bednarz, Jacobs
Associates*



Two interns helping to complete eVolvment Project



Interns Doretta Schrock, left, and Maria Elena Guerra, are familiar faces at ONI downtown.

The two interns, Doretta Schrock and Maria Elena Guerra, have been quietly working in their corner at ONI downtown since June. They are helping develop the city's eVolvment Project, a plan to use the Internet as an interactive problem-solving tool connecting citizens to each other and to city government. Maria came to the U.S. four years ago from Ecuador to learn English. She got her MPA from PSU and is hoping to return to her homeland and get a job in public affairs and environmental issues. Doretta, the chair of the Kenton Neighborhood Association, is a computer consultant in the Portland

Noise Control

Noise staff partners with Crime Prevention to solve a myriad of complex neighborhood nuisance issues

By Kari Meiser

The Noise Control Office is coming to the end of another busy summer season. In order to greater solve the myriad of noise complaints filtering into our office, we have focused on developing our relationships with Crime Prevention staff, the Neighborhood Response Team officers, and the Neighborhood Coalitions and Associations. The Noise Control Office will be featured along with Time, Place, and Manner at the Annual Block Watch Captain recognition event on October 6, 2004, where Paul van Orden will give a training on working with our community resolution tools.

We have worked with neighbors through community meetings to problem solve complaints at the Roseland Theater and Hamilton Park. We will be helping to facilitate similar meetings with Ecotrust and the Pearl Livability Committee, Mississippi Rising Ballroom, and a strip of three North Portland businesses located on North Lombard St. We have also presented at Cathedral Park and Kenton Neighborhood Association meetings. If you're working with a neighborhood that has noise issues, or would like more education Noise Control Office tools, let us know!

The first of our new citations will be issued against PIR, for the Star Mazda Series in the American LeMans event held in July. We will be entering into a stipulated agreement with Nike, for their Run Hit Wonder event held August 1, 2004. Both events were clear violations of the noise code, and will be good testing grounds for the citation process. We will continue to take a "soft" approach with our improved citations – meaning choosing very cut and dried cases to test the process before we begin to cite for more complicated violations. We are already beginning to see greater compliance just from having citations available.

Elders in Action Ombudsman helps renter find new home

“I couldn’t have done it by myself,” says Ruby, left, who got frustrated with her landlord about a leaky roof and got help from Elders in Action Ombudsman volunteer Elaine Vardas, right.



By Chris Larson

It wasn't long after Ruby moved into her conveniently located downtown apartment that the roof started to leak. Every time it rained, water poured in – close to her kitchen light fixture. Ruby complained to her apartment manager and was told it would be repaired. Two and a half years later, Ruby was still waiting for the repairs. By this time, all of her kitchen cabinets were warped, mildew had formed, and buckets were sitting in the middle of the kitchen to catch the water. Staff from the apartment complex came in, often unannounced, to empty the buckets.

Ruby complained many times....without response. The dampness and the stress of dealing with the problem were affecting Ruby's health. She asked to move—the manager told her she would need to pay to move. On a small, fixed income, Ruby couldn't afford it. Then she was told she needed a doctor's statement, then an accommodation form. Finally, when it seemed the problem would never be fixed, when Ruby felt stuck and hopeless, she contacted Elders in Action Ombudsman Services.

Ombudsman volunteer Elaine Vardas is a determined and persistent advocate who believes in finding solutions to any problem. She never gives up! She did her research, made phone calls to state housing regulators to find out what Ruby's rights were as a tenant, helped her get a letter from her doctor and then helped facilitate communication between Ruby and the apartment manager. After several months, many meetings and pressure on the apartment management, Elaine and Ruby, working together were successful in getting Ruby moved to another apartment, at the owners expense, clean and dry, a much healthier place for Ruby to live.

Ruby wants others to know about her experience—“not just for me but for everyone out there,” that when there are difficulties with landlords and getting problems resolved—that it can be done. Ruby also says, “I couldn't have done it by myself.” What would she have done without Elaine's help? “I would still be crying...and complaining....and they would still be telling me they'd fix it... for two more years!”

Seniors in the Portland area have someone on their side through Elders in Action Ombudsman services. If you or a senior you know needs some extra help handling a tough problem, Call Elders in Action at 503-823-5269 or visit www.eldersaction.org.

Do you know your city?

In 1930 Portland opened its first official airport. Where was it located?

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 for 2004.

Last month our first-ever monthly winner was Joleen Jensen-Classen, the first to correctly answer that the coin toss that resulted in Portland receiving its name was a 50/50 proposition between the name of Portland or the name **Boston** if Mr. Lovejoy had won the toss.

