

Home burglaries increase in Northeast Portland

There is a definite rise in residential burglary affecting all inner-northeast neighborhoods according to statistics provided by the North Precinct Crime Analyst. From August through September, a sixteen percent increase (from 123 to 143 burglaries) occurred. From September through October, a fifteen percent rise happened. (143-158 crimes) Total percentage increases from August through October equals twenty percent (424 crimes).

The financial losses experienced by citizens is substantial. In the

week of October 24th - 30th, for example, 44 reported burglaries amounted to \$66,244 in losses to people. Neighborhood Against Crime and North Precinct tallied losses from February 1, through August. Citizens reported financial losses from stolen property that totalled up to little over \$500,000.

Normally September and October are slower months for burglars. In inner-northeast and throughout the city, residential burglary rates are always high in summer months and November and December. Summer rates soar because of such factors as

people being on vacation, people being out in their yards with door unlocked, and more people coming and going on the neighborhood streets. As the Christmas holiday approaches, it is more likely that people will have valuable presents or cash in their homes. We can naturally expect more people to be victims of home burglary and street crimes as robbery and purse snatching at this time of year.

It is difficult to determine definitely why home burglary is on the rise. Common sense tells us that high unemployment among adults

and youth, government cutbacks, and other economic factors contribute to the problem.

Who are the burglars? In a number of cases youth commit home burglaries throughout Portland. They are usually unarmed and commit their crimes during daylight hours when people are at work. They enter homes through unlocked doors and windows, in at least one third of burglaries.

How can people prevent themselves from becoming victims? The most important step is to use existing locks. Secondly citizens can

request residential surveys to get suggestions on how to safeguard property. Homeowners with incomes under \$11,300 qualify for free locks installation (a tax statement is usually the determining factor for establishing need). Finally, neighbors need to watch out for each other and report suspicious activity on their block.

A number of citizens have expressed their reluctance to working directly with police on crime and crime prevention issues. Due to the substantial rise in burglary,

somehow the community needs to get involved.

There is a lot that can be done totally on a citizen level to watch out for each other. Anyone interested in addressing the rise in residential burglary can get help from Sharon McCormick, Inner NE Neighborhoods Against Crime, 287-3692.

North Precinct will be doing specific patrol in neighborhoods most affected by residential burglary and street crimes in the next two months as their response to the rising crime rates.

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Six year old Joy Myrick, daughter of Rose Williams and Chuck Myrick, concentrate on learning to write.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Project aids child care placement

The Sabin neighborhood is one of two communities selected by the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon for a "Neighborhood Child Care Network Demonstration Project." The second neighborhood is Sunnyside, in southeast Portland.

According to Cornetta Smith, director of the Albina Ministerial Alliance Family Day/Night Care Program, which is the local sponsoring agency, the goal of the project is to identify and strengthen neighborhood child care systems.

Child care is one of the social programs that comes and goes with the political whims and economic trends of the time. Ten years ago every child living in the Model Cities area, whose parents were employed or were in school or training, had a right to free child care. Now there is no federal or state money for child care other than for those who are eligible for welfare, and low-income

families eligible for federally funded Headstart programs which do not provide care for children under two years. Other parents, even those on limited incomes, must pay the full cost of child care.

Most of the child care centers established through Model Cities had to close when parents were unable to pay at the level required to operate them.

The Sabin community has no child care centers. There is an after-school "latch key" program operated by parents who had used the Sabin School latch-key program until it was closed last year.

The most usual type of child care, and the cheapest, is "family day care," where the child is cared for in the home of the care provider. Families pay from \$6.00 to \$8.00 per day for the first child, with some reduction for additional children the demonstration project will attempt

to locate these "day care mothers" and establish a referral system to help parents in need of child care to find them.

The first phase of the project is to locate "natural neighbors," persons who are involved with their neighbors and therefore know who is currently providing child care. This phase of the project is based on a demonstration project carried out in northwest Portland in the late 1960s, which identified natural neighbors and used them as information providers.

The project coordinator, Carol Latimer, will keep in touch with these persons to find the resources and the needs. Once day care providers are located, she will provide information to them and will establish an information and referral system to help parents locate suitable providers.

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Coalition elects chairman

The Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods election next Tuesday will be a controversial one, with Bob Nelson launching a campaign for President, opposing Mel Hamilton, who was selected by the nominating committee.

The Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods is a community board representing nine neighborhood associations. Board members are selected by the member neighborhood organizations and additional "at-large" members are elected by the Coalition board. The Coalition is a continuation of the old Model Cities Citizens Advisory Committee. James Loving was the first chairman followed by Ed Leek.

Several members of the Coalition board are upset that the nominating committee, chaired by John Hills, had brought in slate with only one nominee for each office; also that the nominating committee did most of its business by telephone. Others question whether Hamilton has the necessary leadership ability to speak in behalf of the northeast neighborhoods.

Nelson said Hills asked about nominating him for chairman and

talked about the possibility of having three candidates. Later, according to Nelson, Hills told him some people think he is too dictatorial. Hills also told him Hamilton had wanted the position for some time. Hills was not available for comment.

Hamilton said he considers it the usual practice to offer one nominee for each position when nominations can be made from the floor, and that the first vice chairman usually becomes chairman - "more or less moving up the chairs."

Hamilton is a past-president of the Humboldt Neighborhood Association; the Coalition's representative to the Inner Northeast Economic Development Council; is a corporate officer of the new North/Northeast Mental Health Clinic; is a member of the Advisory Committee to Portland Community College.

As chairman of the Coalition, Hamilton would attempt to improve the neighborhood associations. "We need to let the people know that they have neighborhood associations. Sometimes there are a few people at meetings and sometimes a lot, depending on the

issue. We need to increase the visibility of northeast and promote business investments."

Bob Nelson is well known in the community, having worked for C-CAP; helping to establish the Albina Youth Opportunity School; working with the Emanuel Hospital Displaced Persons Organization to assist persons displaced by Emanuel and the School District; and similar community activities over the past fifteen or more years.

He is currently president of the Concordia Neighborhood Association.

"I am a firm believer in neighborhood associations," he said. "Neighbors should get together and make the decisions that affect their community." He would like to see the Coalition function as an advocate for the communities, defining its own agenda, and going to the City on issues that concern the residents. "The neighborhood associations should identify the problems themselves rather than hear agency reports."

Bob Nelson will be nominated from the floor and unless a third contender appears, he is the front runner.

Priestley seeks citizen advisors

State Representative Wally Priestley has been named Chairman of the House Committee on Aging and Minority Affairs by Representative Hardy Myers, who is expected to be elected Speaker of the House.

Along with the Chairmanship comes the responsibility of selecting an assistant and a secretary. "Rather than just using the money to hire two people, I want to pattern this after the way I have used my administrative assistant money - to allow citizens to work for passage of bills that interest them," Priestley said.

While each legislator can hire a full time assistant, Priestley has allocated the money he received among a number of people who wanted to go to Salem and work on issues. For example, last session he paid several members of the Trojan Decommission Alliance \$250 a month or less, while they used his office to write and organize support for several anti-nuke bills. Others received small "expense" stipends to work on nursing home and other

special legislation. Others, who did not need the expense stipend, used his office facilities.

"There are many people who have worked on issues for years or who have an idea they would like to pursue. I can visualize using this committee staff money to allow these people to get their concerns before the public and before the legislature.

"I've talked about this with Speaker Hardy Myers and he is interested. Of course, I'll discuss it with the other committee members when they are appointed."

Priestley will begin by recruiting two advisory committees - one for aging and one for minority affairs - that would help select issues and potential legislation to be addressed. They would also allocate the money to pay expenses for those who will do specific work and will need assistance. The committee will be open to anyone who wants to participate.

Rather than hiring two people, the advisory committee idea will

allow an unlimited number of people to become intimately involved in a legislative committee and to organize community support or opposition to legislation.

"I would like to include as many people in the legislative process as possible," Priestley explained. "For the next eight months, Aging and Minority Affairs should become a focal point for organizing and addressing the issues and concerns that are relevant to the committee."

Among those issues the committee is expected to address early in the session are the Nursing Home Bill of Rights and the Black and Hispanic Commissions. Priestley plans to hold committee hearings in Portland and other areas of the state as well as the regular bi-weekly meetings and hearings at the Capitol.

To join the Advisory Committees, send a statement of concerns, issues and past involvement to Wally Priestley, 6226 N.E. 33rd Avenue, Portland, or call the *Portland Observer*.

Green joins WSU staff

Brenda J. Green has been appointed a teaching assistant in the Department of Education at Washington State University for the 1980-81 school year.

Ms. Green is a graduate student in education administration at WSU and is working toward a Doctor of Education degree.

She received a M.S. degree in 1974 from Oregon College of

Education, Monmouth. A graduate of the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Md., Ms. Green earned a B.S. degree in education and mathematics in 1966.

A member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and the NAACP - Portland chapter, Ms. Green was named Oregon's Outstanding Young Woman of America for 1974.

American State Bank will hold the Grand Opening of its 2nd and S.W. Yamhill Branch on November 17th from 7:00 to 9:00pm. This is ASB's third branch. Coffee, punch and cookies will be served during business hours throughout the week.

Johnson heads S&L branch

Denise V. Johnson has been named branch manager at Benjamin Franklin Federal Savings & Loan Association's Jantzen Beach office, according to Robert E. Downie, association president.

Ms. Johnson replaces Charles Fisher who has been named Sales Data Coordinator for Residential Sales Data Services, a Benjamin Franklin subsidiary which markets sales data to real estate agencies, mortgage lenders and residential appraisers.

Ms. Johnson joined Benjamin Franklin in September 1976 as a teller at the firm's Hollywood office. In April 1978 she transferred to the association's headquarters and in July 1979 joined the Russelville office as a loan officer where she worked prior to her most recent move to the Jantzen Beach office.

The new branch manager graduated from Cleveland High School in 1972. She studied business

administration at the University of Oregon and has completed courses through the Institute of Financial Education.

She is a member of the Benjamin Franklin Inner City Lending Task Force, the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), and the Western Association of Savings and Loan Institutions.

Fisher joined Benjamin Franklin in April 1977 and worked in the loan department at the downtown Portland headquarters. In November 1977 he moved to the Lake Oswego office and worked in the loan and appraisal departments before a transfer to the Progress office in February 1978 as a loan officer. Later that year he joined the St. Johns office as a loan officer where he worked prior to being named manager at the Jantzen Beach office in November 1979.



DENISE V. JOHNSON