Open House Set for Saturday

Mayor Vera Katz advises youth to get involved in their neighborhoods and find some cause or project that stirs their passion. An open house in her honor is planned for Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at City Hall.

PHOTO BY NELL WAGENAAR

Mayor to bid farewell after 36 years of public service

By Nell Wagenaar

With her term of office coming to an end, Portland Mayor Vera Katz leaves behind a commanding legacy. As Mayor for the last 12 years, she’s had the opportunity to work on projects that have added tremendous value to the city.
She lists the Esplanade, the River District, the Convention Center expansion, MAX Light Rail to the airport, the Chinese Classical Gardens and the lowest crime rate in 30 years as some of her proudest achievements. Community policing, taking guns off the streets were very important in that struggle. Police couldn’t have gotten search warrants for suspected drug houses, for example, without the help of neighbors willing to get involved and collect information, she said.

What’s been the hardest part?

“Working in the framework of an organization which by its nature is silo-driven. I tend to problem-solve by calling people around a table. Trying to break through the notion that this is ‘my turf’ has been a challenge.”

But she’s made some inroads—the River Renaissance project, planning issues, the Portland Development Commission, Parks and economic development. A ballot measure last year calling for a City Charter change that would have reorganized city government failed so “I tried to change things from within.”

Mayor Katz was born in Germany in 1933. At age seven, she and her family escaped the Nazis and fled to Paris and then over the Pyrenees on foot to Spain. They eventually moved to New York City where she tried a career in modern dance by joining the Martha Graham dance group. “I did study with her for six years but short, stubby legs didn’t cut it with Martha,” she laughed.

Worked on Robert Kennedy’s campaign

Mayor Katz began her political career in the late 1960s. She had been part of the “Silent Majority” but when she got involved in the presidential primary for Bobby, “I finally woke up. It was a very important race.”

Licking envelopes and answering the phone here in the Kennedy Portland office was her main task. But she was also in charge of celebrities, transporting the likes of Patty Duke and Warren Beatty around town. “He was very charming. Patty was very involved.”

She threw her energy into the national grape boycott in support of Cesar Chavez and the migrant farm workers. Elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1972, Mayor Katz blazed a trail for women when chosen in 1985 as the first woman speaker of the Oregon House.

“As women who have a responsibility to teach and set an example to youth, we haven’t done a very good job. There isn’t that sense of history, of the struggle. We’ve got to convince young women that they can be and do anything they want. Get involved in your neighborhood. Start there.”

She remembers picketing City Club because it did not allow women as members. She also picketed Perkins Pub and the 9th floor dining room at Meier and Franks because they barred women unless they had male escorts.

Mayor Katz has some general plans in the hopper for her future. But, as she admits from that deep place, she is frightened. She is frightened by the reality of the morning she wakes up as not-mayor. It’s yet another unknown.
“How do I manage my new life? I’ll wake up one morning and wonder, what will I do today? There are so many unknowns,” she said about her ongoing bout with cancer. Life outside City Hall, will be another one.

Her philosophy: “Got a problem? Solve it step by step.” She takes heart in this strategy that’s always worked for her. Envision a goal and then work backwards trying to figure out the steps needed to get there. Her goal these days is staying alive.

Mayor Vera Katz invites citizens to an open house

On Saturday, November 13, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon at City hall, the citizens of Portland will have an opportunity to express their thanks and offer their best wishes to Mayor Vera Katz, whose tenure as Portland’s mayor for the past dozen years ends December 31.

The open house in the City Hall Atrium is open to the public and will feature entertainment by members of the Oregon Symphony and the Portland Gay men’s Chorus. Refreshments will be provided by Starbucks and Safeway. The Royal Rosarians, Portland’s long-time civic ambassadors, will also attend.

Citizens will have the opportunity to express their sentiments about Mayor Katz in a scrapbook that will be provided for people to sign at the Open House. The Mayor will be present to say a few words of appreciation and to mingle with guests.

Mayor Katz began her tenure as Mayor of Portland January 1, 1993, and she leaves behind a record of accomplishment that includes the creation of the Portland Streetcar, expansion of the MAX Light Rail system, the development of the Pearl District, River District and South Waterfront neighborhoods, the Eastbank Esplanade, the Chinese Classical Garden and many more. She is also known as a champion of civil rights and liberties for all Portland citizens.

Please join us for this special event honoring a very special woman and a very special mayor.
Halloween antics abound at Auditor’s 14th annual contest

Costumes, treats and tomfoolery were the order of the day at the Auditor’s Office at City Hall Oct. 29 for the annual Halloween party and contest. Winning best group were the folks in the Council/Contracts Division as the Recycle Bin Outfitters. Best Individuals were Fritz Johnson as Spartacus von Monstrous, Colleen Phillips as Cat’s Meow and Toni Anderson as Party Girl.

Also in town for a last campaign stop . . . Say, whom did Richard Rosenthal and Lauri Stewart vote for?

PHOTOS BY NELL WAGENAAR

Toni Anderson came in 3rd place as the recyclable Party Girl in the individual competition after her group won first place.

From left to right, Lauri Stewart, Fritz Johnson (first place winner), Marco Maciel and Kristine Adams Wannberg play a game of jump frog after partaking of Halloween treats.
He fights crime by day; performs song & dance by night

William Warren, known in some circles as “Mr. Broadway,” is a crime prevention coordinator in Northwest Portland.

PHOTO BY NELL WAGENAAR

Crime prevention specialist ‘stage-struck’ at age 6

By Nell Wagenaar

From doing radio interviews in Boston with the likes of Vincent Minnelli, Adolph Green, Ethel Merman and Fred Astaire, to working in real estate, to dealing with car prowls in Northwest Portland, William Warren these days is singing in the rain.

“I don’t mind the rain at all,” he said about living in the Pacific Northwest. “It gives everything a glow.” The natural scenery, the reasonable climate, people’s politeness and respect for each other...all that makes up for the glorious architecture and culture of the East Coast, where he grew up.

William, who will break out into a fabulous imitation of Tallulah Bankhead “dahling” at a moment’s notice, is a crime prevention program coordinator with the Office of Neighborhood Involvement in Northwest Portland. He deals daily with the underbelly of urban life—vandalism, nuisance properties, car prowls, graffiti, drugs and other street crimes. His life as a performance artist provides the balance.

He was born in New York City and got his first taste of show bizz as a child magician and escape artist.

“It was the lure and bright lights of the Great White Way. It was a magical moment one late afternoon on Broadway when suddenly all the lights came on. I was hooked.” His first
performance was part of a school review singing “On the Street Where You Live” from My Fair Lady. Now, many years later and “solidly middle-aged,” it’s that love of performing, bringing joy to an audience that sustains him and keeps him sane.

At night and on weekends you can find him rehearsing “Broadway Ballads & Movie Memories,” a well-received song and dance show he performs with partner Cindy Lyndin in and around Portland. Their latest performance was last month at the Lents Masonic Lodge #156. Their next show is November 20 at a church in Gresham. “They’re raising money and we’re the opening act.

“We rehearse all the time, building a new show. We’re busy 48 weeks out of 52. We get hired for holiday parties, fund-raisers.

At age six, he knew that he wanted to entertain people. “I realized that my job was to be there for others, bring enjoyment and entertainment to other people. It’s a warm feeling for me.”

The dynamic duo, Lyndin & Warren, song and dance team

His parents weren’t terribly supportive of his wanting to pursue a stage career. “That’s why I studied business.” He graduated from State University of New York at Plattsburgh with a major both in business and communication arts—speech and theatre.

He developed his ability in public speaking and joined what was to become one of the top college debating and public speaking teams in the country. He also has fond memories of performing at a Christmas parade in subzero weather and reciting A Christmas Carol for the Daughters of the American Revolution in Plattsburgh.

The Show Must Go On

September 11 was a different kind of challenge. “We were ready to open with No No Nanette in the old Washington High School auditorium in the Southeast a few days after the tragedy.” There was a moment when the director, cast and crew discussed options. But they decided the show must go on and someone from the audience said after: “Thank heavens for taking us away for two-and-a-half hours. We needed it.”

William had discovered a natural aptitude for dancing years earlier and studied with the Boston Ballet. But he was told he was “too long in the tooth” meaning: too old at the time. Most of the dancers were in their late teens and early 20s.

While studying speech at Emerson College in Boston, he hosted a radio show interviewing movie personalities. “Fred Astaire was delightful; Ethel Merman, gracious and no nonsense.” To pay
the bills, he joined the corporate world and worked as a research librarian and office manager for a large Real Estate Investment Trust.

He moved to Oregon after living in Boston for 14 years with his now late partner, who wanted to be back in Eugene, his hometown. William landed a job as executive director of Shanti, a non-profit AIDS support group. He attended University of Oregon and signed on as business manager for their University Theatre.

“Then fate descended in a one-month period.” He lost his job that was funded by Measure 5, he broke his foot, and lost his apartment.

Coin flip lands him in Portland

That was 1992. “I said okay, I’m flipping a coin. Heads I go to Seattle and tails, Los Angeles. I flipped three times and each time it stood straight up, leaning against something. I took that to mean Portland.” He knew some people there and relocated with no job. After knocking around for a bit, he wrote part-time for the now defunct newspaper, Alternative Connection, the competition for Just Out.

He had worked in Boston with police in crime prevention and joined then Police Chief Tom Potter’s Round Table for sexual minorities. Chief Charles Moose later appointed him to his Chief’s Forum as the community representative. This was after Williams’ stint as a cultural diversity trainer for the police bureau.

As a matter of fact, his proudest achievement was back in those days—crafting a formal partnership agreement between police and the gay community on National Coming Day. It was signed Oct. 11, 1994 and was the first of its kind in the nation.

That year he was hired as crime prevention specialist for the East Portland District Office and moved later to Southeast Uplift and Central Northeast Neighbors, where he was public outreach manager for the Ride-share program.

In 2000, he co-shared a Spirit of Portland award with Ginny Sievers for having engineered the bulky waste curbside pick-up program. He was hired last December as a crime prevention program coordinator in the Neighbors West/Northwest office. That marks 10 years of neighborhood work he’s very proud of.

If money weren’t an issue…

He would tour with his song and dance colleague Cindy full-time and develop their show. “I would also take a whole group of people to New York City at Christmas time. . . the lights, the magic. . . everybody in the city enjoys the holiday spirit no matter what your faith. It’s like being in a Broadway show. Everybody is in a happy mood.

And then, I’d take my partner, Carl, on a nice one-week cruise.”
City Hall ONI staff wishes fond farewell to Carol

Carol Justice, ONI administrative coordinator, got a goodbye party with snacks and good wishes on moving day Oct. 15. She and the Livability Team have moved to 111 SW Columbia. Pictured are Kimberly Mark-Villela, Teresa Solano, Nicole Murphy-Garcia, Anna DiBenedetto and Paco. In back with Carol is Art Hendricks.

Administration

Livability team has safely relocated to new site

The Neighborhood Livability Team—Noise Control, Nuisance, Housing Inspections, Crime Prevention, Liquor Notification, and Graffiti Abatement—moved into the Columbia Square Building at last month and is getting nicely settled. The office of new interim deputy director Joleen Jensen-Classen is also there. They share the 6th floor with the Bureau of Licenses.

“We are in the process of planning an open house for all ONI staff to see the new offices and meet and great each other. But don’t feel you have to wait for the open house to drop by, come anytime,” Joleen said. “We owe a big THANK YOU to Dan Collins and Nancy Blackledge for all their work on this monumental project.” For several weeks they were carting boxes, files and office equipment back and forth between City Hall and the new site at 111 SW Columbia. “We would never have made it without them.

We would never have made it without them. Not only did they organize and manage the entire move, they saved us money in the process,” said Joleen.

Welcome new Neighborhood Inspections temp Kat Knable! Bill Nicholson, front desk, was hired permanently last month after three years as a temporary employee. Both like the new office space.
New Ergonomics

Steve Kass, housing inspector, walks to his new office at the Columbia Square building. He likes his new adjustable desk crank, the roomier environment and the deep yellow color, a nice change from the dreary grey basement at the 1900 building.

PHOTOS BY DAN COLLINS

Office with a View

Many of the office areas have gorgeous views of downtown and the rest of the city. Melissa Kuhn, Neighborhood Inspections, appreciates it.
PDC also on the move—relocates to Old Town/Chinatown
By Julie Rawls

What’s old is new again as the Portland Development Commission has relocated its offices from up near Portland State University to the Mason Ehrman Building in Old Town/Chinatown. This historic structure, built in 1908, has also been known as the Kalberer Building and, most recently, the Creative Services Center. PDC staff moved in two stages in the months of September and October and now occupies the building at 222 NW 5th Ave. All staff phone numbers remain the same.

The influx of 200 new professionals in Old Town/Chinatown has meant more people shopping, eating, walking and commuting to the district. PDC staff have been welcomed warmly by their new neighbors including the Old Town/Chinatown Neighborhood Association and Vision Committee, social service agencies, the Classical Chinese Garden, the Port of Portland and NW Natural as well as the many wonderful small businesses and stakeholders in the area. PDC staff is getting to know their new neighborhood and very much like what they see. The historic buildings in the district are beautiful as are many of the newer structures. Views out the building windows look upon historic Union Station, North Park Blocks, several city bridges and the transit mall.

PDC staff will be working on an open house in the near future, but if you’re in the neighborhood, stop by and see the new digs!

Neighborhood Livability Center

Canadian speaks at Portland’s first Pedestrian Summit
By Joleen Jensen-Classen

Portland held its first Pedestrian Summit, Saturday, November 6, 2004. The event was sponsored by the Office of Transportation and ONI in partnership with Multnomah County, Elders in Actions, SW Neighborhoods Inc., Active Living by Design, African American Health Coalition, City of Portland Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Metro Travel Options, Ride Connection, SW Trails and the Willamette Pedestrian Coalition.

The summit featured Gordon Price as the keynote speaker. Mr. Price recently completed his sixth term as a City Councillor in Vancouver, B.C. He is member of the faculty of the University of British Columbia in the School of Community and Regional Planning. Mr. Price is a regular lecturer on transportation and land use issues for the city of Portland Oregon and Portland State University. He recently won the Plan Canada Award for Article of the Year.
The summit was a great opportunity for pedestrian advocates to network, and explore ways to improve Portland’s already pedestrian friendly environment.

Special thanks to ONI staff Katherine Anderson, Carol Justice and Stephanie Reynolds for serving as facilitators for the breakout sessions. Also thanks to Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong, Executive Director of Southeast Uplift who facilitated one of the breakout sessions.

Researching Solutions to Crime in Northeast Park
By Tom Peavey

Crime Prevention representatives met at Peninsula Park Oct. 22 with Park and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor for NE Parks Peggy Glascock; Parks and Recreation Public Safety Director Mark Warrington; Parks and Recreation Director for Peninsula Park Amie Massire; New Approaches to Community (NACO) Outreach Specialist Carl Rucker; and Gangs Outreach Specialist Jermaine Atherton. The group was broken into 3 teams. Each team was assigned the task of walking through the park with the goal of identifying problem areas that would invite criminal activity.

Crucial to this survey were the groups making recommendations regarding park maintenance practices which would increase natural and artificial light, offer increased visibility from the street into the park area, allow visibility of all park barrier walls, offer solutions for potential drug or weapon hiding places as well as offering ideas on the use of areas to increase Park Recreation services.

Group recommendations after the initial walking survey were: trim branches above interior park lighting; clean lighting fixtures; trim tree lower branches up to existing park single story building eves; trimming from the ground up on shrubbery against building walls; trimming shrubbery concealing known hiding places and off map footpaths; removing overgrown rose plants near service center which block view of the park and replacing with smaller rose bushes; establishing a presence of use during Park service hours of the plaza in front of the Service Center; removing dense shrubbery next to the basketball court.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) is the first step in the process of dealing with the potential for youth violence within Peninsula Park in the coming year. ONI, Bureau of Parks and Recreation, PPB, Piedmont Neighborhood Association, NACO and Gang Outreach Youth Gangs Program will be invited to attend problem solving meetings in which additional solutions to crime within the park will be discussed.

In discussion with personnel of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation the following additional service to youth is seen as critical to the success of this project. Program services outside of the general use of the Park grounds are not structured to meet the needs of youth ages 17 to 21. Adding job search programs, creating job fairs and adding youth outreach programs to the events taking place in Peninsula Park will be researched in the near future by community problem solving groups.

Celeste Carey and I would like to thank ONI Crime Prevention Coordinator Teri Poppino for her assistance on the CPTED portion of this project.
Engaging with at-risk youth in Central Northeast

Youth Programs at Madison Park Housing Complex, formerly known as Rose City Village, have begun in full force. The programs, designed to help at risk middle school and high school youths be successful, include a study, tutoring, and mentoring group along with a basketball program consisting of a boys and girls team for 7th and 8th graders. The two teams will play in the Portland Parks Drug Free Basketball League. The goal of both programs is to keep youth engaged in positive activities and provide them with role models so they are less likely to become involved in gangs, drugs or other criminal activities. The programs are a partnership between ONI Crime Prevention, Central Northeast Neighbors, and the Asian Family Center

ONI attends National Crime Prevention Conference

Southwest Crime Prevention Coordinator Stephanie Reynolds just returned from Seattle where she attended the western regional National Crime Prevention Council conference with a delegation from Portland. She was energized by workshops on Internet safety for children, on inter-religious understanding, and on law enforcement, race, and reconciliation and looks forward to applying what she learned to her work. Stephanie is also working on revising all of the Crime Prevention Program’s print materials over the next few months, and implementing a burglary prevention project in targeted areas of Southwest Portland.

Outreach effort aimed at rise in SE residential burglaries

By Roseanne Lee

In response to the increase in residential burglaries in Southeast Portland, SE Crime Prevention has been working with SE Precinct to develop an outreach program to residents to reduce their risk of becoming victims. Rosanne Lee and Lt. Scott Winegar have put together a handout for burglary victims that includes a home security survey to be done by officers at the time a report is taken.

The handout has answers to frequently asked post-burglary questions and resource numbers to call. Rosanne has provided roll-call training to morning shift officers on how to do the survey and a brief class on residential CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design). The precinct also planned and carried out an outreach mission on October 28th in the Montavilla neighborhood offering to do on the spot CPTED surveys and provided various handouts on car prowl prevention and home security to over 1,000 households. SE Precinct will be monitoring this targeted area to see if the effort results in fewer burglaries. SE Crime Prevention staff also participated and provided training and technical support to the cadets and officers participating that day.

We are also pleased to announce that in the year Galina and I have been at SEUL we have increased our number of Block Captains over 40%!

On November 18th we are presenting a Home Burglary Prevention training with Jeff Augustine from Portland Police Senior Locks Program and Rosanne Lee on Home CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design), Neighborhood Watch and other ways to reduce the risk of becoming a burglary victim.
On December 7th Preston Wong from Central Northeast Neighbors will offer a presentation to parents and community members on Gang Awareness and Prevention.

NW crime prevention alerts neighborhood about hate literature

Northwest Crime Prevention Coordinator William Warren states neighborhood-reporting response to the October distribution of White Supremacist Hate Literature was pro-active. The word about the literature was quickly disseminated via electronic mail and block captains.

William was the presenter for the Community Mobilization topic at the Crime Prevention Academy in Monmouth. He is currently attending the FBI's Citizen Academy offered by the Portland office.

About 35 hardy souls come to ‘Wipe Out’ graffiti

By Marcia Dennis

In October, the Graffiti Abatement Program was able to fulfill two of its goals that had been “in progress” for some time.

On Saturday, October 9th, a Graffiti “Wipe Out” was held in the Central Eastside Industrial District. About 35 hardy souls, including several ONI employees and friends and graffiti task force members gathered in the Tazo Tea parking lot at 301 SE 2nd Avenue for a brief orientation. They then headed out in groups of two or three to wipe out/paint over graffiti tags, and to scrape off stickers, from dumpsters, sign poles, and buildings. The weather cooperated – no rain until the very end.
Many thanks to the businesses who donated supplies and support for the event: Clean Image, Incorporated, United Fire and Safety, Bob Nagel Distributing, and Tazo Tea. A special thank you to volunteer and task force member extraordinaire, Ted Oksarsinski, for soliciting the donations, organizing the materials, AND providing a substantial personal contribution for supplies! Others who deserve appreciation are: Eric King (see photo), Kimberly Mark-Villela and son, Carol Justice and daughter, Chuck Lawrence (Sunnyside property owner and volunteer), Carla Thaler and Carl Ward (Downtown Clean and Safe) and Keith Orr, Traffic Signal Maintenance.

The second event in October was the presentation of 90 copies of the book Graffiti in Tahiti to elementary school libraries in Portland. School board members and administrative personnel from Portland Public Schools, Parkrose School District, Reynolds School District, David Douglas School District and Centennial School District came to the event, held at Sunnyside Elementary School in SE Portland. The books were purchased with money from the Graffiti Trust Fund, and represent a first step in education and outreach to children before they become involved in the graffiti subculture, a long-time goal of the graffiti task force.

School Resource Officers Dan Liu, Dana Hobson and Nancy Poggi played an integral role in the presentation. Dan Liu read the book to a combined group of 2nd and 5th grade students, assisted by Officers Hobson and Poggi who held up the book for students to follow along with the story and pictures. The students responded extremely well to both the officers and the message of the book. (Eric King even gained a fan …one student leaving the library told him, “You’re COOL!”)

Our law enforcement partners were busy also in October, arresting no fewer than three prolific taggers! Graffiti Abatement works closely with the police bureau and district attorney on follow up and prosecution. We continue to work on documentation of each “piece” of graffiti, as it is very valuable to the prosecution of the vandals.

Future plans for the Graffiti Abatement Program include a regional summit in spring 2005, and another volunteer event, to coincide with SOLV-Earth Day activities in April 2005.
Community Involvement helps make it work
Downspout program marks 9 years of storm-water diversion
By Lauren Norris

This report describes public participation efforts made by the ONI Community Involvement Program Coordinator for the BES Downspout Disconnection Program. It reports progress toward programmatic goals, and the community outreach & involvement techniques used to reach them. It reflects the Program season of March - October 2004. The final portion of this report describes ways in which this method of public involvement not only increased participation but it also increased community capacity.

Fall 2004 marks the end of the 9th year of this ONI/BES partnership. This summer ONI outreach staff knocked on thousands of doors, resulting in the disconnection of thousands of homes and millions of gallons of storm-water removed. Hundreds of volunteers helped disconnect downspouts while they raised money for neighborhood associations, schools, community gardens and trees, youth programs & various religious or ethnic organizations. Flow removal goals are being met well within the allotted timeline and budget. This partnership between ONI & BES continues to prove that direct public participation in a City project can be effective and efficient.

Program Goals

Engineers at BES depend on storm-water removal through “cornerstone” projects as part of their designs to solve Combined Sewage Overflows. As one of the cornerstone projects, the Downspout Disconnection Program has storm-water removal goals. Public outreach plays an important role in both determining goals (by gathering data) and meeting the goal (by securing participation).
Target area & flow removal. (See map)

Original Program goals were to remove 51% of single-family residential roofwater from the combined sewer in areas 1 & 2. Current results are 55% for area 1 & 54% for area 2. Area 3 was added to the Program in 2000 and has achieved 40% removal.

The engineer design of the last Willamette Big Pipe Project however, is requiring cornerstone projects to remove more rainwater than originally expected. To help with this effort downspout disconnection goals are rising.

Finally, the program is currently surveying small multi-family dwellings and small commercial buildings to determine the feasibility of expansion to these properties.

**Community Outreach**

Promotion in 2004 included various techniques and tools. Outreach utilized existing lines of communication such as community gatherings, events & newsletters. The use of such avenues increased legitimacy to specific diverse populations. Direct mailing of a “how-to” instructional brochure and postcards was used for initial contact. More aggressive techniques included special mailings, door hangers, door-to-door outreach, phone calls, lawn signs, “how-to” videos in the libraries, supply deliveries, information booths at local events, presentations, articles in targeted audience newsletters and community organization involvement.

**Door-to-Door Canvass**

Door-to-door outreach is one of the most effective outreach tools for this program. It addresses site-specific questions and concerns of residents while it at least doubles participation. This pie chart describes homeowner response to canvass visits.

- Canvass staff spoke with more than 4200 homeowners and left 9700 door hangers, totaling almost 14,000 contacts.
• Conversations resulted in 45% of owners committing to participate.
• Almost 1300 owners signed up for free City work.
• More then 600 homeowners committed to disconnect their own houses.

Rental Property Outreach
Due to the increased need of flow removal, an outreach campaign was launched this year to encourage rental property participation. It was possible to meet original flow removal goals by targeting owner occupied residents who are substantially easier to directly contact. Furthermore, there was some original concern about the ongoing maintenance of disconnected downspouts at rental properties. A recent evaluation survey of older disconnections determined that there is negligible difference in maintenance between owner-occupied homes and rentals. It is also clear, with higher flow removal goals, outreach efforts to this untapped population will be necessary.

There were 6300 property owners owning 7500 SFR properties in the Willamette target area (area 2 & 3).

Rental outreach included:
- Tabling & speaking at ONI’s six landlord trainings. Attendance was 680 landlords & 9500 units
- Direct mailing to the 6300 property owners with a brochure & letter of appeal from a landlord who participated
- Phoning 2000 landlords directly

The result is that 67% of conversations resulted in owners committing to sign up or do the work themselves. 300 gave permission to disconnect, 32 did the work themselves. The rest were identified as already disconnected or nothing safe to disconnect. Another 45 owners requested a plan, which they are considering. Outreach for 2005 is reduced to 5700 property owners & 6700.

Community Networking
- Almost 500 T-shirts were distributed to community volunteers
- 14 presentations took place at community meetings with an emphasis on non-traditional organizations.
- Informational booths displayed downspout disconnection in 8 community events in the target area, exposing the program to over 5000 residents.
- Almost 700 lawn signs announced to neighbors “I disconnected my downspouts to protect Portland’s rivers!”
- Over 150 people in Target Area libraries checked out a how-to video.

Community Involvement
City government & community organizations meet mutual goals through this partnership. Participants receive training, guidance and money. They further receive public recognition for their contribution to the community. Volunteers also get to play a tangible role in solving the CSO problem. In exchange, the City gets volunteer recruitment, information distribution and endorsement. Community involvement increases stewardship for
the rivers particularly with groups that do not traditionally participate in environmental programs. Many organizations initially participate for the fundraiser and learn the value of Portland’s waterways in the process. Meanwhile, training and funds earned increase groups’ capacity to continually serve their own communities.

- Thirty four disconnection events took place this year. Four hundred volunteers helped to disconnect about 900 downspouts, earning over $12,000 for projects that improve the livability of the community. To date, over 5200 volunteers have participated & over $217,000 is invested in the community.
- Nine new NWSA AmeriCorps members attended a three-day training and led volunteer crews throughout the season. Since 1995, 160 AmeriCorps members have contributed 51,000 hours to the program. Annual evaluations indicate that members value the leadership training and exposure to diverse volunteers they gain from participation.

**Community Capacity Building**

The Downspout Disconnection Program’s approach to outreach & involvement strengthens the community by funding tangible community projects, offering leadership training & youth mentorship, supporting cultural diversity and sharing lessons learned from its efforts. Better facilities, stronger leadership, education and diverse involvement gives residents the capacity to resolve other problems that arise in a community.

**Tangible Community Improvements:**
The Downspout Disconnection Program directly invests in projects that will exist long after CSOs have been solved. Examples include church renovations, choir robes, computers, sports jerseys, gathering places, community art projects, low-income housing, trees & native plants.

**Outreach training:** Using lessons learned from downspout disconnection outreach, ONI offers a workshop that shows how to use door-to-door outreach as an involvement tool. The workshop includes strategic planning, resources for maps and walking lists, safety tips, and role-plays. Participants have included local government employees, neighborhood activists, coalition staff, tree planting coordinators, grass roots projects such as Neighborhood Pride Team,
Multnomah/Portland Food Policy Council, Our United Villages and Energy Project. Programs from other states and Canada have also requested the training packet.

**Local education:** Since 1995, 2300 middle & high school students have raised over $70,000 for their classrooms while they learned about their impact on the watershed. A partnership between Environmental Services, Portland State University, EnviroCorp and teachers from North Portland Schools developed a downspout disconnection curriculum that meets Oregon benchmarks in Math, Language Arts, and Science. Raised money paid for books in multiple languages, computers, plantings at the schools, and field trips to other service-learning projects. UP, PCC, CU, & PSU also participate, enhancing the education of Portland’s young adults.

**Youth mentorship & adult leadership development:** 800 volunteers have raised $5000 for youth mentorship projects. Meanwhile kids have learned how to use tools, talk to homeowners, and participate in a civic project. Over 160 AmeriCorps volunteers learned leadership skills, diversity training, data collection, and customer service. Over 40 community members learned outreach & involvement skills as ONI outreach staff. Community groups learned volunteer coordination strategies.

**Cultural celebrations:** Downspout disconnection has helped pay for and participated in cultural events in Portland. Youth trips to pow wows, the Homowo Festival, SE Asian Youth conference, ice cream socials, Good in the Hood, and the Cathedral Jazz Festival are examples.

**Summary**
The goal of the ONI and BES partnership on downspout disconnection is to actively involve neighborhoods and community organizations in a positive partnership with the City in order to save money on downspout disconnection, provide an organizing opportunity, support community-based efforts, encourage diversity in civic involvement, and encourage neighbor-to-neighbor interaction. The outstanding efforts of community volunteers and canvass staff have been a major contributing factor to the success of the Downspout Disconnection Program.

**Disconnection Report 2004**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th># volunteers</th>
<th>Money earned</th>
<th>Est. Water Removed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 5/1/2004</td>
<td>Sherret Square</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$312.00</td>
<td>1,102,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Information & Referral

**I & R team maintains monthly call response benchmark**

By John Dutt

- October marks the 7th consecutive month that I&R exceeded the 90% of calls answered under 25 seconds! For the month we answered 13146 calls at a very nice 91.6%!

- The North Portland eVolvement project is ramping up and ONI and the I&R program are integral parts in the success of this project. In addition to the community outreach that ONI is involved with concerning this project, I&R will play a key role in helping to moderate and populate the content in this site. We have already begun this role in populating the North Portland Online site with Frequently Asked Questions to a portion of the site. This will be a
key part that we hope will attract and keep many users to the site. This content is static and we hope to be able to replace this static content soon with a live link to the actual I&R database. I&R will also be a key part of the site once it goes live in that we will be serving as moderators to make sure that questions posted to the back fence and bulletin boards are being responded to by appropriate City staff.

- We successfully completed the migration of the ONI Neighborhood Directory Database to PortlandOnline. The data now lives in the PortlandOnline SQL database which means that we were able to finally totally inactivate our old ONI Website. The successful completion of this project also means that we will be able to pull content from the Neighborhood Directory Database to specific Neighborhood Pages on our Website.

**Neighborhood Resource Center**

**Public comment deadline on neighborhood system extended**

*By Brian Hoop*

The deadline for public comment on the Guidelines for Portland’s neighborhood system has been extended through Friday, December 10. There has been lots of interest by Neighborhood and Business Associations throughout the fall. Committee members and staff have been invited to 25 association meetings to discuss the changes.

A committee of neighborhood leaders, the Guidelines Review, Empowerment, and Assessment Team (GREAT), has reviewed and proposed changes to the the existing roles, functions, and responsibilities of Portland’s neighborhood system partners including Neighborhood Associations, District Coalitions, Business District Associations, Office of Neighborhood Involvement and other City agencies. After public comment and any changes are considered by the GREAT committee a recommendation will be forwarded to the Commissioner in Charge of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement and then to Council for adoption.

**To learn more go to:** [http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=29023&](http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=29023&)

**For questions contact:** Brian Hoop, Office of Neighborhood Involvement, 503-823-3075 or mailto:onistandards@ci.portland.or.us.

**For comments send to:** Office of Neighborhood Involvement, ONI Standards, 1221 SW 4th Ave., Room 110, Portland, OR 97204, or mailto:onistandards@ci.portland.or.us

**Residential Inspections**

‘Good neighbor’ helps senior clean up his property

*By Ed Marihart*

Our office received a nuisance complaint about the yard of the property located at 2726 SW Nevada Ct. in the Multnomah Neighborhood. The property was posted for a nuisance and a notice sent to the property owner to clean up and remove the nuisance. The property is owner-occupied by a low income, elderly resident who recently lost his wife and daughter and he was unable physically to do the work. Our office received a call from a neighbor, Lynn Perry-Smith, who was helping the property owner clean up the property. She found low cost drop boxes from Waste Management and Flannerys-River City. Our office was able to connect her with 10-15 college students from George Fox University to provide the labor. Our office was also able to
provide a voucher in a quick turn around time from Metro to waive the dumping fees at the transfer station. Lynn Perry-Smith coordinated the cleanup on two Saturdays, Oct. 16th & Oct. 30th.

We want to publicly recognize Lynn Perry-Smith as a true neighbor exemplifying Portland's Neighborhood Spirit, helping a neighbor in need! Congratulations Lynn!

Her efforts have spurred our section to look into developing a monthly Good Neighbor Award program. Stay tuned for an update as this program develops.

**Neighborhood Inspections workload up 25 per cent**

**By Ed Marihart**

Our First Quarter statistics are in for FY 04-05; How do they compare to FY 03-04:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 04-05</th>
<th>FY 03-04</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Court Cases</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled Vehicle Complaints</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Violation Complaints</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuisance Complaints</td>
<td>2108</td>
<td>1621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Cases Opened</td>
<td>2829</td>
<td>2339</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is a 21% increase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 04-05</th>
<th>FY 03-04</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Court Cases</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled Vehicle Complaints</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Complaints</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuisance Complaints</td>
<td>2261</td>
<td>1806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Cases Closed</td>
<td>2994</td>
<td>2552</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is a 17.5% increase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 04-05</th>
<th>FY 03-04</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Disabled Vehicles Towed</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Nuisance Cases Abated</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is a 10% increase
This is a 39.5% decrease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 04-05</th>
<th>FY 03-04</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disabled Vehicle Cases</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Cases</td>
<td>1145</td>
<td>962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuisance Cases</td>
<td>4867</td>
<td>3686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Inspections</td>
<td>6642</td>
<td>5242</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is a 26.5% increase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 04-05</th>
<th>FY 03-04</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Court Cases</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled Vehicle Cases</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Cases</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuisance Cases</td>
<td>3659</td>
<td>2445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Mailed Notices</td>
<td>4639</td>
<td>3282</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is a 41.5% increase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 04-05</th>
<th>FY 03-04</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disabled Vehicle Warrants</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuisance Abatement Warrants</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Search Warrants Served</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is a 18.5% decrease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 04-05</th>
<th>FY 03-04</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Waivers Granted</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Administrative Reviews</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is a 50% increase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 04-05</th>
<th>FY 03-04</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Hearings</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Intakes in the Lents/Brentwood-Darlington Weed & Seed Area:
Community Court Cases     1
Disabled Vehicles     17
Housing Cases     32
Nuisance Cases   114
Total # of Cases Opened  164

Average number of days from when a case is opened to when a case is closed:

Community Court   207  165 This is a 25.5% increase
Disabled Vehicle    30   25 This is a 20% increase
Housing    183  231 This is a 26% decrease
Nuisance     30   28 This is a 7% increase

As you can tell from these statistics our workload has increased upwards of 25% with 1 less inspector & 1 less Administrative position & 1 less Support person; we have become more efficient; are working on open cases more and providing more solution oriented customer service.

Do you know your city?

Before the Oregon Zoo was built on its present location in Southwest Portland, two other significant institutions once stood on this property. Name the prior two residents of this historic land site?

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.

Congratulations to ONI Outreach Specialist Rhetta Drennan, our October winner. Rhetta, who works on the Big Pipe Project with BES, was the first to correctly name Captain John Couch as the man instrumental in establishing Portland as the primary townsit along the Willamette River by proclaiming it was the best spot for a ship port and setting up his land claim near downtown.

The Other Side of the Fence

The Other side of the Fence is a monthly newsletter published by the City of Portland’s Office of Neighborhood Involvement. If you have questions or story ideas, please contact Nell Wagenaar, editor, at 503-823-2569 or email nwagenaar@ci.portland.or.us