



# The Other Side of the Fence

E-News from ONI ~ May 2004

Enhancing the quality of neighborhoods through community participation.

## Crime Prevention

*By Staff*

The evening of April 28<sup>th</sup> Crime Prevention sponsored a free training on identity theft prevention. **Preston Wong (NECN)** was the primary presenter. The event was well attended with almost forty participants.

In Southwest Portland, **Stephanie Reynolds (SWNI)** is working with the Corbett-Terwilliger-Lair Hill Neighborhood Association to re-form their Safety and Livability committee. The committee is being revived to address the livability problems in the neighborhood related to litter, homeless camps, and street drinkers.

### National Night Out 2004, Have a Party!

I can almost smell the barbecue now. It's getting to be that time of year again and we are rolling out the old song "National Night Out Have a Party." National Night Out is Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> this year. ONI is once again the lead agency for coordinating events. We'll be setting up registration information soon. More to follow...

For more information, contact the crime prevention program coordinator for your area or **Katherine Anderson (EPNO), Special Events Program Coordinator** at 503-823-3505 or [kanderson@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:kanderson@ci.portland.or.us).

### City-wide Block Captain Steering Committee

The Block captain Steering Committee meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Southeast Uplift office, 3534 S.E. Main Street from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The first goal of the committee is to increase membership. We are hoping to have representation from each coalition or neighborhood office. The other goals are to recruit more Block Captains, to increase the number of Block Watches, to enhance the number of Community Foot Patrols and to promote the Block Captain/Block Watch Program through more exposure i.e. web pages, informational videos, speakers' bureau and publicity, publicity, publicity.

Check out the website [www.exploreportland.com](http://www.exploreportland.com) for a look at some activities. Call **Katherine Anderson, Block Captain Program Coordinator** at 503-823-3505 or [kanderson@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:kanderson@ci.portland.or.us) for more information on how to become a Block Captain or to join the steering committee.

**William Warren (W/NW)** reports Crime Prevention for the Northwest continues to focus on offering education to residents and business owners on the principal topics of reducing car prowls and the implementation of the Neighborhood Safety Plan. With the return of warmer weather, it has become increasingly important to remind residents to leave their automobiles showroom clean to reduce car prowls. In the next several months, a steady recruitment of volunteers will be underway to help in the education outreach to increase

awareness on anti-car prowls strategies. A side benefit to working with residents on the car prowls issue is the chance to inform and engage them in the early stages of developing a Northwest focused Neighborhood Safety Plan.

**SEUL's Crime Prevention staff (Galina Boyechko & Rosanne Lee)** are actively working to organize residents and businesses around public safety issue by forming new neighborhood and business watch groups; foot patrols; and developing new organizing tools including the public safety committee. The public safety committee, which will meet for the first time on May 27<sup>th</sup>, will work in conjunction with the crime prevention staff and other stakeholders (i.e. schools, police) to develop a short-term and a long-term public safety strategy to deal with crime issues affecting the area. Most common issues reported by SEUL residents include potential drug houses, increasing car prowls, and a spike in residential burglaries. CP staffers are working proactively to engage citizens and stakeholders in problem-solving these crimes and are actively working to bring new resources to neighborhoods to assist in the process including a recent initiative to secure Weed and Seed funding for Montavilla Neighborhood. For more information about our efforts, please call 503-232-0010 x23 or x24.

## Information & Referral (I&R)

*By John Dutt*

- April was another busy month for I&R. For the month we answered 14882 calls. The crew finished the month up strong and we made our 90% goal with a final percentage of **90.39%** for the month.
- The I&R Team continues to do an excellent job despite staffing turmoil. Anna has been a great addition to the team but we continue to operate while trying to permanently fill the two remaining I&R Specialist positions. We took a big blow during when one of our temporary staff, Teresa Solano, left to take a permanent position elsewhere. Teresa was a great help during her 3 months with us. She set an all-time single month call record with over 4000 calls answered during the month of April! With her vacancy we have chosen to ride out the first couple of weeks of May without filling her position. This puts a lot of strain on the rest of the work unit but is our best option given that we expect to be able to fill the positions permanently within the next couple of weeks. We are currently working with Human Resources to reclassify the positions as "I&R Specialists". This will really help us in our recruitment and hiring efforts by accurately describing the job and skills necessary to succeed in the position.
- With staffing transitions and training being the dominant issue we haven't had much time to do anything but answer those phones and serve our customers, however we continue to make slow progress on database cleanup in preparation for migrating to our new and improved database. We are hopeful that the next month will bring more significant progress.

## Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC)

*By Brian Hoop*

### **ONI Guidelines review - GREAT**

This committee is nearing the completion of their charge, to review and update the ONI Guidelines and City Code 3.96. Most recently they are finalizing language applying to Business District Associations. For more info on GREAT: <http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=29023&> The Alliance for Portland Neighborhood Business Associations, with Nancy Chapman as director and representative

on the committee, has developed proposed language. The key issue confronting the group is whether business associations should be held accountable to similar expectations as neighborhood associations for having transparent participation rules and systems of accountability with bylaws, grievances, etc. Currently business associations currently receive no financial support from the City. That situation, however, may change in the near future as the City's Small Business Advisory Council has proposed possibly providing organizational and leadership development support. See Portland Small Business Prosperity Strategy report. [http://www.pdc.us/pubs/inv\\_detail.asp?id=135&ty=11](http://www.pdc.us/pubs/inv_detail.asp?id=135&ty=11)

For more info go to: <http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=29023&>

### **Evolvement Project – Hiring Update**

Some 90 applications were received for two paid part-time, time-limited intern positions to help with community outreach on phase two of the eVolvment Project. This is a pilot project in North Portland to expand opportunities for individuals to connect directly with City service providers as well as network with other neighbors on community building issues via a neighborhood specific web site, chat rooms "Back Fence", and bulletin boards. Currently this City server web site is limited to the Community Association of Portsmouth. The goal is to expand the sites to most of the North Portland neighborhoods sometime in the fall of 2004. This has been a public/private partnership with the City of Portland (Police Bureau provided significant start-up money), Innovation Partnership, One Economy (a hi-tech philanthropy organization). City Council allocated funding in FY2003-04 for the Bureau of Technology Services to begin developing the infrastructure to expand the site. The community outreach interns will assist with identifying the needs of residents and community leaders, market the sites as a tool for community building, and train individuals and organizations how to utilize the future web sites.

### **International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) conference**

Brian Hoop and Eric King attended the IAP2 conference in Madison, Wisconsin the first week of May. IAP2 is a professional organization dedicated to promoting and improving the practice of public participation in relation to individuals, governments, institutions, and other entities that effect the public interest in nations throughout the world. <http://iap2.org/boardlink/index.shtml> Brian attended in large part to learn from other communities that have attempted to develop common public involvement practices and procedures for local governments such as Portland's Public Involvement Task Force is exploring. Julie Odell, Task Force co-chair and director of the PSU Center for Public Participation, also attended. The City of Calgary, Canada recently adopted citywide procedures and is in the process of training city staff to implement them.

### **In Other NRC News...**

*By Joleen Jensen-Classen*

#### **West Side Big Pipe Update**

The project is really moving now with both tunnel machines in the ground and mining away. Lewis, the machine heading north is expected to go under the Willamette River at the end of May. Clark, the southbound machine had some initial problems with large rocks but is now moving along fine.

There is a micro-tunneling machine in operation in the River Place area. While Lewis and Clark are 14 feet in diameter, Sacagawea, the micro-tunnel machine is 7 feet in diameter. See for yourself.



If you wonder about the work under the Broadway Bridge...that is also part of the West Side Big Pipe Project. Crews are stabilizing the ground around the bridge footings.

## Neighborhood Livability Services (NLS)

By Eric King

### Graffiti Abatement Program

- The **Request for Proposals (RFP) for graffiti removal services for the FY04/05 – 05/06 are now [out for bid](#)**. Over 40 vendors have downloaded the RFP; so we're hoping for a large number of proposals to evaluate. The main difference between this contract and previous contracts is that we are requesting potential contractors to submit proposals for how they will address 2<sup>nd</sup> story graffiti and graffiti on porous surfaces (i.e. unpainted brick or concrete). We are also requiring our contractor to utilize our newly developed regional database and provide an extensive plan for how they will employ and train at-risk youth.
- We will be purchasing several **digital cameras for volunteers to "check out" to help us document and report graffiti**. We are currently developing a volunteer agreement form and hope to supplement this new tool with community workshops and recruit additional volunteers to help us tackle graffiti in Portland.

### Community Residential Siting Program (CRSP)

- **Reviewing inter-agency agreement (IGA) with Multnomah County**. This IGA was developed during the program's first year of operation and needs to be revised to better reflect program services
- **Working with neighbors in N/NE Portland to address** livability issues related to a post-incarceration facility;
- Revising and **updating CRSP resource materials** to prepare for neighborhood outreach efforts.

### Neighborhood Mediation Program (Resolutions Northwest 'RNW')

- RNW just completed an **all-day facilitation-training workshop for volunteer mediators**. This workshop was the first step in increasing the capacity of the mediation program to provide **facilitation services for multi-party/multi-issue disputes in our neighborhoods**. Judith and Paul Mowry conducted the workshop and did an excellent job!
- Resolutions Northwest sends Director of Mediation Services, Claire Bell, good wishes as she transitions to join her husband's consulting business and to welcome their first child this summer. At the same time, we welcome Interim Director of Mediation Services, Judith Mowry, long time volunteer and supporter of neighborhood mediation services. Judith will serve in this position until it's filled.

### Liquor License Notification Program

- Liquor License Notification continues to move forward in redefining the process of notification. We are currently **developing a new notification letter** which is would be mailed to the neighbors within 300 feet. We have been receiving a large portion of returned mail over the last 4 years and suspect this to be the result of our current format. The new improved notice will be one page, front and back, and will contain all of the current pertinent information with added resource information at the bottom of the back page.
- Here are the **latest TPM numbers since March 19<sup>th</sup>** (the first day the ordinance went into effect)
  - Complaints Received: 30
  - Number of Locations: 6
  - Number of Locations with 3 or more complaints: 3

### Neighborhood Inspections Team (NIT)

*By Ed Marihart*

We hired a new Temporary Housing Inspector to fill one of our vacant positions. As you probably know we have been down 3 positions and 2 inspectors since December 2003. Please welcome Lee Gonzales. His phone number is 3x3044. He is finishing his 2nd year at the Building Trade/Inspector Program at Chemekata Community College. He has a construction background and is already certified. Once he is trained he will take over Inspection District 2 that is the western half of North Portland from the Railroad Tracks to NE MLK and from Killingsworth to the Columbia River.

Neighborhood Inspections continues to make connections and collaborate with the Dept. of Juvenile Community Justice and other Community Groups, "Nothing Impossible", for Neighborhood Cleanups and to provide assistance for Low income Elderly and disabled Property Owners. Our office coordinated with the Parks Bureau, adjacent businesses, Portland Police and approx. 10-15 low-level juvenile offenders a nuisance cleanup of a problem property at NE 75th & Killingsworth. The cleanup consisted of cutting overgrown vegetation and removing debris that had fostered criminal activity affecting adjacent properties. The Juvenile justice team worked at the site 2 different days on April 3rd & April 25th. Our office also connected the Juvenile Justice team with the "Nothing Impossible" Community Group for a Neighborhood Cleanup around King School on May 1st. We are also working with the "Nothing Impossible" group to make referrals for Nuisance problem properties of Low Income Elderly & Disabled Properties that need assistance in North/NE Portland. We are also exploring the use of their volunteers and resources to provide exterior Housing Maintenance Repairs for Low Income Elderly & Disabled owner occupied properties that have been cited for Housing Code violations.

3rd Quarter Statistics (Jan - Mar) for FY 03-04:

Total Number of Inspections	=	3260
Total Number of Mailed Violation Notices	=	2038
Total Number of Open Housing Cases	=	705
Total Number of Open Housing Cases older than 2 years	=	297
Total Number of Intakes	=	1590
Total Number of Cases closed	=	1307

Total Number of days a case is opened between the in date & the close date:  
Housing = 213 , Nuisance = 30 , Disabled Vehicles = 28

Total Number of Abatement Warrants Served	=	24
Total Number of Administrative Review Request Received	=	64

## Coalition News

### Southwest Neighborhoods Inc. (SWNI)

By Sylvia Bogert

**Spring Cleanup - *Twice the Numbers*:** SWNI held its Annual Spring Cleanup on Saturday, May 1st and recorded a record turnout. Usually we see 250 to 300 cars, this year over 600. Our record number of 40-yard drop boxes filled at an event was 14, this year 18, 40-yard drop boxes were filled with bulky waste items, wood, tires, and yard debris. Our scrap metal hauler filled his 50-yard drop box and the ARC of Multnomah County took in enough donations to fill its large truck. Neighborhood volunteers completed over 40 pickups for seniors and the disabled. Southwest neighbors showed their true community spirit when the community service workers scheduled did not arrive. Neighbors helped other neighbors unload debris in order to keep the line moving. And even when our hauler, who had assigned two drivers to deliver and pick up boxes around the clock, had a truck break down and participants had to wait for empty boxes; the crowd stayed friendly. Of course handing out extra pizza, fruit, power bars, sodas and ice-cold water bottles, might have help keep tempers cool.

**Food Drive** - Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. is helping to recruit volunteers for the National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive scheduled for Saturday, May 8th. Last year's NALC Food Drive generated 381,368 pounds of food throughout the Portland metro area. Our Multnomah Station staffed by neighborhood volunteers collected 31,340 pounds of food. We are encouraging everyone to remember to fill the food bags delivered by their postal carriers and place them by your mailbox on Saturday, May 8th.

**May 8, NO Ivy Day** - Southwest Neighborhoods are geared up to participate in Portland's No Ivy Day. Marshall Park is hosting an event in Marshall Park from 9 am until noon. The Bridlemile Creek Stewards are partnering with Portland Parks & Recreation and doing an ivy removal in George Himes Park from 9 am until 4 pm. Friends of Woods Park are working in partnership with PP&R, Bureau of Environmental Services, and the No Ivy League to eradicate Ivy in Woods Memorial Park from 9 am until noon.

### Elders In Action

By Vicki Hersen

#### **DRUG DISCOUNT CARDS: MAJOR COST SAVINGS OR MASS CONFUSION?**

*Elders in Action springs into action to help local seniors navigate new Medicare Drug Discount Card complexities*

The new federal Medicare Drug Discount Card program begins this month, and for many local seniors, it represents both saving and serious confusion.

The new Medicare-approved Drug Discount Cards may help some seniors save 10 – 25 percent on prescription drugs. For low-income Medicare beneficiaries who qualify, it provides \$600 in government aid to buy prescription medicines. Yet experts say the program is complicated and that seniors need to be on alert for potential scams.

Elder in Action recommends seniors proceed with caution to see if the cost of the card will really result in savings. With an estimated 42 different Medicare-approved Drug Discount Cards to choose from and different pharmacies planning to accept different cards, the choice for seniors isn't easy. Complicating matters is the fact that these cards, which can

cost up to \$30 depending on income and other factors, may offer discounts on different drugs and in differing amounts. Elders in Action is offering to help local senior navigate the new system through the organization's Ombudsman Program and is predicting an onslaught of calls and questions as Drug Discount Card programs kick into gear. It is important for seniors to take their time, get help and select the right card because once enrolled, participants have to stick with one card until the end of the year.

For seniors needing help to figure out how to navigate the Medicare Drug Discount Card program and figure out how to make the best choice, Elders in Action offers personal, one-on-one volunteer assistance through its Ombudsman Program. Ombudsman volunteers offer invaluable moral support, advice and one-on-one guidance, providing a helping hand for local seniors who may have nowhere else to turn. For more information, seniors who need help can contact (503) 823-5293 or [www.eldersaction.org](http://www.eldersaction.org).

### **Tips for how to avoid Medicare Discount Drug Card scams**

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Fraudulent Medicare Discount Drug Cards are already becoming an issue in many areas of the country. Elders in Action offers advice for how local seniors can protect themselves:

- Don't trust door-to-door salesman or telemarketers who could be selling fake Medicare approved cards. Medicare does not send anyone door-to-door to sell cards or make recommendations on any of the Medicare approved discount cards. There has been reported door-to-door sales scam in 11 states at this point. Oregon isn't one of them yet, but local residents need to be aware of the danger.
- Never give personal information to people who call, write or email you. These people are asking for seniors bank information, social security numbers and/or credit card for illegitimate reasons.
- All Medicare beneficiaries should have received written information directly from Medicare about the new drug discount program. All legitimate Medicare information will have the Medicare approval label from the CMS.
- Internet scams offering "pharmacy cards" have been circulating. The golden rule applies: if you haven't initiated the contact or requested the information, please use caution.
- To find out a list of the Medicare approved Prescription Drug and other Assistance Programs call 800-MEDICARE or 800-633-4227 or visit them on line at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) If in doubt or if you need help in regard to making the right choice or if you think you may have been targeted by an attempted scam, call Elders in Action Ombudsman Services at (503) 823-5293.

### **North Portland Neighborhood Services. (NPNS)**

*By Mary Jaron-Kelley*

Last month, North Portland's Art on the Peninsula, hosted their first group show at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. The show was called Living Routes and Roots and was an exhibition about North Portland artists' image of living on the Peninsula. Art work medium varied from photography to sculpture to large-scale installation. The opening night and closing night artist talk were well attended.

In April, North Portland neighborhoods celebrated Earth Day by cleaning up their neighborhoods. This year, North Portland neighborhoods sponsored several large drop off sites accepting metal, tires, wood, yard debris and general junk. ARC brought a truck to take reusable items and a master recycler handed out materials. Between 3 sites located at mid-Peninsula, East Columbia and Bridgeton neighborhoods, 43 tons of junk was disposed of. The Overlook neighborhood coordinated a clean up at Going Avenue

and the Beach Elementary School area. Volunteers also worked to clean up the Peninsula Crossing Trail. All in all, 150 volunteers participated in the annual North Portland Clean up.

