Neighborhoods come alive at National Night Out parties

Mary Gautreaux, left, NNO party organizer of the 2500 block party at NE Dunckley, received some special visitors last week Tuesday night—previous owners of her home, Mr. And Mrs. Ed Becker, right. They arrived at the party to share the history of the neighborhood. The Beckers lived in the home for 32 years prior to the Gautreaux family, which bought the home in 2003. According to neighbors who knew Ed said he was the person they went to in times of need. From yard tools to advice, Ed was always there for his neighbors. PHOTO BY TOM PEAVEY
NNO parties draw record number to streets
By Nell Wagenaar

It was a big year for National Night Out in Portland this year. A record number of neighbors, about 14,000 folks, attended the 162 parties across town last week Tuesday, reports Eric King, crime prevention manager.

“It was a great success. Our goal was 150 parties but we easily surpassed that,” he said. King, William Warren, and the team of crime prevention specialists plus Kimberly Mark-Villela and Carol Justice, have been planning the 11th annual event in Portland since January.

Celebrated in communities across the nation for 22 years, the NNO event is aimed at building safer neighborhoods by encouraging neighbors to work with each other and the police to stop crime and drug activity.

This year 400 goodie bags were assembled and given to party hosts. Two additional businesses—New Seasons and Quest—joined Applebee’s, Infinity Radio and The National Association of Town Watch as sponsors for the event.

The sign displayed at City Hall to promote the event was another first. Thanks to a little pull from the Mayor’s office and Carol’s persuasive powers, the sign was allowed despite a tradition of keeping historic City Hall pristine, sign and clutter free.

A principal partner each year is the Portland Police Bureau. Officers mingled with neighbors at many of the parties. Other city bureaus like Parks and Noise Control went the extra step to support the NNO effort. Staff from Mayor Tom Potter’s office stopped in at 28 of the parties. ONI’s own NIT team, including inspectors and support staff, attended 20 parties across town.

A new theme this year was forging a link between neighborhoods and their local businesses. Pre-party Planning Packets included tips on how to get local business to come out and participate and bright yellow flyers to put in store windows.

“What makes this event so successful is the strong partnerships created between City Bureaus and the community,” said King. “Partnering with ONI Crime Prevention are the Portland Police Bureau and other bureaus such as Parks, Fire, Transportation and Environmental Services who deal with livability issues that impact neighborhoods.”
involved in helping organize the event are the 95 neighborhood associations, coalition offices and many other community organizations.

Keeping neighborhoods safe across town
Posing for the camera at the plaza in front of the Medallion Apartments at NW Johnson for National Night Out are Housing Authority of Portland Medallion Apartments Staff, PPB Neighborhood Response Team Officers Sue Abrahamson and Bill Winters, Piper Ray Rez and William Warren, ONI Crime Prevention Coordinator for the Northwest.

More than 500 folks attended the Peninsula Park gathering. Piedmont Neighborhood Association Board members are Chair Eleza Faison, Secretary Lara Medicino, Treasurer Scott Hoffman, Land Use Chair Ken Shipley, Public Safety Chair Shaun Sullens and Parks Chair Travis Wittwer.

Piedmont Foot Patrol members: Kim Adams, Lisa Skeeon, Ivy Lumpkin-True, Donna Covi, Gretchen Dennison and Stephen Manske.
Peninsula Park NNO event draws more than 500

The Youth Gang Outreach workers were on hand at Peninsula Park. Left to right are NECN Director John Canda, NACO Supervisor Jermaine Atherton, and NACO rep. Carl Rucker.

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY TOM PEAVEY

Concordia and Cully sponsor parade to Fernhill Park

The parade went quite a haul from NE Prescott and 42nd to Fernhill Park at NE 37th and Ainsworth.

NE Precinct Commander Brett Smith and Lt. Harry Jackson with event organizers from left to right Heidi Smithhisler, George Bruender, Katie Ugolini and Michelle Ovando.

Nothing like a summer evening with friends and neighbors at a nearby park …

About 300 – 400 folks attended the festivities after the parade through the neighborhood that ended at Fernhill Park.
Montavilla Neighborhood

A party at NE 80th and Multnomah brought out young and old alike. Officer Brendan McGuire speaks to a group explaining how to keep the neighborhood safe.

NNO festivities in southeast unites neighbors, business, and police in fighting crime

By Galina Grygorian

National Night Out celebration in SE Portland connected residents, business owners, community partners, and other stakeholders in over 44 individual events. Events varied from hundreds of people, like Kern’s Neighborhood Party in Oregon Park, which gathered over 300 people, to smaller block parties, which focused on gathering folks in their immediate neighborhood. At many of these events neighbors talked about the need to heighten community’s awareness of crime and crime prevention; and that we (the SE Portland’s community) needed to send a message to criminals that our neighborhoods are organized, that we are fighting back, and that we care about our community.

Newly formed neighborhood watch groups joined forces this year with seasoned organizations to celebrate crime prevention on their block. Police officers, fire fighters, and other city reps attended many of these events and were well received by the community. At an event on 80th Ave., neighborhood children enjoyed visiting with the fire fighters, but even more so, playing on the fire truck. At another event on Hawthorne, neighbors heard from their crime prevention coordinator and their neighborhood chair about issues impacting the area and what residents could do to get involved and to help make their community better.

The Crime Prevention Office wants to take this opportunity to recognize all of our community organizers for their commitment to crime prevention, our community, and for helping to make the National Night Out celebration in SE Portland a huge success! National Night Out is nationally celebrated on the 1st Tuesday in August and our local Crime prevention office is here to provide support to event organizers and can be reached for more information at 503-823-3432 or 503-823-0540.
ONI FOLKSONI FOLKSONI FOLKSONI FOLKSONI

The Mighty Quinn arrives… starts organizing household

What a wild and wonderful adventure it has been this month for ONI co-worker Brian Hoop and his wife Kelley Weigel who welcomed their baby boy, Quinn, to their family on Monday, August 1. Quinn, their first child, weighed in at 8 lbs., 22 in. long, and an all-systems clear check up from the doctor.

Upon arriving home the proud parents treated Quinn to a fabulous outdoor patio dinner that evening pointing out the distant mountains, tug boats going up the Willamette, the Forest Park trees, and the bald eagle sitting in a Doug Fir high above. (Yes, they have a bald eagle nesting nearby in their Linnton neighborhood).

Brian gives a shameless shout-out and big thanks to the crew at Kaiser's Sunnyside Clinic. For those thinking about being parents they have been recognized by the United Nations UNICEF/World Health Organization for their Mother/Baby program and emphasis on breastfeeding. “Their staff rocks!”

"Try as you might," says Brian, "you can never be wholly prepared for the trial by fire lessons of parenthood in the first weeks. The experts weren't kidding about the experience of sleep deprivation being perhaps one of the biggest challenges."

Words of advice from the proud papa... "We have a lot to learn from our elders of generations past. The ancient practices of swaddling and using slings to carry the baby around are amazing pacifiers." Big thanks to former ONI co-worker Amanda Hirscht who loaned them her baby sling. “Works like a charm.”

Administration

Bureau Innovation Project #8 in full bloom at ONI

By Jimmy Brown

Bureau Innovation Project, Community Visioning, Public Involvement, and Citizen Participation – What does it all mean???

The Bureau Innovation Project (BIP) activity is in full bloom in ONI and the City. For ONI it means gearing up to meet with community residents, District Coalitions, Neighborhood
Associations, communities of color, citizen activists, the business community, schools advocates, City employees, labor leadership and other key stakeholders.

I will be providing regular updates to ONI staff and many others in the local community on the work that comes from BIP #8. Additionally, information will be available on www.portlandonline.com/mayor/. Simply go to this website and you can navigate to the BIP team sites for more information.

As you may recall there were 20 recommendations that came through the Mayor’s review of City internal and external operations. Each of these recommendations was placed in to a committee structure. The committees are comprised of citizens, City staff, community activists, business leaders, community non-profits, Coalition and Neighborhood representatives, labor, etc. ONI staff is represented on several of the committees, specifically BIP #1 (ONI Director), BIP #7 (John Dutt/I & R), BIP #8 (ONI Director and Amalia Alarcon/NRC) and BIP #9 (Brian Hoop/NRC and Amalia Alarcon/NRC). While ONI staff is not represented in great numbers, please know that all the meetings are open to the public. It would be to your advantage to attend as many of these as you can. In that way your voice as City employees and key stakeholders in the process can still be heard.

I have included in this report an overview that briefly describes some of the core concepts associated with BIP and the Mayor’s focus on citizen involvement. Stay Tuned!

The information below provides a concise overview of the three community-based Bureau Innovation Projects. A committee selected by the Mayor’s office and community volunteers guides each project. Each committee will guide the development, the work plan and the community involvement outline for each project. The committees will then report on the outcomes of each of the three projects based on the input and participation of the community.

**Community Governance**

Community Governance is a concept that recognizes that ownership of community problems, solutions and opportunities (e.g., homelessness, drug crimes, development, schools etc.) rests with the entire community. Effective progress on these issues requires the cooperation of many stakeholders. Participants will be individuals and organizations from the private sector, the public sector and government and the community/not-for-profit sector.

The future of Portland will depend on how well we cultivate and develop a “Community Governance” or partnership model that supports the goal of an intentional city. Each of the three community-based Bureau Innovation Projects is designed to institutionalize this philosophy.

**BIP #1, Community Visioning Process**

Goal: To engage our community in creating a shared vision for Portland’s future, 30 years from now and beyond. This vision will be the basis of strategic plans for the city government and all the other individuals and organizations that share responsibility for shaping our community.

Over the next couple of months, the project will gear up with staff, develop a volunteer Community Vision Committee, and conduct initial outreach and engagement activities to spur our discussion: What do we want our city to be 30 years from now? What kind of legacy do
we want to leave our children and grandchildren? What are our respective roles and responsibilities in solving community problems and creating an intentional future? All the citizens of Portland are encouraged to answer these questions and work together to make that vision a sustainable future.

This effort is intended to create civic capacity through the visioning process, as well as result in a shared vision based on community values and “big picture” goals.

**BIP #8, Portland’s Neighborhood System and the City’s Office of Neighborhood Involvement**

Goal: To develop an “ideal” structure for citizen participation in Portland to support the active engagement of our diverse community. To reinvigorate citizen participation, allowing for meaningful citizen contribution, and better organization of the neighborhood system of 95 neighborhood associations and 7 district coalitions. If we could create a neighborhood system today, what would it look like? Who would participate? How would they participate? How do we overcome barriers to participation?

Additionally, this effort will allow community members to identify how to support the evolution of Portland’s 30 year-old system and how the Office of Neighborhood Involvement’s mission and organizational structure can be better aligned to meet the community’s needs and to support civic participation and civic activism. The current mission of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement is to “Enhance the quality of Portland’s neighborhoods through community participation.” How well does the current structure and programming support that mission? Is that mission still relevant?

This effort focuses on the *structures* that support community participation and decision-making on a local level.

**BIP #9, Develop Consistent Public Engagement Procedures**

Goal: To improve how city bureaus conduct citizen-involvement efforts. The City currently lacks consistent standards, accountability mechanisms and expectations for involving citizens in its decision-making processes.

This effort will focus on internal city reforms regarding public involvement processes and creating consistent expectations and processes for public involvement activities depending on the type of project. Additionally, it will articulate the process by which citizens participate on boards and commissions.

Creativity and flexibility for the individual needs of projects will be supported.

This effort focuses on how city bureaus, staff and elected officials interact with the community and creates shared expectations around types of public involvement projects and public involvement processes.

For more information on the three projects described above, go to [www.portlandonline.com/mayor/](http://www.portlandonline.com/mayor/) and click on Bureau Innovation Project. You may also call 503-823-4120.
If there’s one thing for certain, it’s change!

Business Operations Supervisor Sarah Keele reports some recent ONI staff changes.

Crystle Cowen has accepted a position in BDS and started there on Monday, August 1.
Carol Justice will be moving to City Hall on August 18.
Nancy Blackledge moved to Columbia Square on August 4.
Maralea Lutino’s temporary appointment will end on August 12.
Amy Cammack will begin working as a Program Specialist in NIT but this time on a permanent basis beginning August 15. Please join me in welcoming her back!
Rachel Summer’s temporary appointment ended July 29 at NECN
Joleen will be moving out of Columbia Square and begin working at a BES facility sometime within the next couple of week depending when they can physically get her space set up.
Juan Mayoral will be leaving ONI August 12. Good luck everyone!

Information & Referral

I & R staff battles through busy month; directories out

Another great job by the I&R staff on the phones for the month of July. It was a busy month and despite being very short-staffed pretty much the entire month we answered just under 89% of incoming calls in 25 seconds or less. For the month we answered 13,319 calls.

We completed mailing out new Pocket Phone Directories to everyone on our distribution list thanks to summer intern, Saleena Anderson, from Jefferson HS. Give us a call if you need some of these resource guides. 823-4000.

Hearty farewells

ONI last week bid goodbye to our two interns, Saleena Anderson from Jefferson High and Sine Sekabera from Rwanda. They helped John and Brian with various tasks including distribution of the I&R pocket directories.

ONI safety committee back in action, selects officers

By John Dutt

After a couple of years’ sabbatical, the ONI Safety Committee is back and better than ever. The committee has held three meetings thus far. We are still in the formative stages and have
so far selected our five members, a chair and begun working on our charter documents. We had a meeting with Lonnie Roberts, from the City’s Risk Management Office, to give us some brief education on the purpose and scope of City Safety Committees.

The Safety Committee is an advisory group that serves as a recommending body to assist the employer in promoting safety and health in the workplace. Some of the key functions of the committee are to recommend improvements to accident and illness prevention programs, obtain safety-related suggestions from staff and come up with recommendations to address safety concerns in the workplace, conduct workplace investigations, and review investigations of safety-related incidents on job sites.

The committee members are:

John Dutt (Chairperson), 503-823-3042, jdutt@ci.portland.or.us
Kathy Saunders, 503-823-7034, ksaunders@ci.portland.or.us
Ed Marihart, 503-823-7272, emarihart@ci.portland.or.us
Katherine Anderson, 503-823-3505, kanderson@ci.portland.or.us
John Canda, 503-823-3151, jcanda@ci.portland.or.us

Please feel free to contact any of these members with questions, suggestions, etc. We are still in the formative stages. All committee members will be attending Safety Committee Boot Camp training at the beginning of August to help us more clearly understand our role and responsibilities to the bureau. We have also set up an internal ONI Employee page on our Website with all the minutes and other documents from the Safety Committee at http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=39337.

In the month of August we hope to come up with our Safety Committee Charter and to meet with upper management to define the communication plan between the committee and management including response time to recommendations. We are also working out a system for how we can solicit suggestions from staff most easily and effectively. We hope by September to be fully up and running!

**Bureau Innovation Project Team tackles customer service**

John Dutt is currently serving as a member of BIP Team #7 which is charged with assisting all City bureaus to work collaboratively with their employees and with each other to develop improved Customer Service policies and procedures.

So far Team #7 has met 4 times and we have so far spent most our time developing a Work Plan and a couple of documents which express what the group feels ought to be consistent basic customer service standards across city bureaus. In brief the current Work Plan consists of:

1- Reaching consensus as a group on customer service values & behaviors

2- Designing and using a tool to collect existing customer service data from bureaus and also identify key customer groups

3- Designing and implementing a customer feedback tool. Collect and analyze data.
4- Working with HR to incorporate customer service values & behaviors into job descriptions, recruitment processes and employee evaluation tools.

5- Requesting bureaus and major work groups to identify steps for improved customer service based on the data collected from the customer feedback tool.

Thus far the group has spent most of our time working on the customer service values document as well as a bureau survey document to determine what recent activities individuals have been involved with in regards to customer service improvement. The bureau survey to bureau directors will be going out the 2nd week of August and we plan to collect and analyze this data by the end of the month. We will then use this data to help us determine what the next steps should be in terms of gathering information from our customers to access customer satisfaction. We also need community participation in evaluating customer service standards. The group has completed draft documents for both internal and external customer service expectations. These documents as well as meeting notes, minutes, etc can be found on the BIP Website at http://www.portlandonline.com/index.cfm?c=38976. We are currently grappling with how to best get input from our customers as to evaluating current levels of customer service and suggestions for how to improve it. With limited resources we will have a difficult time effectively reaching out to the entire range of customers within the community but are brainstorming strategies to do this as best we can as it is the key to the whole effort. The group leaders will be presenting the progress of the team thus far at a BIP Implementation Meeting Sept. 1.

Disconnect program super busy

June and July have been busy months for the Downspout Disconnection Team. In six events 10 community groups mobilized almost a hundred volunteers to disconnect almost four acres of roof from the sewer! Big thanks to volunteers from Allen Temple youth, Portland Impact mentor program, Grant Park Neighborhood Association, eNRG Kayaking, Highland Church youth, St Jude Church youth, Native American Youth Association, Sunnyside Piazza and Wattles Boys & Girls Club for all your help. Pictured at left are Kate, ONI Crew leader and volunteer, Jesse, of the Native American Youth Association.

Neighborhood Inspections

Junk cars, trailers, trash removed in Linton cleanup
By Ed Marihart

Cooperation and Coordination were the key words on recent cleanups in the Linton Community. ONI inspectors together with Officer Barry Howser of the Portland Police spearheaded a serious cleanup effort on NW Front Avenue in the Linton neighborhood. Credit goes to several agencies for their willingness to participate. NW Front between NW 106th St
and 112th St is primarily commercial, industrial properties with a few residential homes. The street is unpaved and dusty and the most common traffic is semi's and forklifts. However, the homeowners and tenants on this street have recently been overrun by junk gatherer's and dumpers of junk cars and trailers and trash. In a recent effort to afford the residents of this street some semblance of propriety, ONI has cited several property owners to clean their lots of junk cars and trailers, wood pallets, junk collections and overgrown lots. Several agencies and people deserve mention in this effort and they include; the Portland Police, K.C.Christianson of The Bureau of Maintenance, the Local Railroad Company who owns and manages the local right-of-way and tracks, Multnomah County Juvenile Justice Center (Will Willhite, Thanh Dang, Gina Thornton and Ace Salun) and particularly the interested neighbors who cooperated and helped in these efforts.

We still have a way to go on this project but the major problems are nearing resolution and optimism is now the new keyword.

Neighborhood inspection/nuisance workload up 20 %
By Ed Marihart

I thought you’d all find it interesting the amount of Neighborhood Livability work that NIT responded to, especially when compared to the previous FY. Our workload increased approximately 20 per cent, especially in the Nuisance section, and over 50 per cent in the Administrative section with one less staff person.

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50 attend neighborhood retreat to hammer out a plan
By Tom Griffin-Valade

In November of last year, the neighborhood coalition offices began a series of short weekly meetings to develop a common vision and objectives for the neighborhood system in anticipation of Mayor Tom Potter's initiative that we now know as the Bureau Innovation Project and his goal of increasing community governance. The culmination of these meetings was the neighborhood system retreat held on a hot July 21 day at the Overlook House.

The meat of the retreat was the development a proposal to inform how the neighborhood system and ONI staff and resources will be used to engage citizens in the Mayor's visioning process (Bureau Innovation Project Team #1) while at the same time building on the capacity of the neighborhood system to foster community governance. The time frame for this plan is this fiscal year (FY 05-06), the time that the Bureau Innovation Project Team # 8 will be looking at the future of ONI. Although a specific plan did not emerge at the end of the retreat, the 50 participants, citizens, coalition staff, ONI, and service contractors, served up a plethora of ideas to be hammered into a plan.

The ideas, criticisms, and concepts from the retreat are now in the hands of the implementation committee, which is currently working on a scope of work, and administrative structure that will increase the capacity of the neighborhood system to be a leading partner in promoting community governance. Thanks to everyone for your input.

‘Lady Chair’ featured at St. Johns Window Project

This work of art by Jill Hoddick was one of the pieces in the transformed chair exhibits during the opening of the 3rd annual St Johns Window Project in North Portland July 30. The bare, basic banquet chairs were donated by the Historic Kenton Firehouse and then transformed into works of art by more than 25 Art on the Peninsula artists. The show runs through Aug.20.

Artwork was displayed in store windows along a self-guided tour. It included historic prints, a sculpture garden, music, dance, & an art market.

"The St. Johns Window Project is an exciting way to bring local artists and businesses together who share an interest in their community and creates exposure for artists and businesses alike," says Weirs Cyclery owner, Steve Weir.
Do you know your city?

The grand finale to the Portland Trivia Contest proved to be a challenge and only one contestant emerged in getting all three questions correct. All entries got the first two questions correct but only one got the third, which the judges knew would be the true challenge.

- **Question #1** was what is the oldest continuously running amusement park in the nation is found locally, name it? *Oaks Park* was the answer and all contestants got it.

- **Question #2** was Portland is one of only two cities to have an extinct volcano in its city boundary, name it? *Mt Tabor* was the answer and all contestants got it.

- And the stumper was **Question #3**- What famous roadhouse hosted several US Presidents and foreign dignitaries visiting the Columbia Gorge’s spectacular Columbia River Highway in the 1920s? The Judges were looking for two possible answers – The Chanticleer Inn or the Crown Point Chalet. The PdxHistory website has some great info and pictures on these once grand stopping points for visitors to the Old Columbia River Highway - [http://pdxhistory.com.tripod.com/gorge/roadhouses/roadhouses.html](http://pdxhistory.com.tripod.com/gorge/roadhouses/roadhouses.html)

And the only person to correctly answer question #3 and therefore receives the crown of **Portland Trivia Queen**- *Rhetta Drennan*! Congrats to Rhetta. The reward for her demonstration of local trivia knowledge will be to fill her head with more knowledge by receiving a copy of one of the Trivia Guru’s favorite publications- the **Historic Columbia River Highway Traveler’s Guide**. (lots of good info about the Chanticleer Inn by the way!)

This was so much fun that we will start up another round of trivia in next months newsletter!

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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)