



# The Other Side of the Fence

E-News from ONI ~ December 2004

Enhancing the quality of neighborhoods through community participation

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*Raised in a family of eight kids, he knows the value of a hard-working single mom*

**ONI Director Jimmy Brown reflects on his life and values of advocacy and activism.**

PHOTO BY  
NELL WAGENAAR

## Director paid his way through college by typing

By Jimmy Brown

It's been one year since I came to the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) and what a year it's been! Over the next couple of months I will describe more of what I have seen and experienced as the ONI Director. Let me give just a brief insight and history into my story.

I am a native Portlander, born at the old Multnomah County Hospital on September 7, 1952. I was the oldest child in the second group of four children, all born in Portland. My mom left an abusive husband in Arkansas, coming to Portland with my three sisters and one brother. I grew up in Inner Northeast Portland, and attended four grade schools before I went to high school (Elliot, now Harriet Tubman; Woodlawn, Irvington and Vernon elementary schools), Jefferson, graduating from there in 1970. I attended and graduated from Lewis & Clark College in 1974.

My professional history includes working for the City of Portland, Human Resources Bureau in 1974, during the time that the City was actively involved in providing juvenile justice services and employment and training programs for Portland residents. I was a Juvenile Justice Specialist, responsible for working with neighborhood organizations to develop a Youth and Family Service system in the North, NE, SE, SW and Outer East quadrants of the City. I later became the Manager of the City's Comprehensive Employment & Training Act (CETA) Public Service Employment and Title VI Non-Profit service employment program. I left the City in 1983 and became the Director of the Multnomah County Youth Demonstration Program, a program that provided employment and training services and community building activities for young adults. We built trails and viewing areas in the Multnomah Falls area, which can still be seen today, utilizing the recycled stones from the demolition of the old Rocky Butte Jail.

In 1984 I left to become a Probation Counselor for Multnomah County's Juvenile Department, working with high-risk juveniles and their families, and later started Multnomah County's Gang Resource Intervention Team (GRIT) as both a means to work with youth and their families and to engage neighborhoods in working from a proactive stance to build safer communities. I later became the Manager of the Department of Community Justice' Program Development & Evaluation Services Unit, helping to build the research capacity of the department and focusing on the effectiveness of services to youth and families. In 1998 I developed and managed a nationally recognized school attendance program, the Multnomah County School Attendance Initiative (SAI), working in collaboration with community-based organizations, Portland Public Schools, East County School Districts, Multnomah County Health Department and youth and family service centers. This program focused on truancy as an indicator of problems occurring in the school and in the family, centering its approach on removing the barriers to successful school attendance. In 2002 I became the Department's Intercultural Strategies and Communities of Color Manager and developed a "best practices" service model to fund community-based treatment and youth/family services for high-risk youth of color. I further led the department in an organizational change effort to improve communication, hiring and service delivery activity to the different populations that came through the doors of the department, and improve the work environment for all staff around the issue of staff diversity and intercultural communication. So that takes me up to 2003, when I left to become the ONI Director!

### **“What does the ONI Director do on Saturdays?”**

My Saturdays start with a cup of coffee and a read of the newspaper at the local Starbucks. Reading cover to cover it takes about an hour! I like to work in the yard, digging in dirt, planting and doing some landscaping. It's not a weekend without getting a chance to play golf with friends. However, I've come to realize that golf is not meant to be played during the cold or the rain! So in the off-season, November to April, I walk. I live near a lot of trails and with a good pair of boots and rain gear I do what I call "gentle hiking."

### **“Who were your role models?”**

I had lots of them. My dad wasn't in the house, so I looked to my mom as the single most focused person in my life. I'm only learning to appreciate just how much she did, raising eight

kids by herself! At the same time as I have aged, and hopefully become wiser, I realize that she had so much help from the community. There were the dads of my friends who took me to sporting events, helped me learn to become a better athlete; there were elementary school teachers that taught me the value of reading and learning to work with my classmates; there was my high school typing teacher who told me that if I learned how to type I could help pay my way through college (which I did); there was Claire Argow, who told me that I could and should go to college, study to become a criminologist and go find out why people commit crime; there was Leon Johnson and Judy Phelan, mentors and friends that taught me the value of collaborating and being inclusive with the community; and in so many ways there was Sharon McCormack who exemplified what a person can do if they believe in community.

**“What steered you to a career in public policy & community involvement?”**

While at Lewis & Clark I was fortunate enough to participate in the University Year for Action (UYA), which was a community involvement, off-campus program, allowing college students to engage in community organizing and community building activities under the auspices of local non-profit organizations. Although it was a one-year commitment its impact was so great that I stayed in the program from my junior year through senior graduation. I was able to work in the Burnside-Lowndale area under the guidance of Peter Paulson and Gil Lulay, providing outreach services to many of the neighborhoods residential population. I think this was my first adult look at housing issues and the impact of building development/urban renewal on a community. After my internship with Burnside Projects, Inc., I went to work for Portland Action Committees Together (PACT). It was through this work site that I was able to develop core principles and values related to community organizing, activism and advocacy. Collectively these experiences brought me to a belief that I could become part of the forces to change and improve the conditions in our city, not just for those with wealth and influence, but for those with minimal, if any influence, those raised in single-parent families, economically minimized and marginalized by limited education.

**“What do you tell your kids that would be considered “wisdom”?”**

I tell them they belong to the world. It is their birthright to make the world a better place for the people they know and don't know. I tell them never to disregard another person, be mindful of your friends' circumstances and be open to bringing others in to your world, your home.

I was fortunate to have so many people help the son of this lady with eight kids. I know now that the community helped raise me. My friends' parents fed me, gave me books to read, let me sleep in their house, took me to parts of the state that I had never seen, allowed me to experience the world outside my block, and my life to this day has been about doing the same as was done for me. Paying back the community, continuing that same process, through me and my children is what it's about!

**“What's the one thing you'd like to do before you leave this world?”**

Well, that's a tough question! I'd of course like to travel outside of the States. I believe something is happening in the world that we aren't getting to see. There are so many filters to the world's information; I believe that our collective view has been colored. I want to see, experience and participate in that change before I move to the next path.

## Keeping the flow of information constant

ONI's Information and Referral crew (left to right) in front of the anniversary display at the Portland Building are Supervisor John Dutt and specialists Nicole Murphy-Garcia, Anna DiBenedetto, Nell Wagenaar, Teresa Solano, and David Muir, who's been with the program since its inception in 1994.

For November they answered a total of 12,947 calls with 91% answered under 25 seconds. This marks the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive month that I&R exceeded its goal of 90% of calls answered under 25 seconds!

PHOTO BY KORRY MCKINNEY



## Information & Referral

### *The know-it-alls celebrate 10 year-anniversary*

By Nell Wagenaar and John Dutt

Modern technology has thrust us into 21<sup>st</sup> Century with all kinds of fancy communication gadgets, but there's nothing like that low-tech, real live voice on the other end of the line when you need a doctor, a police officer, or want to complain about a city service.

Calling 823-4000, the City of Portland/ Multnomah County information line, puts you in the driver's seat. Helping you navigate the bureaucracy and get to your destination is something the Information and Referral Program has been doing for 10 years.

The call is free and you'll get a friendly information specialist on the other end who will either transfer you to the right department or tell you how to get the information you need.

They rely on their own brains, their memories, the Web and a world of information contained in a database that has evolved over 10 years. It now contains nearly 12,000 entries—3,767 city employees, 6,897 county employees and 1,163 services.

The five operators plus manager are ready to give you much more than just numbers, however.

They can give you driving directions, the zoning on a particular piece of property, the starting time of the Rose Festival parade, what to do about a neighbor's barking dog, where to pay a traffic fine, and how many chickens you can legally possess within the city limits.

## Bilingual Service

Three of the operators—Teresa Solano, Nicole Murphy-



**John Dutt, I&R supervisor, works hands-on to help citizens find what they need. He once helped an elderly woman find her parked car by walking around the block with her several times. And he helped a young traveler whose backpack was stolen raise funds to pay for his bus ticket home to Phoenix in time for Thanksgiving.**

PHOTO BY  
NELL WAGENAAR

## Dutt keeps front door to local government open

By Nell Wagenaar

John Dutt, who manages the city/county I&R program, admits he's "a bit of a control freak," but when you're in charge of a department responsible for answering about 15,000 calls a month (about 700 a day), you've got to be on top of the situation.

He's one of those guys who truly loves his job and is very excited to be celebrating the program's 10-year anniversary. He spent several hours molding "know-it-all brains" from soft clay to hang in the display at the Portland Building. A city history buff, he also wanted to include a short Portland trivia quiz that rewards winners with free beverages from Jupiter Coffee at City Hall as part of the celebration. It's all part of his plan to promote citizen access to local government and lend a face to the information line. "It's the front door into the city and the county and we are the ambassadors."

John's been with the program for three year and is ushering in some major innovations that include an expanded, revised database that will be available to the general public online hopefully by the end of the year.

Improving customer service throughout the system is his main priority. Modern phone systems are a challenge to navigate, he said. Shorter recorded messages, streamlined options and reaching a live person as quickly as possible are goals he works toward. "I don't always feel good having a caller on the line and sending them into a maze of messages, options and long wait times." He's looking into training staff to do basic intake, perhaps on noise and nuisance issues in the neighborhoods, and offering customers as much information as possible. He's also been having conversations with county officials on how to better coordinate some of the other information and help lines, i.e., aging and disabilities, health, domestic violence, and mental health.

John came to I&R after a stint with the state's unemployment office but it wasn't very happy work. "People were in tough spots in their lives. It was pretty intense, especially when funds were limited."

Garcia and Anna DiBenedetto—speak fluent Spanish and are always ready to help the Hispanic community.

"The success of the program in assisting over 1 million callers to the 823-4000 line over the past 10 years is a customer service model for all of our city and county departments to follow," said Mayor Vera Katz. It is an excellent example of a successful partnership between the City and County in efficiently providing services to our communities."

Many other local cities and counties across the nation have implemented local government Information and Referral (I&R) services in the last several years but when the City of Portland started up its program in the Fall of 1994, it was one of the very first programs of its kind.

## First Point of Contact

In addition to answering the phones, the I&R staff also provides information services to walk-in customers at the front desk at City Hall and the Portland Building. David Muir at the Portland Building and Nell Wagenaar at City Hall provide assistance to over 25,000 walk-in customers a year.

Originally the program started out as a City effort. The program grew from about 3000 calls per month in 1994 to now averaging 15,000 calls per month. In November 2000, City Commissioner Dan Saltzman and County Chair Diane Linn decided to consolidate Multnomah County into the City Information and Referral Program. The merge more than doubled the number of calls received by the 503-823-4000 line.

"We are the first point of contact that many people have with local government so we see our role as ambassadors, representing every City and County program and employee. We set the stage for the rest of that person's experience in trying to accomplish what they need for themselves, their family or their business," said I&R Supervisor John Dutt.

## Neighborhood Inspections

### Neighborhood team joins Lents Homeownership Initiative

By Ed Marihart

Neighborhood Inspections is pleased to announce that we are a supporter and partner of the Lents Homeownership Initiative. It is a call to action for residents, businesses and community organizations in the Lents Urban Renewal Area to rally around the goal of producing 500 new homebuyers in the Lents Urban Renewal Area during the next 10 years. Rose CDC - Nick Sauvie- is leading this initiative. The Lents Homeownership Initiative was selected as ROSE CDC's Performance Challenge. The challenge is to Improve the Health of the Lents Neighborhood. The long-term goal is to restore the social, economic and physical health of the Lents area by residents taking more ownership of their neighborhood.

The first steps are to improve the health of the Lents neighborhood through a coordinated strategy focused on homeownership and public safety. These goals over the next two years include increasing homeownership; identifying and closing drug houses; increasing the assets of participating homebuyers; reducing the percentage of substandard homes in the identified target areas; and increasing the number of target area residents surveyed who feel the neighborhood has improved. Neighborhood Inspections will be a major player in this effort to improve Neighborhood Livability, preventing deterioration of existing housing and protecting the health,

safety and welfare of the residents by providing targeted/focused enforcement of Title 29, the City's Property Maintenance Regulations in the Lents targeted areas.

## Neighborhood Livability Center

### **Crime Prevention joins Old Town/Chinatown project**

ONI Crime Prevention is excited to be a partner in a new pilot program to address neighborhood livability issues in the Downtown and Old Town/Chinatown neighborhoods through partnerships with: Social Service Providers; the Portland Police Bureau; the Department of Community Justice; the Bureau of Housing and Community Development; and the Downtown & Old Town/Chinatown Community.

ONI will be involved with the implementation of a program called: ACCESS. This program will focus on intensive outreach and engagement with individuals who are in need of some type of community intervention for their own personal safety or for the safety of the community.

The goal of this program will be to reduce the number of repeat offenders who pursue criminal activities in the Downtown area; reduce disruptive street activities by helping individuals with untreated mental health and substance abuse issues gain access to appropriate treatment programs; reduce the number of chronically homeless persons on our streets by helping them find healthy housing options.

This is a one year pilot projected that is being headed up by Samantha Kennedy, our Downtown Crime Prevention Coordinator. Samantha brings many years of direct experience facilitating connections between enforcement and social services agencies to address livability issues in the Downtown and Old Town/Chinatown communities. We all welcome her in this new role and are excited to see this program move forward.

### **Door-to-door burglary prevention campaign launched**

Northwest Crime Prevention Coordinator William Warren, partnering with Portland Police Bureau Central Neighborhood Response Team Officer, Katie Goodner and Officer Jamie Resch, conducted a door-to-door burglary prevention campaign to nearly 300 homes in Arlington Heights. This neighborhood has been the victim of holiday burglaries for the past several years. The campaign has received a positive response and plans are formulating to conduct Neighborhood Watch trainings for interested homeowners.

Emerson School on the North Park Blocks and Pearl residential buildings are the latest recipients of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) reviews conducted by William.

The Washington Park Hosts & Guides; a dedicated and long-standing volunteer group is now formally under the management of the Parks and Recreation Volunteers program states William.

The former Columbia American Plating business on NW 35 is receiving a multi-bureau review. NRT Officer Matt Engen and William are teaming up with DEQ, Portland Fire Bureau Senior Inspector George Godson, ONI Neighborhood Inspector Mitch McKee, and commercial neighbors abutting the problem property to address this abandon derelict building.

The New Year will find William and the Neighbors West Northwest Coalition in new office digs. NWNW moves from their current location after a stint of 20 years to a site further into NWDA.

## ***Northeast Coalition Office to host Open House Dec. 21***

Interested in what makes the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods different from other neighborhood coalition offices in facility based service delivery? Come to the Open House Tuesday evening, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. and find out. For example:

- Did you know that every week, Monday through Wednesday in the evening at the King Neighborhood Facility (in which NECN administrative offices are located) the Gang Outreach Program and New Approaches to Community Outreach (N.A.C.O) provide group activities and feed at risk youth?
- Did you know that recent crime prevention efforts to deal with youth related in North and Northeast Portland parks violence have been assisted by intervention efforts of the Gang Outreach and N.A.C.O. programs?
- Do you know about intervention to at risk youth that is provided by members of the Tri Met Rider Advocate program?

The open house will be held at the King Neighborhood Facility at 4815 NE 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue starting at 7 p.m. Program members will be on hand to answer your questions about the listed programs.

If you are a citizen volunteer, work in the area of crime prevention, work with the community or just need to know more about unique methods of community problem solving service delivery this event is for you.

NECN has numerous programs available both to coalition neighborhoods and citywide. The programs are: Gang Outreach Youth Gang Programs, New Approaches to Community Outreach (NACO), Tri-Met Rider Advocate Program, Office of Neighborhood Involvement Crime Prevention and the Neighborhood Livability Program (grant funded focusing on inner NE neighborhoods). NECN also oversees several coalition community problem solving groups: CSAL (Community Safety and Livability) and PSAC (Public Safety Action Committee).

## ***State Liquor Control Commission to answer licensing questions***

Discover how to partner with your area liquor establishments to support neighborhood livability.

The Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods is sponsoring an OLCC Public Awareness Meeting Monday, December 20 at the Northeast Precinct Community Room at 449 NE Emerson from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

OLCC staff will present an overview of and discuss licensing, fines and liquor law enforcement.

Learn how citizens can have input into the process and how OLCC works with the businesses and the city. . . and the respective roles of each OLCC staff will answer your questions on the links between enforcement and liquor licensing, citizen involvement and complaints to OLCC, introduce of OLCC field inspectors, and specific issues over which OLCC has legal authority.



# SE Portland Crime Prevention—Year in Review

By Galina Grigoryan

Two weeks ago I celebrated my first anniversary with the City of Portland as the crime prevention coordinator. For the last 12 months, I have been actively working on learning my job, but more specifically learning the issues at stake, building relationships with the community, problem-solving issues related to the crime prevention program, developing new programs, and organizing the community to take a stand against crime.

As I look back and evaluate the last 12 months, I realize that most of our accomplishments and achievements in the SE Portland's crime prevention program were due to the SE Portland community and volunteers. They played an active role in shaping the crime prevention program, its services, and its network of volunteers. Through their efforts:

- Our new crime prevention campaign "SE Portland's Attitude Against Crime" guided all of our communication efforts and established a networking relationship between 200 community activists; it also served as a tool for information and outreach, which was reproduced in numerous neighborhood newsletters, flyers, and even in the news media.
- Our effort to organize new neighborhood watch groups resulted in over 60 neighborhood watches throughout SE Portland, but most importantly it connected over 5,000 community members around crime prevention and public safety issues.
- Our mission work and support of the Portland Police Bureau's public safety efforts resulted in many citizen driven warrants; closure of numerous drug houses; burglary and car prowling prevention connection with thousands of residents; and much more.
- Our Public Safety Committee was formed from the grass-roots level and developed its identity to be the linking line between resources, information, stakeholders, and the community. This committee is comprised of volunteers and staff and serves as a forum and voice of the SE Portland's community on crime prevention and public safety related issues.
- Efforts to deliver needs-based crime prevention training to the community were also very successful.
- All of these services, programs, and efforts, and some I have not mentioned in this reflection were possible because of our solid volunteer network and commitment of volunteers to make SE Portland safer and more livable. It is them I want to thank today for the support they give to our community; for the numerous volunteer hours they work; for their passion and desire to change the system and their never ending ability to move forward and having an attitude against crime. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with you for the last 12 months. We've accomplished many great things this year and as we move forward collaboratively and proactively we'll be able to accomplish even more. Galina Grigoryan, Crime Prevention Coordinator, SE Portland, 503-232-0010 x23.

## *Crime Prevention specialist moves to Woodstock Center*

Rosanne Lee has completed her move to the Woodstock Community Center at 5905 SE 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and is already getting walk-in business! The move came about as a result of a three-

way partnership between Parks & Recreation, ONI, and Friends of Woodstock Community Center. It also is the beginning of fulfilling Commissioner Leonard's desire to establish Neighborhood Service Centers through out the city.

Now that the move has been accomplished, Rosanne plans to do a lot of outreach to the business districts and also use the Community Center to present some crime prevention trainings.

Rosanne and Galina are participating with SE Precinct in placing car prowler alert cards on cars in targeted hot spot areas for four consecutive Saturdays. (Galina was even instrumental in identifying a stolen pick-up, which was recovered by Officer Dave Golliday, the car prowler mission organizer.

Rosanne can be reached at (503) 823-0540. Her email address remains the same, [rosanne.lee@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:rosanne.lee@ci.portland.or.us).

## SEUL neighborhood volunteers honored at event

On December 3, 2004 at the SEUL Volunteer Recognition Event, Crime Prevention volunteers for the first time joined forces with SEUL neighborhood volunteers to celebrate their accomplishments and recognize their volunteer commitments to making SE Portland a more livable community. The following pictures are just a few memories of this wonderful collaborative event where many volunteers were recognized with certificates of appreciation from the SEUL board, SEUL staff, Police Bureau, the Crime Prevention Office, and members of the community:



### Volunteers fight crime

Clockwise from left to right are Linda Nettekoven, HAND vice chair. Scott Bala, SEUL chair with CP specialist Roseanne Lee. CP specialist Galina Grigoryan with SEUL staff Steve Hoyt, Havilah Ferschweiler and Jacob Brostoff. Last, Moshe Lenske and Bridgett Fahnbulleh, veteran neighborhood activists.

PHOTOS BY GALINA AND ROSEANNE

## *Car prowl project to educate neighbors in Central Northeast*

As everyone knows car prowls or car break-ins are the most frequently committed and least reported crime. East precinct NRT Officer Micheals is in their process of organizing several car prowl projects alerting citizens of the dangers of leaving valuables inside their cars, especially during the Christmas shopping season.

Central Northeast Neighbors (CNN) will be targeted for this project on Saturday December 18. This project, originated at Central precinct by Officer Jeff Myers, has been highly successful in reducing the rate of car prowls.

Volunteers will be asked to canvass an area in CNN and place fliers on parked cars. Volunteers are tentatively scheduled to meet in front of East Precinct at 8:45 am. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Officer Micheals at 503-823-4515 or Crime Prevention Coordinator, Preston Wong at 503-823-2781.

## ***Annual state Crime Prevention conference set for April***

By Galina Grigoryan

The Crime Prevention Association of Oregon will be holding its annual conference and training April 13-15, 2005 at the Holiday Inn, Wilsonville Oregon (25425 SW 95<sup>th</sup> Ave.) The conference theme is "Bridging Generations through Crime Prevention."

One of the purposes of the conference is to allow attendees (crime prevention specialists, police officers, community members, etc.) an opportunity to view products and resources that are available to help them assist their communities to prevent crime. We are therefore offering you an opportunity to participate in the CPAO conference "Resource Fair".

The Resource Fair is scheduled for 04/13 and 04/14 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) both days. Conference attendees will have the option of attending the Resource Fair during breaks, lunch, and after their workshops (which will end around 4 p.m. both days).

**The registration form, fee schedule, and the map of the conference layout are attached for your review.** Vendor space is limited and vendors will be accommodated on first-come-first-served basis. We are looking forward to you joining us at the 2005 event to promote your products/services to the conference attendees who will have an opportunity to take that information back to the many communities they serve in the state of Oregon including the City of Portland Crime Prevention Program, Hillsboro Police Department, Eugene Crime Prevention Program, Washington and Multnomah counties, etc.

Please call me if you have any questions or need registration forms. Completed Vendor Registration forms should also come to me. Galina Grigoryan, Crime Prevention Coordinator, SE Portland, 503-232-0010 x23.



## *Crime staff retreats*

The Crime Prevention staff held a retreat at Menucha in the Columbia Gorge Nov. 30. It was very successful and enjoyed by all. Here is the whole crew (minus Preston Wong who 'got outta Dodge' as soon as Eric adjourned the meeting and Marcia who took the picture).

PHOTO BY MARCIA DENNIS

## Neighborhood Resource Center

### **Public comment period on ONI Guidelines draws to close**

By Brian Hoop

The public comment period on the proposed update of the ONI Guidelines and City Code 3.96 has come to a close. The Guidelines Review, Empowerment, and Assessment Team (GREAT), will meet in January to consider comment and recommend any changes before forwarding to City Council for adoption. Some of the key issues that have been brought up include:

- Whether or not email meetings should be allowed due to emergency situations under the Open Meetings section?
- Should Business Associations be exempt from following the same expectations for not charging membership dues, having open meetings and providing access to their records that Neighborhood Associations must abide by? Business Associations do not receive any funding from the City.
- Should Neighborhood Associations be allowed to take positions on ballot measures and publish those positions in their newsletters?
- How much time should be allowed for people to file a grievance if they have a conflict with a Neighborhood Association, District Coalition or ONI?

The Guidelines describe the roles, functions, and responsibilities of Portland neighborhood system partners including Neighborhood Associations, District Coalitions, Business District Associations, Office of Neighborhood Involvement and other City agencies. Members of the committee have attended 30 Neighborhood and Business Association meetings discussing the proposed changes with hundreds of individuals.

For more information contact: Brian Hoop, 503-823-3075, [bhoop@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:bhoop@ci.portland.or.us)

## ***DCL proposal aims to increase input from under-represented***

The Diversity and Civic Leadership Committee (DCL) is comprised of a diverse group of community and neighborhood activists and neighborhood coalition staff who are crafting a proposal for City Council consideration to provide funding for the City's neighborhood system to better serve and engage traditionally under-represented groups. The proposal incorporates leadership development, tools to make neighborhood meetings more accessible including language interpretation and providing childcare, translation of neighborhood newsletters, and assistance on direct outreach to underrepresented neighbors.

Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Program took the lead last spring in organizing this coalition of 25 community groups which petitioned Council for \$350,000 in increased funding for FY 2004-05. While that proposal was not adopted, Council did authorize a budget note for ONI to propose a smaller pilot project. ONI is working closely with the DCL on this effort.

For more information contact: Steve Hoyt at SEUL, 503-232-0010 x21, [steve@southeastuplift.org](mailto:steve@southeastuplift.org). Or Brian Hoop, [bhoop@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:bhoop@ci.portland.or.us) or Art Hendricks, [ahendricks@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:ahendricks@ci.portland.or.us).

## **eVolvment North Portland website goes live Nov. 19**

The eVolvment North Portland website – [www.portlandonline.com/northportland](http://www.portlandonline.com/northportland) went live on November 19 expanding opportunities for residents and Neighborhood Associations to connect with City services as well as network and problem-solve with others in their community.

Maria Guerra and Doretta Schrock, Community Outreach workers with ONI, have hit the ground running connecting people to the site.

Already they have begun distributing literature through North Portland schools and making presentations at community events including the Hmong New Year Celebration, the Hispanic and Asian Parent Night Conference, North Portland Business Association Holiday Party, and Kenton Holiday Party.

## **ONI Neighborhood program gears up to provide leadership training**

The ONI Neighborhood Program is gearing up to begin providing leadership skills training again for Neighborhood Associations and the community at-large beginning this winter. After a two-year absence of any workshop series due to budget cuts we are responding to a loud and clear message from Neighborhood leaders that training is a high priority. A survey was sent out this fall to identify top priorities.

The top ten topics identified are:

- ❑ ABC's of Land Use
- ❑ Traffic Planning and Calming
- ❑ How to Get That Grant
- ❑ Organizing Big Neighborhood Events

- ❑ Volunteers the Heart and Soul of an Organization
- ❑ Going Online
- ❑ Making City Hall Work for You
- ❑ Making Room at the Table
- ❑ How to be an Effective Neighborhood Chair
- ❑ Dealing with Difficult people

For more information contact: Art Hendricks, [ahendricks@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:ahendricks@ci.portland.or.us) or 503-823-3048.

## District Coalitions setting priorities for neighborhoods

Several District Coalitions have embarked upon dialogues this fall with their respective Neighborhood Associations and Coalition Boards of Directors to establish priority action plans for their coalitions. These efforts will help establish a clear message to City Council of priority issues of importance to build a stronger Neighborhood Association system. SEUL has just completed their second annual prioritizing effort following a two-year “Neighborhood Agendas” survey engaging 2000 neighbors. Likewise SW Neighborhoods, Central NE Neighbors, East Portland Neighborhood Office, and others have initiated similar efforts this year.

In addition, the seven neighborhood District Coalition board chairs and directors are holding a series of meetings this month to prepare an internal report to express the consensus of the group regarding the current state of the Neighborhood Association system. The report will be presented to the new Mayor and City Council in January contributing to what will hopefully be a renewed interest in the City’s support of Neighborhood Associations. This group also meets monthly to discuss issues of common concern, administrative procedures, and to hear reports from the ONI and occasionally from other city bureaus.

The group will meet on the next three Mondays from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM at 1819 NW Everett, in the Board Room on the main level. (December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>. Their regular monthly meetings are the second Thursdays from 12 Noon to 1:30 PM. The meetings are open to the public and anyone interested is invited to attend.

For more info contact: Brian Hoop, 503-823-3075, [bhoop@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:bhoop@ci.portland.or.us).

### Out and About in the Neighborhood

## Kenton Firehouse Art Sale features 16 local artists

One-of-a kind artworks and crafts by 16 artists were available at a one-day only holiday art sale at the Kenton Firehouse in North Portland. This unique event featured fine gifts of glassware, photographs, drawings, hand printed scarves, quilts, computer-part jewelry, beaded necklaces, ceramic planters, fuzzy felt sculptures, and ornaments, most under \$50, by artists who usually exhibit more expensive works.

Kenton Firehouse is conveniently located at 8105 N Brandon Street at N Schofield, one block west of N Denver and only a few blocks from the Kenton stop on the new Yellow line Max, across the street from the Kenton Post Office.

This sale is sponsored in part by Art on the Peninsula, an informal organization that aims to increase awareness of artists living and working in North Portland and to establish a sense of

community. The event will showcase 16 artists from North Portland and beyond and will highlight the growing art activity in North Portland.

Artists in the sale included Charrisa Brock, Anna Carpenteri, Greg Carrigan, Gina Carrington, Scott Cura (AquilaArt Glass), Al Flory, Margaret Gardner, Junko Iijima, Lori Mason, Bonnie Meltzer, Tara Patterson, Hilary Pfeifer, Tabor Porter, Rebecca Scheers, Deb Stoner, and Dawn Waldal.

## Portland's First Pedestrian Summit draws large group

By Vicki Hersen

Elders in Action volunteers joined 80 pedestrian advocates of all ages in early November at Portland's first Pedestrian Summit. Lou Saathoff, Fran Landfair, and Betty Brislawn spoke out on behalf of older adults at the Summit sponsored by the Portland Office of Transportation, Office of Neighborhood Involvement, and Portland State University. Energy built as participants



**Elders in Action Commission volunteers help empower Portland pedestrians and raise awareness of pedestrian issues.**

identified the gaps and problems that face pedestrians in our community. The results of the summit were solutions to create a positive pedestrian environment in the areas of education, encouragement, enforcement, and engineering.

Neighborhood Livability Standards for seniors, initiated by the Elders in Action Commission and unanimously adopted by Portland City Council in March 2004, were distributed. The goal of these standards is to see all Portland City Bureaus embrace Elder Friendly<sup>®</sup> guidelines, to promote walking, to enable older adults to keep physically active in their neighborhood, and to support independent living as individuals age.

Metro Councilor Rex Burkholder inspired the crowd with remarks on how grassroots efforts can spark powerful programs. He highlighted the health, economic, and environmental benefits of walking. Jennifer Dill, Assistant Professor of Urban Studies at PSU, noted the many pedestrian/transportation resources at PSU and a free weekly Transportation Seminar on Fridays at noon (for details, [www.cts.pdx.edu](http://www.cts.pdx.edu)). A study conducted in Fairview Village showed that people walk more in this well-planned community, because it is inviting and pedestrian

friendly. Planning for pedestrians first when building infrastructure can increase walking for the 60% of Americans who lead sedentary lifestyles.

Neighborhood groups taking action on Elders in Action's "Walkable Neighborhoods for Seniors" include the Sullivan's Gulch, Irvington, and NE Broadway neighborhoods (working to improve the Weidler and Broadway street crossings), and the Alameda Neighborhood (promoting walking in their neighborhood for health and for connecting with the community). Each participant signed a pledge to do at least one thing to improve the pedestrian environment. Spearheading the effort in Alameda, Janet Noakes plans to map pleasant walks, provide some benches for resting and a visit, and explore other ideas to encourage people to begin a healthful routine that brings them in contact with other neighbors.

Summit solutions will be posted on the Elders in Action website when they become available in the coming weeks—[www.eldersaction.org](http://www.eldersaction.org).



Advocates stand to represent the tragic loss of life following cut of long-term care services in January 2003.

## Local legislators pledge support for long-term care funding

by Vicki Hersen and Becky Wehrl

Holding cut-outs which represented the 135 people who died after being cut from long term care services in January 2003, members of the Elders in Action Commission, Multnomah County Disability Services Advisory Council and Multi-Ethnic Action Committee stood as a reminder of the tragic impact of state budget cuts on our community's oldest citizens.





## **State cuts have slashed basic human needs for the elderly**

**Elders in Action volunteer Ben Owre talks with State Representative Jackie Dingfelder about the problem at a legislative summit November 17.**

**If you want to help the Elders in Action Commission tackle these important issues and would like to obtain a “Commitment to Basic Human Needs Form” for your legislator contact Vicki Hersen at 503 823-5373 or [vicki@eldersaction.org](mailto:vicki@eldersaction.org).**

The summit Wednesday, Nov. 17 was spearheaded by Elders in Action to inform local legislators of the state's current status of long-term care for its oldest residents.

Representatives Jackie Dingfelder, Jeff Merkley, Greg Macpherson, and Mike Schaufler, as well as John Helm from Rep. Betsy Johnson's office, responded to the plea from advocates to step up to the plate during the upcoming Legislative Session and work towards providing adequate and stable funding for Basic Human Needs. The advocates called for funding for Housing, Health Care, and Food for all Oregonians, and not at the expense of quality education and public safety programs.

Representatives Carolyn Tomei, Steve March, Mark Hass and Senator Ginny Burdick, while not able to attend the summit, also pledged their support.

The diverse audience of seniors and people with disabilities from various ethnic communities, other advocacy groups, health professionals and business representatives reviewed Oregon's long term care system, including landmark programs such as Oregon Project Independence and Home and Community Based Care Services. Silhouettes lined the stage representing the 17% of the 801 who died within six months of losing all their Medicaid funded services after the failure of Ballot Measure 28 in January 2003.

Patty Brost, Chair of the Elders in Action Commission urged people to meet with their legislators before the January 10, 2005 Legislative Session begins and ask them to sign the Commitment for: Basic Human Needs: Housing, Health Care, and Food.

“In 2002, 23 percent of Oregon families were providing long term care for their loved ones. Today, that number has grown substantially,” said Ms. Brost. “Oregonians need the help and resources to be able to care for their families and we’re asking legislators to make it a top priority.”



Elders in Action Commission Chair Patty Brost explains the issues to KOIN TV 6 news.

### ***Do you know your city?***

*In 1905 what event, located where you will now find the NW Industrial District, attracted visitors from across the world to the Rose City?*

The first person to correctly respond by emailing the Trivia Guru at [jdutt@ci.portland.or.us](mailto: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.

Well apparently the Trivia Guru was a little too tough on everyone last month. We had a stumper with no one correctly answering the November question. The answer we were looking for was the two previous residents of the current location of the Oregon Zoo—the County Poor Farm followed by the West Hills Golf Course.



### **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](mailto:nwagenaar@ci.portland.or.us)