



Northwest Olympia Neighborhood Association

Neighborhood: the closest community...

June 2006 — October 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
Karin Kraft
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

Greetings to all as autumn's touch begins its colorful displays and Chinook energetically ascend to spawn in their natal streams.

Throughout the seasons, Northwest Olympia Neighborhood Association's (NWONA) tempo of involvement continues to improve the quality of our neighborhood and its environs.

Karin Kraft and Barbara Oswald's exceptional joint efforts have resulted in NWONA receiving a grant from Thurston County Health and Social Services Department. Titled the "Pedals, Pedestrians and Parents Project," this worthy grant initiates a collaborative project with Garfield Elementary School to promote student physical activities by walking or bicycling in a marvelous native plant "treasure hunt". The second grant created the "Alternative Commuter's Contest" to encourage non-motorized modes of getting around the town or to work while reducing dependence on vehicle usage. In the end, contest participants logged thousands of non-polluting miles.

Board member Jonah Hankin-Rappaport and NWONA member Jacob Rosenblum's SUPER project continues its revitalization of vacant land into productive space for food and idea sharing. Participate in their up-

coming November open potluck gathering and taste the produce from this neighborhood land.

Board members Greg Black and Carol Juris were instrumental in the development of a delightful community picnic in Woodruff Park by the tennis courts. Though there was a brief rain, the Northwest spirit was not dampened. In between the great barbeque fest and potluck treats, NWONA was pleased to host a local Olympia Fire Department fire engine and emergency response vehicle for the event.

Also to highlight community activities in neighboring Evergreen Village, we are pleased to share in this newsletter an article from the Olympia-based Garden Raised Bounty (GRuB).

Finally, our hats are off to Board Secretary Marla Kentfield, Vice President Ethan Schaffer and Board Treasurer David Mitchell. Marla and Ethan are instrumental in communicating and outreaching to NWONA members many issues of neighborhood concern. And David assiduously eyes the financial activities of our many efforts.

More has happened than can fill this news-

There was a picnic By Greg Black

Your neighborhood association sponsored its first picnic at Woodruff Park on September 16. It was also the Alternative Commuter Contest Awards Ceremony (see other article).

Just as we were getting preparations out for this event around 2:30 PM that afternoon, wouldn't you know it, it started raining after a long summer's dry spell. Fortunately it did not rain very hard or long, and did not put out the barbeque.

The Olympia Fire Department sent a crew and a truck for an "engine visit" and they

gave us a little tour of the equipment. The food was so good they called an emergency response vehicle that appeared with their crew.

Buffalo burgers and bratwurst on whole wheat buns were enjoyed by all. We even had a few leftovers, and some of us shot a few baskets.

Land Use By Tom Connor

While the Garfield Nature Trail (GNT) raccoons seem to have captured Seattle's KIRO TV and international attention, NWONA's land use efforts have remained steadfast and productive.

At NWONA board meetings, public comment has been provided on the Weyerhaeuser port project, Olympia Design Board's review process, and Initiative 933. The board voted to provide \$200 to efforts to bring more public scrutiny and review of the port project. The board also wishes to encourage member review and involvement in debate and vote on I-933. Refer to board meeting minutes on our website and/or attend our annual meeting for more information on these important land use issues.

Just before the end of the 2005 – 2006 school year in June, Olympia School District's Facilities Manager (Julie Deruwe) contacted NWONA about collaborating with the District, Garfield Elementary School and South Sound Baseball Association to creatively ad-

dress the public health and nuisance issues of chronic dog fecal remains scattered throughout the four playfields at Garfield.

On the 20th of June, the retiring school principal, Britt Nederhood, together with Julie Deruwe, the Baseball Association's President (Chris McChord) and NWONA's president (yours truly) shared a small ceremony honoring the installation of three new doggie bag dispenser stations on the perimeter of Garfield's playfield's. Now dog owners have the convenience to use plastic bags toward aiding in removing these remains on a more regular basis. In addition, the school district has requested NWONA to develop an educational poster to be displayed within each dispenser station to help in the eradication of this nuisance. Thurston Co. Environmental Health offered use of graphics from their brochure on proper dog etiquette.

Then in late July, the City of Olympia's Parks, Arts and Recreation Depart-

ment requested NWONA's support for two Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation grants (a Water Access grant and an Aquatic Lands Enhancement grant) for advancing shoreline restoration and fostering outdoor recreational enjoyment of the new West Bay Parklands. NWONA willingly provided a letter of support for these grants and listened to the City's public presentation for the grants. Furthermore, the City has publicly stated its strong stand on restoring of the park's crucial saltwater marshes and riparian areas, while encouraging environmental education and passive recreational opportunities. As this newsletter goes to press, I was recently informed by a senior planner within the Parks Department that the Department successfully competed for both grants.

Please consider joining this important neighborhood committee.

NWONA Treasurer's Report

By David Mitchell

Ever wonder about the NWONA finances? Where does the money come from? Where does it go? Last year we collected \$637.00 in membership dues from neighborhood residents. This contributed to our current balance of \$2,876.99.

Your contributions have allowed us to sponsor several community events such as the Mid-Winter Dance Party last January at Mariah Collaborative Arts Center. As well as the plant exchange last Earth Day in the parking lot of the westside Olympia Food Co-op. Expenses are kept low at events by using donations from local businesses and

NWONA members.

The income is also used for administrative purposes, such as hosting our website <http://www.nwona.org>, filing as an organization with the Secretary of State, and distribution of newsletters to keep neighborhood members informed of upcoming events and items of interest in our community.

NWONA has also received a number of grants over the years which has allowed us to fund projects without having to ask our members to contribute financially. Recent grants went to fund the Alternative Commuter Contest and

the Healthy Steps projects. The use of grants has allowed us to keep our membership dues at the same \$12.00 fee for the last several years.

Want to know more about what happens at NWONA? Simple - join! Attend our upcoming annual meeting and find out how to get involved!

Question. . .

Are the boundaries of the Northwest Olympia Neighborhood Association the right size? Would folks who live west of Division like to be involved in a neighborhood association and be a part of us? After all, they live in Northwest Olympia too. This is a question that comes up from time to time. What do you think?

GRuB Gardens in West Olympia By Blue Peetz

Fall greetings to our NWONA friends from GRuB (Garden-Raised Bounty). For those unfamiliar with our work, GRuB is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering people and growing good food. We employ low-income teenagers on a farm in West Olympia that grows food for the community. We build vegetable gardens for low-income families at no charge to them.

In response to the growing number of families using local food banks for basic nutrition needs, we forged a working partnership with the Thurston County Food Bank, the Gleaners Coalition, and

Left-Foot Organics to align our missions and work together to effectively reduce hunger in our community.

Using data from the food bank and school nutrition programs, we identified neighborhoods and pockets in our community that are experiencing high rates of food insecurity. One of these neighborhoods is indeed West Olympia.

At Garfield Elementary School, over 51% of students are eligible for free and reduced lunches. Evergreen Villages, a subsidized low-income apartment complex houses over 450 residents. Sixty-eight families from this apartment com-

plex used the food bank last year.

To help make quality food more accessible for all people, GRuB is partnering with interested neighbors and supporters to build a larger community garden and 20 backyard gardens for low-income families in West Olympia over the next 2 years. We are putting a garden planning committee together to get needed "foundation" work rolling. If you are interested in learning more, would like to be a part of the committee, and/or are interested in signing up for a garden, please contact GRuB at (360)753-5522. Feel free to check out our website at

2006 Matching Grant from the City of Olympia Wraps Up

by Karin Kraft

The Transportation and Safety Committee is wrapping up work from the 2006 Matching Grant from the City of Olympia. The grant ends on November 10th and a great deal of work was accomplished. The initial Walkability Assessment, completed under a \$1000 grant from Thurston County Healthy Steps, led to a plan which included a Bikeability Assessment, the Alternative Commuter Contest and party, and still to be finalized, the development of a 3'X5' GIS map of the neighborhood for use at meetings, and sidewalk clearing. The Healthy Steps grant along with another \$1000 from NWONA made up the match for the \$2000 from the city.

Lyle Tribwell will be contacting neighbors through Nov. 10th who have vegetation that protrudes over the sidewalk or that hangs less than 7 ft. above the sidewalk. He will offer to remove it free of charge. Lyle will be under contract by NWONA for this work.

We have a number of people who use wheelchairs and strollers who are forced to use the street because of the vegetation on the sidewalks. We appreciate your cooperation in this effort. We do not have the funds to clear sidewalks throughout the neighborhood, so if you can do this work yourself, others would greatly appreciate it. For those who have done this already, thank you very much.

If you are unable to do this work and would like some help, please contact Lyle. He will bring specific information around in the next few weeks.

Because NWONA was proactive in implementing the plan, Thurston County awarded a second grant last spring for a collaborative effort between the school and NWONA and plans to award quite a bit more money to our neighborhood in the future.

My family and I are moving from the hood this fall (not because we don't like it), and I am looking for a replacement to lead this committee in November. Many thanks to Lisann Rolle and Bruce Coulter for their help. If you are interested in

Year One of the NWONA Alternate Commuter Contest

by Karin Kraft

This was the first year of the NWONA-hosted Alternative Commuter Contest. There were 23 entries for this 92 daylong contest, which ran from June 1st through August 31st. The purpose of the contest was to encourage contestants to walk, cycle, carpool and bus their way around town and leave the single occupancy vehicle at home.

This contest was funded through a matching grant with the City of Olympia. Rossey's on Rogers (\$25 1st Place), Little Saigon (\$20 2nd Place), and Last Word Books (\$10 3rd Place) donated two prizes each for most days and miles contestants. Oly

Bikes and Alpine Experience also offered prizes for contestants and all contestants received two donated passes to the Warehouse Rock Gym worth \$10 each and a \$5 gift certificate to Batdorf and Bronson and Vic's Pizzeria (purchased with grant funds).

The winners for most days out of a single occupancy vehicle were:

1st Place: Rhonda Faber 92 days 2nd
Place: T-Claw 84 days 3rd Place:
Adrian Spidle 72 days

The winners for the most miles:

1st Place: Dorothy Gist 1704 miles 2nd
Place: Adrian Spidle 1195 miles 3rd
Place: Gene Kraft 1130 miles

The awards ceremony was held on a drizzly Saturday in September and ravenous alternative commuters engulfed buffalo burgers and bratwurst to celebrate their victory