



# Northwest Olympia Neighborhood Association

Neighborhood: the closest community...

October 2005 — May 2006

## NWONA Board:

President:  
Tom Connor  
Vice President:  
Ethan Schaffer  
Treasurer:  
David Mitchell  
Secretary:  
Marla Kentfield

## Additional Board members:

Greg Black  
Diane Gayle  
Jonah Hankin-Rappaport  
Carol Juris  
Barbara Oswald

## Committees:

Land Use  
Transportation & Safety  
Social & Recreation  
Communications & Member-  
ship

Webmaster: Scott Bishop

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## President's Message By Tom Connor

Even during the wintry months of early 2006, the Northwest Olympia Neighborhood Assoc. board members have been actively working to improve the spirit and sense of engagement in the events shaping our neighborhood.

The Social & Recreation Committee, chaired by Greg Black and Diane Gaile, designed a playful mid-winter's party and spring plant swap.

The Transportation & Safety Committee, chaired by Karin Kraft, is sponsoring *two contests* this summer to get neighbors out (of cars) and about.

The Land Use Committee, chaired by Lyle Tribwell, is actively involved in issues as exemplified by publicly presenting preferences for a West Bay Parklands Draft Interim Plan. In addition, the NWONA Board wrote a letter to the Mayor and City Council voicing concerns over proposed Weyerhaeuser 24/7 operations and its long-term potential

air, noise and light pollution impacts to the neighborhood. Sadly, Lyle has moved from our neighborhood but remains committed to his years long effort towards Garfield Nature Trail native plant restoration. Plus now we have a new land use group (see "SUPER" article, pg 3).

A Communications & Membership goal is timely event and issues news for NWONA members, assisted by webmaster Scott Bishop, new web host Jacob Rosenblum and interim co-chairs Marla Kentfield and Ethan Schaffer. This and all committees encourage your participation, leadership and creativity.

More has happened than can fill this newsletter. Please join and share with us as we strive for the health and beauty of the lands and the people we call our neighborhood.

## Dance and Plants By Greg Black

NWONA kicked off the new year with a mid-winter dance on Saturday, January 28. The site was the Mariah Collaborative Arts Center at Plymouth & Garfield. Live music was provided by the band Planetary People. Around 25 or 30 people took advantage of the informal atmosphere to beat some of those mid-winter blahs. There was some real cool dancing and the evening netted 2 new NWONA members.

Earth Day was April 22 and NWONA hosted a plant exchange from noon to 3

p.m. in the parking lot of the west-side Olympia Food Co-op at Rogers and Bowman. Baked goods were donated by San Francisco Street Bakery and coffee was donated by Batdorf & Bronson. Quite a variety of different plants, native and otherwise, that made an appearance and were shepherded away. It was a very sunny day and this writer got sunburned, a different type of experience for April in Olympia. Some people lingered and there was some good conversation.

# Garfield Nature Trail Update

By Lyle Tribwell, City of Olympia Interim Volunteer In Parks Program Coordinator 753-8365, [ltribwell@ci](mailto:ltribwell@ci).

As of May 24, 2006 the word from the Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Department is that the Garfield Nature Trail will reopen early June 2006. The park was closed in January when a mudslide destroyed a bridge at the West Bay Drive end of the 1/3 mi long trail. The broken bridge is being removed by a Thurston Community Youth Services crew that is doing trail maintenance work in Olympia parks this spring and summer.

Work parties in the GNT will be scheduled for Saturdays in July and August this summer to remove English Ivy and Japanese Knotweed. There is a write up of volunteer opportunities at the park posted in the kiosk found at the Rogers Street Trailhead. In the fall

and winter there will be opportunities to plant native plants in the areas already cleared. We counted 13 Trillium this spring that were mostly ones we transplanted into the park after the ivy was cleared.

In the spring of 2006 a volunteer crew completed two beds along the street at the Overlook of the GNT at Percival St. and Madison Ave. Sunroses purchased from the Native Plant Salvage Project were planted in the beds, mulched and fertilized by volunteers. The Over-



look will need water, weeding and litter pick up this summer. Feel free to do this. Let me know with a call or e-mail if you do any of these things on your own.

If you would like to lead a work party or become a Volunteer Park Steward, call or e-mail me. Also if you are a BSA or GSA Scout who is a candidate for awards that call for a service project, let me know I can help you set up a project that you can lead.

## BIKEABILITY SURVEY RESULTS

By Karin Kraft

Thirty-three people completed the Bikeability Assessment for our neighborhood. All but two indicated that their riding ability was "advanced" and most ride 3-5 times per week.

Survey results indicate that cyclists are generally quite pleased with the streets in our neighborhood. Respondents overwhelmingly agreed that they are able to bike safely in our neighborhood and that road surface and intersections are very good.

Specific areas of concern included the lack of bike lanes on Harrison between Division and the roundabout and along West Bay, debris in roads causing punctures, uncivil drivers found primarily along the routes of West Bay Dr., Cooper Point Rd. and Harrison, and free ranging dogs. Cracked pavement along Rogers is causing some to lose their handlebar baskets. Vegetation hanging over streets obstruct views for others.

These comments will be sent to the city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee for attention. However, if you have vegetation obstructing sight lines for cyclists or pedestrians ability to walk or run on sidewalks, please take care of this or the city will be required to take action this summer.

Please let NWONA know if you need help with clearing right of ways.

## Coming Soon—NWONA List Serve for e-mail news!

NWONA sends e-mail updates to anyone who would like announcements of association meetings and items of neighborhood interest. Our website [www.NWONA.org](http://www.NWONA.org) will soon include the option to Opt In (or Out) to this service. This new List Serve will further secure your e-mail addresses which are not disclosed by NWONA and are not used for any commercial purposes. To join the list, logon on to our website (or contact NWONA's secretary Marla Kentfield at [marlamk@comcast.net](mailto:marlamk@comcast.net)).

# ALTERNATIVE COMMUTER CONTEST

By Karin Kraft

Your Transportation and Safety Committee is rapidly gearing up for this summer's Alternative Commuter Contest for our neighborhood.

Registration forms (below and available on NWONA's website) should be filled out and returned by **June 5<sup>th</sup>**.

Log sheets will also be available at the website. Entry fees are \$3.00 (cash or check to "NWONA") and log sheets must be turned in by **September 3<sup>rd</sup>** in order to be eligible for drawing and prizes.

Neighborhood businesses are generously contributing to the prize pool. No one will be disappointed. Entry fees will be applied to the purchase of food for the award ceremony that will be held in the first week of September.

The purpose of the Alternative Commuter Contest is to encourage and motivate NWONAians to re-think ***each and every*** trip that is

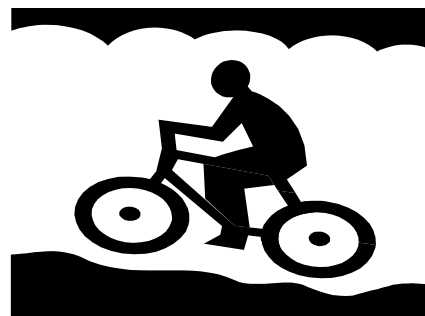
made in a gasoline-powered engine.

All northwest neighbors are invited to join in, you don't need to be an active NWONA member. Commuters who use Intercity Transit, bicycles, wheelchairs, walkers, canes, carpools, van-pools, stilts, skates and feet are eligible to enter this contest. There are two categories for prizes:

1. *Those who stay out of single occupancy vehicles the greatest number of days,*
2. *Those who commute the*

*greatest distance by each of the modalities.*

Many thanks to Bruce Coulter and Lisanne Rolle for assisting with the creation of the forms and for help with solicitations. We welcome any donations for the prize pool.



## NWONA'S Alternative Commuter Contest Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my log and instructions by (circle):    snail mail    email

## Are You Feeling SUPER?

By Jacob Rosenblum

SUPER (Spaces Used for Public Enjoyment and Recreation) is a new group working to revitalize unused and under-used spaces for the neighborhood community.

We held a forum on May 2 to create a collaborative vision of how we can better use our public spaces here in the Northwest Neighborhood.

Blue, a founder of GRuB, and Joseph, who has worked with the Village Improvement Project, shared their experiences making community spaces. Several neighbors offered insights and concerns about

the use of public spaces.

We transitioned to talking more specifically about the vacated land at the intersection of Jackson and Milroy, and after several go-rounds, we walked over to the space and chatted about our visions.

Two weeks later, we met again to initiate a visioning process of how we want to use this land for the community. Paul Przybylowicz, who lives adjacent to the property, has already been involved in gar-

dening and beautifying the land, as well as making it more usable for foot-traffic, and he joined us to talk about ideas. Paul led the group to plant seed potatoes the following week.

Jacob, Lindsey, and Jonah kicked off this effort in order to bring neighbors together to work on cool and interesting projects. If you are interested in joining gardening work parties, or in helping draft up a vision for Jackson-Milroy, email us at [super@redsolid.com](mailto:super@redsolid.com).

## NORTHWEST OLYMPIA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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*A special thanks to the City of Olympia for assistance  
in printing of our newsletter!*



Northwest Olympia  
Neighborhood Association

Neighborhood: the closest community...

**We're On the WEB**  
**www.NWONA.org**

## Membership Information —

Northwest Olympia Neighborhood Association (NWONA) is a non-profit association of your neighbors who are interested in promoting the quality of life for the residents of our community. NWONA's mission is to enhance the livability of our community through citizen participation at all levels of our community. We strive to communicate, cooperate, and collaborate.

Our neighborhood is the place where we live - the land we share in common. It is where we raise our families, our children attend school, take evening strolls to walk the dog, ride our bikes, and socialize with our friends. NWONA consists of a collection of home owners, business owners and home renters. The membership is diverse — it is made of young and old, students and workers. Our strength comes from being able to speak with an organized voice in the community.

***Join Us. Be Heard. Be Active.***

Membership Form is available at our website or by phone or

## NWONA RECEIVES SECOND GRANT FOR THE YEAR

**By Karin Kraft**

NWONA was awarded a \$5,000 grant from Thurston County's Healthy Steps Program to increase cycling and walking activity among local residents. A focus of Healthy Steps is to reduce high levels of obesity and diabetes found in our county.

This grant is known as—

### **Pedals, Pedestrians, Plants and Parents**

It will be a cooperative effort between Garfield Elementary School and NWONA. There will be two methods employed to get

students and their parents walking and riding. First students will be encouraged to keep a log of the number of days they walk or ride to school or to activities over the summer. This program will commence before school lets out for the summer and reports will be turned in as students return in the fall. Students will be awarded a native seedling to plant in the fall for their participation.

Second a treasure hunt of outstanding native plant specimens will provide a fun "learning while moving" activity for kids and par-

ents. Homeowners of plants selected will be asked if labels can be placed in their yards. Maps of these outstanding specimens will be created and distributed before school is out for summer.

Special thanks to Samantha Chandler of Olympia Food Coop, Larry Leveen from Olybikes, and Stacy Strong from Garfield PTA for writing letters of support for this grant proposal. Thanks also for Barbara Oswald and Karl Kraft for proofing it and Tom O'Connor for its timely delivery.



**By Liv Monroe**

A first in Olympia, a cohousing community is planned on the west side with 16 - 18 homes (duplexes and four-plexes) on 2.9 acres at the end of Woodard.

We will have a common house for community activities, such as some shared meals and shared resources

(large kitchen, laundry facilities, and garden). Vector Engineering is finishing up our site plans to be turned into the city the end of May. The hope is to break ground this fall and build in 2007.

Four households have committed to the project, many prospective mem-

bers and we are seeking members to join our multi-generational community.

Come meet us at our open meetings, learn about our hopes and plans, and share a potluck with us— Check our website [www.woodardlanecoho.org](http://www.woodardlanecoho.org) and/or call CJ at 360-866-4557.