Multicultural roots give her unique perspective
By Nell Wagenaar

Amalia Alarcón
Amalia, Neighborhood Resource Center manager, with her happy brood—sons Sam, 5, right, and Carlos, 10, at a holiday celebration recently.

Gaddie

Are you Puerto Rican?
Yes.
Ecuadorian?
Yes.
Cuban?
Yes.
Polish?
Yes.
American?
Yes, born in Newark, New Jersey, says Amalia Alarcón Gaddie, ONI’s long-time diva defending the rights of minorities, gays and transgendered people making sure they have access to government services. She’ll go anywhere anytime, as long as she’s wearing the right shoes.

Besides her two growing boys, shoes and salsa keep her sane. She’s an accomplished writer, a journal keeper, and started a writers group in Portland. She’s currently heading the Neighborhood Resource Center but could as easily work as a stand-up comedian.

She was the only one in five siblings born in the U.S. Her heritage, rich and diverse, has given her a special edge in understanding the plight of minorities. Her mother was from Ecuador and her father was a Polish Jew whose family escaped from a Polish Pogrom during the Second World War. He landed in Cuba.

“Nobody else wanted Jews. He lived there for nearly 40 years—he became Juban. There was a very large Eastern European Jewish community in Cuba in those days.” Amalia’s father followed a good job opportunity, which resulted in her growing up in Puerto Rico. At age 13, she and her Mom moved to Miami where she went Miami Beach High School. After graduating, she attended the University of Miami and studied theatre and communications.

“Then HIV happened to me. A dear friend died of the disease and I shifted from acting to re-acting.”

She landed in New York City working with communities of color on HIV prevention, services and advocacy. Meanwhile she began to write and record her experiences in her journals. “I’ve always kept a journal.” She writes poetry, short stories... “It’s a way I process difficult times.” As a matter of fact, she’s currently putting the finishing touches on a short story she’s hoping to publish, “The Promise,” which describes a woman coming to grips with her best friend dying of AIDS.

A writer needs to be a keen observer. “I love to watch people, hear their stories. I collect bits and pieces and then try to put it all together in some kind of form that makes sense to me,” she said. What makes her writing shine is a tender sense of humor throughout life’s tragedies.

Eclectic upbringing

“I had a really eclectic upbringing. I learned to value beauty and joy from my mother, Bélígica Alarcón Chavez. I have a natural curiosity about people and their stories.” She gets a lot of her inspiration from her kids, Carlos and Sam. “They are so loving, so funny. Brilliant, really—not that I’m biased or anything.”

She came to Portland in 1991 and took a job managing a Planned Parenthood Center. She also worked for the State of Oregon providing multicultural health education on HIV and early breast and cervical cancer detection.
She came to ONI in 1999 and managed the Metropolitan Human Rights Center, which was funded jointly by the city and Multnomah County. When the county pulled out its funding last year, the program ended with all referrals routed to the state’s Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI). As NRC manager, she works with ONI staff and three coalition directors providing support for the neighborhood system.

Though she lives in Lake Oswego, she loves Portland. “There’s nothing like a spring day in Portland…blue skies, the river, the bridges…. I come to Portland to play.” She meets with her writer’s group, with friends, and you might find her sometimes at Aztec Willy’s dancing a mean salsa.

New NIT staffer interested in poverty solutions
By Nell Wagenaar

Low-income housing and anti-poverty programs were her specialties at PSU where she got a Master’s in Public Administration last June and Maralea Lutino wants to continue influencing public policy in that field.

She’s been in Portland since 2000 and is very impressed. “It’s a very sustainable city. Good planning, wide streets, you can ride your bike to work, organic and local food—all make it very livable.”

Maralea came on board in March as a Program Specialist in the Neighborhood Inspection unit and is helping review housing and nuisance foreclosure cases. She checks to see if there are any errors, mitigating circumstances or hardship issues that would justify reducing the liens?

Her appointment is temporary through June and then she plans to apply for the permanent position when it opens next fiscal year. “I really enjoy the job. Everyone is very easy-going!”

Maralea was born in Manila, the Philippines. She moved to Charleston, South Carolina with her family when she was three years old. She attended Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, NY.

After moving to Portland, she was hired as a program manager at Human Solutions working with utility assistance programs. She also worked for the Section 8 program at the Housing Authority of Portland and as a legislative aide for Rep. Dingfelder. She interned with the Bureau of Housing and Community Development in the 10-Year Plan to end Homelessness.
When she’s got time off, she likes to train for the Portland Marathon. She also enjoys boxing (punching the bag, not sparring), knitting and gardening.

Former police officer joins Crime staff
By Nell Wagenaar

Jim Powell knows first-hand how life can interfere with the best-laid plans. After retiring from the Police Force in 2002, he got cancer and had to concentrate on healing. Plans were put on hold as he underwent eight months of chemotherapy to treat his Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph nodes, spleen, and other organs of the immune system. But today he’s back in the saddle and his attitude is upbeat.

“I’m a survivor. Trust in God got me through it.” The cancer has been in remission for a year and he’s regained about 90 percent of his normal strength.

Powell, a 26-year veteran of the Portland Police Bureau, was hired in February taking Samantha Kennedy’s post as downtown crime prevention specialist.

When a sergeant at Central Precinct, he worked with Tom Peavey, (now with N-NE Crime Prevention) and supervised the NRT and Senior Neighborhood Officers. He specialized in meth labs while in Drugs and Vice for nine years. When he retired, he went to the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training and coordinated advanced police courses.

The problems downtown are familiar issues for Jim—drug dealing, panhandling, car prowls. “A big part of it is educating people to not leave anything behind in their cars. Someone will break in just to get some CDs, which they can sell for $2 a piece. Panhandling is not against the law unless it becomes aggressive. Kids sometimes come in from the suburbs and do it for sport.”

Jim grew up on a farm in Gresham and has worked a variety of jobs. He studied to be a music teacher at PSU but got sidetracked. “I still perform as a vocalist and instrumentalist with several groups in the Portland area. He met his wife Donna in church, married her and to this day enjoy playing music together. He drove a charter bus for a time and worked with a company that handled 60 busses a day. “It was a lot of fun meeting all kinds of people, a great job.”

He took a police test in 1976 and was hired by the PPB. “I was very excited to come to work every day.” As a matter of fact, he’s come full circle. He began his uniformed career on West Burnside in the Old Town/China Town area and now’s he’s back on the downtown beat….“sort of like coming home.”
Sam Adam’s City Hall art event catches on
By Nell Wagenaar

Mayor Tom Potter and other commissioners have joined in the 1st Thursday festivities and hosted their own artists at City Hall last week. The event, which drew 150 visitors last month, keeps growing in popularity and last week featured music and theatre as well as visual art.

“The Mayor and other commissioners saw the value of giving exposure to local artists and decided to get involved,” said David Gonzalez, operations manager in Sam Adams’ office. Adams initiated 1st Thursday in February in an effort to bring a wider variety of people to City Hall. “Artists and their friends may think they’re not relevant to city government but they are a vital part of community life,” said Gonzalez.

This month’s festivities included a performance by the Portland Theatre Brigade, hosted by Mayor Potter in the Council Chambers. Commissioner Leonard presented the cello music of Skip van Kuske in the Atrium and Commissioner Dan Saltzman is exhibiting the works of artist Richard Cork in his office. Commissioner Erik Sten plans on participating next month.

“First Thursday at City Hall is not only fun, but it’s a chance to bring new people to City Hall,” said Mayor Tom Potter. “The Portland Theater Brigade is a great group that teaches young people about leadership, community building and multi-culturalism in a fun environment.”

Commissioner Leonard likes the idea. “I think these events really are a reflection of the positive change that is going on in City Hall. First Thursday is an opportunity to showcase not only the excellent art and music being created in our community, but also the efforts the Council is making to make City Hall a more welcoming place for citizens,” he said.

Gonzalez, instrumental in getting commissioners on board, says the event is popular because it gives folks a chance to informally chat with their elected officials as well as enjoy a glass of wine and cheese and meet the artists. Commissioner Leonard office offered Oregon beer and chips.
Artist Lisa Kaser says she has been drawing and working in the medium of textiles and sculpture for nearly twenty-five years. “My fondness of texture, and handwork is a compelling factor in my work. All the three dimensional pieces with the exception of the wood carvings are hand sewn onto armatures bent out of street sweeper bristles I find on my daily walks, the materials are a mix of hemp, linen, recycled cloth or wool felt that I produce and embellish with found objects and lastly encase in layers of natural beeswax.” Her works will be on display all month in Sam’s office.

Future exhibits will include works from an undertaker, a handyman and a nurse. The open house was held from 5 to 7 p.m.

**Information & Referral**

**I&R to resume front-line staff meetings**

*By John Dutt*

In May we will be restarting an I&R sponsored event—the Front Line Meetings, which we used to host several years ago. The aim is to get “frontline” staff in the city, county and some of the non-profits together quarterly to network, share information and learn skills to help staff who work the front desk or front desk phone lines better perform their jobs.

Nicole Murphy-Garcia has done a lot of great work pulling together this meeting. This time around we are attempting to expand the meetings that have traditionally been just for City staff, to also include frontline responders from Multnomah County.

This inaugural meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12th from 9 to 10 am in the Portland Building on the 2nd floor, Room B. The featured guest speaker is John Holmes from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. He is going to talk with the group about dealing effectively with customers who have mental illnesses. We look forward to the meeting and getting to know better the many frontline folks who do such important work for both the City and the County.

In I&R other news:

- Another great job by the I&R staff on the phones for the month of April. The 13th month in a row that we have exceeded out 90% goal. This means answering over 90% of incoming calls within 25 seconds. For the month of April we had a busy month with 14092 calls answered at 91.3%!

- The I&R Database migration continues and is near completion. We plan to start using the new database in the coming month and are beginning our work with the City IT staff to figure out how best to make this available to the public through the City’s Website.

- I&R staff just completed updating our City and County organizational charts, which will be made available on the ONI Website soon.

- Teresa completed updating a pretty comprehensive list of the different community events in the Portland area. This list will also be made available on our Website very soon.
The Southeast Uplift Board of Directors has named Cece Hughley Noel as the new Executive Director. Hughley Noel began her duties on Monday bringing more than 14 years of experience as a public advocate to her new job. SEUL is a neighborhood coalition that provides technical assistance and support to 20 neighborhoods in southeast Portland.

Hughley Noel served as the Kerns Target Area Project Coordinator at SEUL in 2003. Her most recent position was with Parametrix, an environmental engineering consulting firm, as a senior public involvement specialist.

"I am thrilled to be working with the SEUL board and neighborhood leadership to continue Southeast Portland’s rich legacy of citizen advocacy and empowerment," said Hughley Noel. "We are excited to have Cece Hughley Noel’s leadership as we begin a new chapter in Southeast Uplift’s work in support of neighborhoods. Cece brings many talents to her new role and has a long track record of bringing people together to create and achieve common goals," said SEUL Co-President Linda Nettekoven.

After serving as a policy analyst on the staff of City of Portland Commissioners Dick Bogle and Charlie Hales in the early 1990’s, Hughley Noel worked as a public involvement specialist in the Portland Fire Bureau and the Portland Office of Transportation.

Southeast Uplift is a nonprofit neighborhood coalition working to create Southeast Portland neighborhoods that are livable, socially diverse, safe and vital.

Southeast Uplift develops citizen leaders and supports neighborhood and business associations as well as residents in citizen participation services, community development, organizing and urban planning technical assistance. As Executive Director, Hughley Noel will provide support in strategic and annual planning, program development, budget and financial management, fundraising and public policy advocacy. She will oversee a staff of seven with an annual budget of approximately $400,000.
Paula Manley, a consultant with Executive Transition Services (a program of TACS), led SEUL’s transition and Director search after former Executive Director Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong accepted the position of Neighborhoods and Education Policy Manager in Mayor Tom Potter’s office in January.

**Leadership workshops draw big crowds**

*By Brian Hoop*

Nearly 100 people participated in two workshops in April on advocacy skills with City Hall and organizing special events. Thanks to Amanda Fritz and Sylvia Bogert with Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. who helped lead an energetic review of how City Council operates and tips for advocating before Council and the Planning Commission. Likewise, thanks to Mary Jaron Kelley, Kieu-Oanh Nguyen, Nancy Cushwa, Susan Landauer, and Gary Marschke who helped lead the workshop on organizing special events such as block parties, tree plantings, neighborhood clean-ups and street festivals.

In partnership with the District Coalitions the Office of Neighborhood Involvement began organizing leadership workshops for neighborhood and community activists this past winter. Each workshop has been averaging 35-50 attendees. This confirms feedback ONI has received in the past year – Neighborhood Summit, a survey, and from the Public Involvement Task Force - that leadership training should be a priority service.

**GREAT Committee ready to submit guidelines to Mayor’s Office**

The Guidelines Review committee (GREAT) completed its review of public comment and finalized proposed changes to City Code 3.6 and the ONI Guidelines/Standards. Within the next week the document will be forwarded to the Mayor’s office for Council consideration probably in late June or early July. Final documents will soon be sent out to Neighborhood Associations and interested individuals and posted on the web. Thanks to the 14 neighborhood and community leaders who dedicated some three years to this methodical review and updating of the rules governing Portland’s neighborhood system. More info to come soon.

**Neighborhood leaders participate in school organizing event**

More than 200 residents of Portland participated in a half-day gathering May 7th on strategies for building parent and community involvement with Portland Public Schools. Organized by Community and Parents for Public Schools, the event drew a wide range of parents, teachers, and community leaders to share successes and challenges facing PPS. About a half-dozen or more Neighborhood Association leaders participated including Nancy Clark from Humboldt, Doretta Schrock from Kenton, and Lillie Fitzpatrick from Hayhurst. Superintendent Vickie Phillips gave a rousing overview of a developing 5-year strategic plan to improve academic standards, close the achievement gap, and expand community involvement in Portland’s public schools.

Brian Hoop, from ONI, participated in a workshop on involving the community in our schools. A priority issue that has been identified by CPPS and numerous PTA’s is the need to improve communication efforts between parents, school principals, and the broader community. Based on numerous conversations there seemed to be strong interest in how PTA’s, school Site
Councils, and Neighborhood Associations can better network and share scarce resources for communications. Parents are attempting to reach out to the 80% of Portlander’s who have no kids in schools while Neighborhood Associations want to better connect with younger families who’s busy schedules limit their ability to participate in Association activities.

**SW residents request recognition of new Neighborhood Assn.**

Residents of the Birdshill neighborhood on the border of Lake Oswego and Portland have requested recognition of their new organization by the four governments their area straddles, including Multnomah County, Lake Oswego, Clackamas County, and the City of Portland. ONI is communicating with neighborhood leaders over adjustments they would need to make to their bylaws to comply with the ONI Guidelines. Residents are mobilizing in response to a wide range of up and coming land use and transportation proposals in this largely unincorporated area along the Willamette River.

**Community organizer assists Northeast neighborhoods**

Rachel Summer is working with the NE Coalition of Neighborhoods this spring and summer to assess action steps the coalition can take to assist with community organizing efforts with their twelve Neighborhood Associations. Rachel is working temporarily with the Office of Neighborhood Involvement on this project. She has been actively connecting with dozens of neighborhood leaders to identify their priorities for technical assistance needed to build stronger Neighborhood Associations and communities in general. She will present the coalition’s board of directors with a range of options for their consideration in developing a district wide work plan. To learn more or connect with Rachel call her at: (503) 502-2596 or rsummer@ci.portland.or.us.

**ONI office hosts visitors from Guadalajara**

By Nicole Murphy-Garcia

Guadalajara is the second largest city in Mexico and boasts a population of more than three million people. It is known for its monuments, parks, fountains and Mariachi music. On Tuesday, May 3, Brian Hoop and Nicole Murphy-Garcia from ONI were fortunate enough to meet with a nine member delegation from the City of Guadalajara that included the Mayor Emilio Gonzalez Marquez and Commissioners Julio Cesar Gutierrez Maraveles and Paulo Colunga Perry. The topic was neighborhoods, and how they are organized in our city.

Mayor Gonzalez Marquez asked about the dynamic between our neighborhood associations and the mayor. Brian Hoop, ONI’s “neighborhood guru,” responded that our city prides itself on the fact that neighborhoods have a history of organizing and being involved in the government. Town hall meetings where citizens can give their input on issues that affect them are part of our city’s tradition.

The delegation was also interested in how ONI made government accessible to the citizens. Nicole Murphy-Garcia explained the Evolvement project and how it made information available online as well as partnered with other bureaus to monitor the site and answer the public’s questions. After passing out lots of brochures and maps, each ONI person received a Shield of Guadalajara pin.
Commissioner Sam Adams, left, and Crime Prevention Coordinator Preston Wong pitch in to help Graffiti cleanup efforts in the Hawthorne and other business districts around town last month.

Neighborhood Livability Center

Graffiti clean-ups not dampened by rain
By Marcia Dennis

Graffiti removal projects with Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association and Hollywood area volunteers were successful in April. Both events took place on rainy Saturdays, but did not dampen the enthusiasm of those who took part. In HBBA, eight teams of volunteers concentrated on graffiti removal, with the majority of them attacking flyers on utility poles. Imagine my surprise to take a photo of a volunteer and find out it was Commissioner Sam Adams, removing stickers from a metal sign pole in the rain!

At the Kerns-Buckman area cleanup, teams of Central Catholic High students walked the neighborhood documenting graffiti sites for future removal projects.

Another cleanup will take place in Hollywood area just prior to the Junior Rose Parade. The tentative date for this event is Saturday, June 4. Meanwhile, YEI will concentrate their

Karin Edwards pitches in
removal efforts along Sandy Blvd. in the next few weeks to remove as much graffiti as possible from private property.

The OCHA/Oregon Leadership Institute mentors from Madison High School and the Gregory Heights group will remove graffiti on Sandy Blvd. on May 16, weather and everything else permitting. About 30 students are expected to participate in this project. They have documented graffiti on businesses in the vicinity of 63rd and Sandy, and, with permission, will be painting it out – as well as removing stickers and graffiti from dumpsters, paper boxes and other similar surfaces. This group of Hispanic youth is committed to setting a positive example in the community and hope to combine graffiti removal with a future mural project. Their counterparts in the Marshall High attendance area will be doing a similar project in a few weeks. These students are an inspiration and I am very impressed with their sincerity and willingness to get out and make a difference.

I will be working with volunteers on Saturday, May 21 at the “Polish the Pearl” cleanup. We will again focus graffiti removal on paper boxes, backs of signs, metal poles and dumpsters.

The Cherry Park Elementary School project will take place on Tuesday, May 24. The location for the cleanup is the “7-Up” building at NE 12 and Davis. I have contacted the property owner who will provide appropriate paint, and “volunteers-supreme” Chuck Lawrence and Ted Okrasinski have promised to be on hand to help train and supervise the approximately 120 youngsters involved in the paint out.

Officer Matt Miller, Graffiti Investigator for PPB is working to develop the case against “CAVEMAN”. There are 67 reports for this tagger in the Track It database, substantiated by photographs. As this vandal was on probation for incidents dating back to 2001, it is likely he will receive a much more serious consequence of his actions this time.

The Track It database continues to grow, currently containing 4789 reports from 1067 “unique” users. The graffiti removal grant RFP is out for bid. We hope to complete the process and determine a “grant recipient” to provide limited graffiti removal services for 2005-2006 by early June, as the current agreement will expire June 30.

**Crime Prevention**

**Coordinated crime prevention effort to address building design**

William Warren reports the formation of a monthly meeting with Northwest Housing Authority of Portland resident managers, Portland Police Bureau Central Neighborhood Response Team officers Matt Engen and Sue Abrahamson, and himself. There are four high-rise HAP properties in the Northwest District Association neighborhood. William is busy conducting Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design surveys at the four properties: Northwest Tower, Medallion Apartments, Williams Plaza, and Gallagher Plaza. After the CPTED survey, William engages the residents in an orientation to Apartment Watch. If the tenants express an interest to form the Watch, he returns at a later date to complete the formal training.

Bob Arkes, the Northwest coalition's representative to the Chief's Forum, Neighborhood Response Team Officer Bill Winters and William are creating a Hot Spot team that assists the coalition neighborhoods in their work to deal with the most difficult crime related situations. Team members are testing the concept in Bob Arkes' neighborhood, Goose Hollow.
City crime prevention/water security staffs learn about Homeland Security: Engaging the community

By William Warren

In February, members of the Portland Water Bureau’s Security team and four staff from ONI’s Crime Prevention Program participated in a two-day training sponsored by the Western Community Policing Center, held in Brooks, Oregon, focusing on Homeland Security: Engaging the Community.

Other I-5 participants included representatives from Citizen Crop Council, various non-profit organizations, criminal justice system personnel, and community members. The course provided a framework for community and public safety leaders to work together to create vigilant, ethical, prepared and resilient community groups to prepare for all hazards. Community oriented policing principles, as well civil defense techniques were used to address preparedness issues at the community level.

The display in Brooks, OR is a traveling memorial to all victims of the September attack.

Wrecked steel girders and pieces of the twisted building facade from the World Trade Center destroyed on September 11, 2001 were present in the lobby of the Marion County Fire District Training Center in Brooks, OR where ONI Crime Prevention staff attended a security workshop.

PHOTO BY WILLIAM WARREN

Kneeling in front of the traveling 9/11 display from left to right are: Jeff Farrell, City of Portland Water Security Specialist; Crime Prevention Coordinators William Warren, Galina Grigoryan, Teri Poppino, Katherine Anderson; and Josh Miller, Water Security Specialist.
June 23 landlord forum to deal with meth issues

Rosanne Lee has been busy preparing for the Landlord Forum to be held on Thursday, June 23rd at East Precinct. This forum is open to all landlords and property managers in Portland. The frequency of the forum will be determined by those attending our first meeting. The June meeting will feature a presentation by Sgt. Eric Schober, Portland Police Drugs and Vice Division on landlord responsibilities and other facts they need to know about methamphetamine. Both Galina and Rosanne have been participating with Southeast Precinct in doing outreach and enforcement regarding car prowls, residential and commercial burglaries. Rosanne is collaborating with Brentwood-Darlington Neighborhood Association, Lents/Brentwood-Darlington Weed & Seed, Southeast Uplift to plan and coordinate a National Night Out event in Harney Park as part of a strategy to address crime and livability issues in the park and surrounding neighborhood.

Peninsula Park job fair draws NE & North Portland youth

By Tom Peavey

The fair, which had been in planning stages since September 2004, commenced on Friday, April 22, 2005 at the Peninsula Park Recreation Center, 700 N. Portland Blvd. The job fair grew out of a need to offer an alternative to youth ages 17 to 23 in a city park impacted by periodic youth related crime. The event was structured to prepare Portland’s youth through involvement in training sessions and the ability to glean from job information tables prepared by businesses and youth programs offering employment opportunities.

A combination of 19 businesses, youth programs and government agencies participated in making this event a success. After 2 hours of instruction and resource presentation youth participating in the fair were served their favorite meal, pizza! The 4-hour event ended with free raffle prizes and a live “D.J” dance. City bureaus offering resource were: Parks and Recreation; Police; Portland Public Schools and the Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

Crime Specialist Galina Grigoryan elected to CPAO Board

At the recent Crime Prevention Conference of Oregon, Galina Grigoryan was elected to the CPAO Board of Directors and will serve in the capacity of Media/Marketing Director for CPAO and will be involved in promotions of CPAO events, trainings, etc. This is a great opportunity
for Galina and the Crime Prevention program and a chance for Portland to play a key role in the State's Crime prevention efforts, initiatives, and agenda.

The SE Portland's Crime Prevention office will be holding its next training session entitled "Personal Safety Training" on 6/23/05, 6 - 8 p.m. at SEUL, 3534 SE Main St. The training is designed to introduce adult women and men to a variety of self-protective options in a short, non-physical, discussion format. The workshop will cover: prevention strategies, recognizing when you are being targeted for an attack, the pros and cons of various options for ending an attack, such as weapons, fighting, and running away. No physical self-defense info will be taught in this workshop. The training is open to the public, but is geared towards Foot patrol volunteers and leaders of neighborhood/community watch programs.

On April 22, Galina Grigoryan participated in the Russian Speaking Youth Leadership Conference of Oregon, which was a huge success! Over 400 Russian-speaking youths mostly from the Portland-metro area attended. Also in attendance were Lonnie J. Roberts, Multnomah County Commissioner, PPB representatives, various media representatives, Slavic Coalition board members, and many community members interested in networking with the Russian Speaking Community of Oregon.

Students do their part in keeping our rivers clean

By Lauren Norris

Spring brings a new downspout disconnection season and time for hundreds of middle and high school students to pitch in and help protect Portland's rivers. In April and May Mt. Tabor
MS, Sunnyside MS, Jefferson HS and Madison HS sent 120 students out into the community to disconnect downspouts for owners who couldn't do the work themselves. They earned almost $2,000 for their classrooms, removed over a million gallons of water from the sewer and learned about math and science on at once.

Downspout Disconnection's first attempts to conduct direct outreach to landlords have been a success as well. Since March over 400 properties have been signed up thanks to the great efforts of our ONI outreach staff phone efforts and tabling at events like Nuisance's Landlord Training. Downspout disconnection, Nuisance, Crime Prevention, Lead prevention and BES will also be tabling together at the annual Rental Housing Show May 18th. This will be an opportunity to show landlords how to make their rental properties safe and protect Portland's rivers.

**Neighborhood Inspections**

**Grass & Weed Season starts May 16th**

By Ed Marihart

Our office will begin taking tall Grass & Weed complaints (over 10 inches in height) beginning Monday, May 16th. Grass & Weeds complaints are taken seasonally during the dryer months, May - October. Title 29.20 Property Nuisances states: Cut and remove and keep cut and remove all weeds and grass that are located in lawn areas and have a prevailing height of more than 10 inches. If you wish to file a nuisance complaint, please call our intake line at 503-823-7306 or on our website address: portlandonline.com/oni.

**New Drug Lab agreement reached with Police**

By Ed Marihart

Neighborhood Inspections has been working collaboratively with Commander Rosie Sizer of Southeast Precinct and has entered into an inter-bureau agreement with the Police Bureau to give them the authority to immediately and summarily abate the public nuisance of an illegal drug manufacturing site by securing all open and/or broken exterior doors, windows or apertures of any unsecured structure or property to prevent access by unauthorized persons through such openings.

The illegal drug lab site shall be initially secured in the following manner: A security board up shall occur on all lower, first floor and easily accessible second floor exterior doors, windows or apertures that are open and/or un secure.

Any subsequent board ups required of illegal drug lab sites shall be performed by Neighborhood Inspections at an "enhanced" security board up level. An "enhanced" security board up would require that all exterior doors, windows or apertures on the lower level, first level and easily accessible second level be secured. Any costs incurred for an "enhanced" security board up will be liened against the property.

We are also working with Southeast Precinct Police to include references and language in their Partnership Agreements with property owners to maintain their properties to the minimum standards of Title 29, Property Maintenance Regulations and to allow for inspection of their property if requested.
FY 2004-2005 Third Quarter NIT statistics

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled Vehicles</td>
<td>1077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>1589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuisance</td>
<td>6536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Administrative Reviews</td>
<td>1038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of Hearings</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average # days between Case in &amp; Close date</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled vehicles</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuisance</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Landlord Training Classes in full swing

The first class was held May 5th in the Portland Building Auditorium located at 1120 SW 5th Avenue. Registration is encouraged (because space is limited) and easy. Just visit ONI’s website at www.portlandonline.com/oni or call 503-823-7955 and leave your postal address or email address and we will send registration materials to you. Please encourage landlords, property managers, realtors, and any other interested parties to attend. The class is approximately 8hrs long, and will be offered at various locations throughout Portland. There will be a total of six classes held in May and June of this year. The training session is free. Manuals will be available during the sessions for a cost of $15.00, or at the ONI Columbia St. office at 111 S.W. Columbia St, room 670.

The Landlord Training Class covers important information to help manage properties such as:

- Applicant screening
- Signs of dishonest applicants
- Developing partnerships with tenants and neighbors
- Crisis resolution/eviction; and
- Warning signs of illegal activities, to name a few.

Representative from the Neighborhood Inspections, Crime Prevention, and the Police Bureau will also speak about their individual programs and how to build partnerships to prevent unwanted activity and property deterioration. The training will also be held:
Elders in Action

Real people need real help!

While we appreciate the Co-Chairs' (Sen. Courtney and Rep. Minnis) tremendous effort, based on the release of the draft Oregon State budget on April 4, 2005 and the Governor's Recommended Budget, there are important issues still facing our ability to serve Oregon's seniors and people with disabilities. You can see below where we need to call our legislators to ask them to support adequate funding so that Oregon seniors and people with disabilities can live safe and independent lives in living situations of their choice.

Oregon Project Independence (OPI). The Governor's budget eliminated services for 1,000 current recipients. The House believes OPI should be fully funded at $11.1 million. The Senate would fund OPI at just $6.3 million. It makes fiscal sense to fund OPI adequately as it serves as a safety net or triage system for people who do not qualify for other programs due to elimination of services. Services provided by OPI cost are far less expensive than Medicaid services and the program is designed to meet the changing needs of families in creating care plans for their aging family members.

The Cap. The Governor recommended limiting the number of people who can receive in-home care to 21,000. The House Budget institutes the cap. The Senate removes the cap. A cap on services means that regardless of how many people need and are eligible for services, the actual number served can not go over 21,000. This translates to waiting lists for new enrollees and 2 options – go without help until their number comes up or proceed to a nursing facility which is a much more expensive option. This alternative would also cost the State $94 million in Federal matching funds.

Dental and Vision. The Governor's Budget eliminates routine dental and vision coverage for 123,000 OHP clients. The House and Senate agree that dental should be partially covered but vision will cease. In the long run, costs will go up as people turn to emergency rooms or expensive dental procedures when they experience pain, infections or other problems.

Relative Foster Care. The Governor's Budget eliminated payments for relative providers of adult foster care for 2,200 individuals. The House believes the program should be fully funded.
at $23.1 million. The Senate would provide partial funding of $16.6 million. Without these services, there will be an increase in the need for nursing care for this population and/or neglect and abuse as the stress of care giving and financial demands become too much for many family members to handle could increase.

**General Assistance.** The Governor and Co-Chairs budget calls for the elimination of General Assistance (GA) grants and the health coverage that was part of that grant. GA is a program that provides a small amount of cash and medical help to people with very little money and severe physical and/or mental disabilities that cannot do any paid work for at least 12 months. These people are in the process of getting permanent assistance from Social Security. For more information, contact Jacqueline Zimmer at 503-551-2328 or [www.o4ad.org](http://www.o4ad.org), and:

WRITE / E-mail YOUR LEGISLATOR: Legislators are saying they aren't hearing from people with disabilities or seniors. Find your legislator at [www.leg.state.or.us](http://www.leg.state.or.us).

CALL YOUR LEGISLATOR: Outside Salem call 1-800-332-2313 - let your legislator know funding programs for seniors and people with disabilities is critical to the health of our state.

WRITE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Call the newspaper, find out why they aren't printing your letters about seniors and people with disabilities. Letters to the Oregonian (150 word limit) may be sent to letters@news.oregonian.com. Your local papers are great to send to as well!

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ONI Director Jimmy Brown, is famous for his barbecued ribs and is cookin' up a mess of them for about 35 neighbors at the May Powellhurst-Gilbert meeting Monday evening. In the background are Jack Vahey, and Matt and Pati Hall.
Do you know your city?

Dedicated on September 22, 1888, this famous Portland work is the City’s oldest piece of public art and has been praised as one of the finest fountains in American art. If you visit Portland’s famous Saturday Market you’ll no doubt admire it. Be the first to name it and you will be our May winner!

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 fiscal year in June, we will have a final showdown of our monthly winners to determine the grand prizewinner and the ONI Portland Trivia champ for 2004/2005.

Congratulations to Jim Powell for being the first to correctly name and locate the “world’s smallest park.” It is Mills End Park located at the intersection of Naito Parkway and SW Taylor. Next time you are in or near Waterfront Park go check it out. It measures a whopping 24 inches in diameter and was dedicated by Oregon Journal writer Donald Fagan who wrote imaginative pieces about the park and its Leprechaun inhabitants in the Journal.

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