

OLD TOWN CHINATOWN

CRIER

SUMMER EDITION 2004

A Publication of the Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association

PDX Fashion Incubator

What do you do when you get evicted from your downtown location in the Governor building? What do you do when you are on the cutting edge of fashion, appealing to trendsetting professionals and those hungry to collect pieces of wearable art? If you are Stella Farina, founder and executive director of PDX fashion incubator (PFI), you recognize opportunity and you pounce. You move your non-profit industry, devoted to cultivating and sustaining fashion in Portland, into the Old Town Chinatown neighborhood. Stella took advantage of the Old Town Chinatown's affordability, allowing fashion incubator to remain in a central Portland location. With members and interested people coming in from the suburbs, the NE, the SE, and all other parts of the Portland Metro area, Old Town Chinatown fit PFI perfectly. "I see Old Town as the next 'place' to be," Stella says. "I absolutely see it developing into a culture rich neighborhood. There is room to grow—and in 3-4 years it could be fabulous." With forward thinking and community driven businesses like PFI moving in, fabulous is already here.



Stella Farina is the founder and executive director of PDX fashion incubator

PFI prides itself on commitment to community. Their mission is to support local business, create jobs, bolster the economy, and provide training and exposure to fashion for local designers and anyone else interested in fashion and design. PFI offers fashion

The Backspace Boys

Where's the hottest place to be in Portland? Northwest 21st? Northwest 23rd? Hawthorne? Northeast 28th? How about NW 5th right here in Old Town Chinatown. That is what Eric and Kris Robison, proprietors of Backspace, think. They opened Backspace in July, 2003. "Between us, Motel Gallery, fashion incubator, and Just Be Toys, we are becoming quite the trendy area," Kris says. Not only has Backspace found its niche, it has filled an Old Town Chinatown void.

Old Town Chinatown has its fair share of coffee shops (welcome to Portland!), and Backspace is one more place to grab a cup of joe. What makes Backspace different from other coffee shops, however, are all of the other amenities it offers. Looking for a game of chess? Drop in. Itching to shoot some stick? Backspace has pool tables. Want to show your verbal superiority off to your friends? Backspace offers patrons Scrabble, among other board games.



Eric and Kris Robinson, owners and founders of Backspace.

Need to surf the web? No problem. Backspace has all of these and more. Perhaps the biggest draw to Backspace is the video games. From computer games to retro, stand-up arcade games (Ms. Pac Man, anyone). As if that were not enough, Backspace even has a separate room for playing console games projected onto a large wall. On top of all that, Backspace functions as a gallery. The walls

are adorned with the works of local artists. Sculpture dangles from the ceiling. Yet another room in the 4000 square-foot space is devoted solely to art. "Eclectic" comes to mind when thinking of Backspace. What makes Backspace great, however, is that everything comes together perfectly. Coffee and literature have always gone together, so why not coffee and other mediums of art? As Eric and Kris pointed out to the *Portland Mercury*, today's video games are pieces of art in their own right. Bringing together gamers, artists, and caffeine aficionados simply made sense. Old Town Chinatown is the perfect neigh-

Continued on page 2



Community Partner Profile

Old Town Chinatown Entrepreneurs

Fashion Incubator, *continued*

business and marketing workshops and classes, internships for hands-on education, resource directories, and events to expose local artists to the community. PFI believes that community support and participation are vital to the growth of fashion artists and the fashion industry. And make no mistake about it, fashion is an art form. Portland has one of only five fashion incubators in the world, and Stella thinks the Rose City is the perfect location for one. "We've got a thriving art scene and I think fashion fits right into that concept," Stella says. "Fashion is a billion dollar global business and it really brings Portland into the limelight as an up and coming 'fashion happening' place because we have never really been known for that before."

While the Old Town Chinatown neighborhood is up-and-coming, Stella notes that some problems do make business here challenging. Construction in the neighborhood—otherwise a positive sign of development—has proven a detriment to PFI. "There is a lot of pounding," Stella says. "As a result of the construction, parking nearby is frustrating." She is not complaining, however. PFI recognizes that while construction may pose a temporary inconvenience, in the long term it only can strengthen the neighborhood. PFI suffers from another problem that everyone recognizes in Old Town Chinatown: "I would also like it if there were less dealers on the streets outside," Stella says. Drug dealers may not deter members and customers from stopping by PFI on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, but their presence hurts the neighborhood's image. "It is just not conducive to producing a positive perception of the neighborhood to people visiting from elsewhere." It is a problem everyone who cares about Old Town Chinatown must address.

The challenges of operating in Old Town Chinatown, however, are nothing compared to the benefits. "We've got great neighbors," Stella says. "Motel, the Backspace guys, and our corner location provides good viewing and window space, which makes us easy to find." Easy to find, and easy to appreciate, PFI has bolstered Old Town Chinatown's appeal to visitors. PFI offers great services to a great city, bringing fashion-as-art to PDX's most avant-garde neighborhood.

Portland fashion incubator is located at 23 NW 5th Avenue. For classes and further information: telephone 503.241.4004; website www.pdx.fashionincubator.org

Backspace, *continued*

borhood for the Robison's creative business. Like Old Town Chinatown itself, Backspace is a multi-use destination.

The Old Town Chinatown location might be ideal, but it does have drawbacks. Most notably, Kris says, "This is a well known drug area." The drug dealers in the neighborhood are a problem for local businesses. Backspace helps combat them. "I've got 14 year-old suburban kids coming in all the time whose mothers would not normally let them come to Old Town. I think it makes people more comfortable with coming into Old Town knowing that we are here." Because Backspace offers so much to so many people, it naturally attracts a diverse clientele. Not only does gallery/coffee shop appeal to those who live and work in Old Town Chinatown, it also draws people from all over Portland. "We bring people into the area who know that Backspace is a safe place to be."

Old Town Chinatown is a community neighborhood in a community city. Erik and Kris Robison have been impressed with the support they have received. "The community is just amazing. It is true what they say about Portlanders supporting small businesses. We have had a number of people step in and provide some skills that we were lacking. . .and for free!" Community means giving and receiving, and Backspace does both. It provides the neighborhood a unique and friendly common ground to meet with friends, play, work, and check e-mail. Better yet, they give right back to the community. Local artists can show off their work, while local bands and DJs have a venue at which to spin their tunes. Kris even manages to make enough time to coach soccer for at-risk youths. Community, creativity, and local business: welcome to Old Town Chinatown where trends are always brewing.

Backspace is located at 115 NW Fifth Avenue. Telephone 503.248.2900 Open Sunday-Thursday, 11am-12am; Friday-Saturday, 11am-4am.



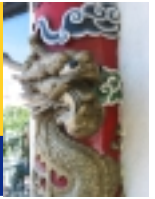
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Community Partner Profile

Old Town Chinatown Entrepreneurs



Motel Gallery and Boutique

Old Town Chinatown Crier recently interviewed Jennifer Armbrust, the proprietor and curator of Motel. The interview follows. Motel is a gallery and boutique of handmade goods. Motel showcases up-and-coming artists from around the country as well as innovative handmade products. Motel is located on NW Couch Street between NW 5th and 6th Avenues. Open Tuesday-Saturday, noon-6pm. Telephone: 503.222.6699 www.motelgallery.com

Crier: What brought you to Old Town Chinatown?

Jennifer: When I was looking to open Motel, I felt a great buzz in Chinatown. The neighborhood was so colorful and fresh and a bit elusive, being slightly off the beaten path. Because it's the last downtown neighborhood to be gentrified, it has a lot of character: great architecture, interesting neighbors, a wonderful Asian influence, and some exciting, young businesses. As a gallery it was important to be included in the First Thursday art walk and OTCT provided the proximity to other established galleries without the exorbitant rent. I also think that OTCT is appealing for its pliability. The neighborhood is really in a state of transition now more than ever and it's exciting to get in on the ground level and be a player in its development.

Crier: Do you bring people into the neighborhood who might not otherwise come into Old Town Chinatown?

Jennifer: Absolutely. In conjunction with Just Be [Toys] and Backspace, we bring hundreds of art goers, young shoppers, out-of-towners, and creatives to the neighborhood each month. I think Portland is just beginning to realize that Chinatown is more than just Chow Mien, the Saturday Market, and the [Chinese Classical] Garden. It's fast becoming a vibrant, young arts community, something like New York's lower East Side, and I think older residents are starting to take note and wander down to check out the growing scene of new galleries and retail shops. I am also quickly garnering a loyal out-of-town following of handmade enthusiasts and art aficionados who make a point of visiting Motel when in town.

Crier: How do you see the neighborhood developing in the future?

Jennifer: I think that OTCT has the potential to be a vibrant cultural Mecca for Portland. There are so many different groups co-existing here now and their contributions are so rich and unique. As the neighborhood develops with new businesses, residents, and investors, I think there will need to be a conscious effort to retain the



Jennifer Armbrust, the proprietor and curator of Motel

character of the neighborhood such that we will still be able to enjoy the beautiful historic buildings, the strong Asian community and affordable rents. Unlike the rest of downtown, OTCT has the unique opportunity to be a commercial and cultural neighborhood with residents whose roots span generations.

Crier: What kind of support should local entrepreneurs expect from the city?

Jennifer: There needs to be a concerted effort by the city and to develop a sustainable community rather than another 9-5 commerce area. This is accomplished by creating a neighborhood that is conducive to living, working, and conducting business. This requires a police force and public agencies allocated to deal with the unique needs of

our neighborhood and to develop real solutions for all its residents, rather than just corralling Portland's "undesirables" into this area. The city needs to be committed to providing a safe neighborhood for those who live, work, and visit here. I expect the city to take seriously the revitalization of our neighborhood and offer support in whatever form it is able, be it grants for small businesses, beautification of the streets and public areas, or preservation of Old Town's historic buildings. To get to this point, there needs to be attention given to creating job opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed, facing the neighborhood's drug (and subsequent violence) problems head-on, and ensuring accessible social services for those on hard times.

Crier: How do you give back to the community?

Jennifer: The sheer nature of Motel is community-based. Our gallery specializes in emerging artists, offering a formal art venue for Portland's young creative class. We also sell handmade products by mostly local designers. I have helped to perk up the corner of NW 5th and Couch and introduced a young demographic to the neighborhood. I have also offered my graphic design skills, first with a promotional postcard featuring the young businesses of OTCT and then by helping the neighborhood association by supplying the design for their recent brochure. I give back in any way that I am able because it's obvious to me that the future of my business is intimately tied to the future of the neighborhood. The extent to which we can create a rich, exciting, and vibrant neighborhood is the extent to which we can thrive here individually. There is no one business that can carry the neighborhood alone. I believe it is only by giving OTCT a make-over in the minds of Portlanders and their officials that we can begin to create a prosperous and sustainable community.

Community Partner Profile

Old Town Chinatown Entrepreneurs

Ron Paul: A Social Entrepreneur with a Vision



Ron Paul has a vision for Public Market in Portland

Ron Paul is an entrepreneur's entrepreneur. This former restaurateur, currently with the Portland Bureau of Planning, is driven by his vision for a new Portland Public Market. While the final design for the Market must await a final decision about the site, Paul, the planning committee, and volunteers of the Friends of Portland Public Market have done their homework.

Paul emphasizes that the new project will not replace the thirty-year-old Portland Saturday Market or the neighborhood Farmers Markets. Rather than competing with each another, together the markets can turn the heart of Old Town Chinatown into a well-planned, mixed-use Market District. Historically, Portland has focused on building amenities for its citizens rather than towering edifices designed to attract visitors. The market captures the spirit of both these designs. It will offer the freshest food to shoppers from throughout the city, showcase the bounty of Oregon's farms and vineyards, and display the talents of local artisans who fashion food related products.

As Paul sees it, public markets in all great cities enhance the vendor-consumer relationship. Farm families have the opportunity to sell directly to customers, keeping community dollars in community hands. In return, customers learn the stories behind their food, information about the culinary arts and nutrition, and the opportunity to communicate their interest for new products and additional services. This exchange of living history makes a public market qualitatively different from high-end organic markets. By creating economically viable markets and providing support in storage and logistics, the Public Market will contribute to the preservation of Portland's Urban Growth Boundary.

Once City Council finalizes the site, a hybrid team of architects, planners, and economists will conduct a site-specific, detailed feasibility analysis. The team envisions a market with some forty stalls, each approximately ten feet square. The permanent core of the market likely will include fresh food vendors, bakeries, cafes, conventional restaurants, and a micro-brewery or wine cellar. Space around the market will accommodate temporary sales areas and

special market days of the current Portland Farmers Market.

A sophisticated public-private partnership, local philanthropy, and creation of an endowment will ensure that the market opens debt free. The day-to-day operations of the Portland Public Market will be governed by a non-profit corporation similar to those which manage the Portland Streetcar and Pioneer Courthouse Square. Each business within the market will be locally-owned, authentic, and representative of Portland's diversity.

Paul expressed that the Portland Public Market offers much to Old Town Chinatown. For example, collaboration with the Oregon Food Bank will ensure that low-income citizens have access to high-quality fresh food. Also, a public market functions as a small business incubator. A partnership with Mercy Corps Northwest will help low-income, minority, and immigrant entrepreneurs while introducing new ethnic foods to the community. Further, the market will also serve as an art space; contracts for public construction require that 1.3% of the project budget fund public art and sculpture. A market also catalyzes small retail businesses on surrounding streets. All this adds up to economic viability, opportunities for neighborhood entrepreneurs and artists, and the enhanced livability of Old Town Chinatown.

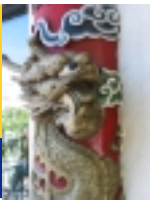
For a fascinating historical account of public markets in Portland, and to sign-up for the Friends of Portland Public Market newsletter, visit www.portlandpublicmarket.com



One of several renderings of the Proposed Portland Public Market

Letter From the Editor

By Ted Occhiliano



My wife and I moved to Old Town Chinatown just over a year ago. You may have seen us walking our Greyhound, Ty. We were unsure what to expect when we got here. Friends told us frightening stories about the neighborhood. These were stories from their childhood, and our friends tried to reassure us that “things have probably changed” in Old Town Chinatown since they grew up here. Many things have changed in OTCT, and continue changing weekly. Some things have not changed, but they will, with the continued commitment of those who live, work, and visit our unique Portland neighborhood.

It has also been one year since I took over as Editor of the *Old Town Chinatown Crier*. This Summer issue marks my forth with the neighborhood's quarterly publication. Landing as Editor of the *Crier* required neither badgering nor contacts. What it took was asking people how I might help in the neighborhood. I had limited talent, little previous community service involvement, and absolutely no experience working on newsletters. As a graduate student of English at Portland State University, I could offer a little time, an affinity for written communication, and a desire to get to know the neighborhood better. I found my way to the OTCT Communications Committee. Here I am, one-year later, typing this letter. I am happy to be here, happy talking about the neighborhood, and happy watching OTCT grow.

Before going any further, I want to recognize the OTCT Communications Committee: Carol McCreary, Kim Faucher, Jan Anderson, Kellee Jackson, Ashley Thomason, Arthur Lapies, and Carl Roberts do more than you can imagine. This group of volunteers donates their time, energy, and passion, not only to putting together this quarterly publication, but also to creating a positive buzz about Old Town Chinatown throughout Portland. They work hard and without enough recognition.

This issue of the *Crier* focuses on some of the people who make Old Town Chinatown vibrant and exciting. One good about owning a dog: it forces you to go on walks. Walk around the neighborhood, and keep your eyes up and open. Go ahead, peer into windows, talk to people, check-out what's going on around here. Invite over those friends who only think of OTCT when they think of Sunday brunch at Fong Chong. Take them to the north park blocks to shoot hoop or play bocce. See a live show at Magdelyn Theater. Coffee at Monte Rosa in Pacific Tower. Stroll the waterfront. Gallery hop outside of the Pearl on First Thursdays. Explore the Chinese Classical Garden. Catch Portland's best drag cabaret at Darcelle XV. Scarf late-night at Voodoo Donuts, Ohm, or Old Town Pizza. Power-lunch Portland-style at Dog's Dig Vegetarian Deli. Get a new board at Cal Skate Skateboards. Saturday Market calls on Sundays, too. We have it all here, and we continue getting more. The creative class has moved to town, and the neighborhood has been given an injection of energy and talent. We are growing in the right direction, but we must continue offering more to our community.

Old Town Chinatown still suffers from its old identity as an undesirable location. Much of this reputation stems from the neighborhood's reputation as a drug-dealer's haven. There is no other way to say it: drugs are still a problem here. As residents, neighborhood workers, and business owners, we owe each other vigilance. Program the non-emergency police number into your phones, and make the call when you see illegal activity. Too many great services are offered in our neighborhood for dealers to be allowed to continue sully Old Town Chinatown's name. Many of Portland's greatest social services make their homes in OTCT, and we are richer both for them and for those who patronize them. It is time to stop letting people mistakenly identify these wonderful non-profit organizations with drugs. We owe it to each other to kick the drugs out of our neighborhood. We are rising in public perception; let's keep it going. Join the Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association. Go to a meeting when you can. Speak up and share your vision. Let us get to know each other, how we can help each other, what we can do to continue making OTCT Portland's most electric neighborhood.

Here at the *Crier* we strive to promote Old Town Chinatown. Promotion takes work. Please, write to the *Crier*. What around here upsets you? What do you love about the neighborhood? How do you contribute to OTCT? For the past year, we at the *Crier* have been brainstorming and piecing together each issue. Most of the writing has been done in-house. With each issue we call for letters. Let us simply call for all submissions. Old Town Chinatown is your neighborhood, and the *Crier* is your quarterly information source. Let the neighborhood hear from you. We may not have room for your submission. It may not fit a particular issue. We may want to edit it. Do not let that hold you back. Submit your articles and letters. I see a lot when I walk about our neighborhood, but there are stories in every crack of brick; I don't catch them all.

Thank you all for reading the *Crier*. I hope it keeps you informed, interested, and involved. As Old Town Chinatown continues growing, the *Crier* will continue covering as much as we can. I am excited about our neighborhood. I know what to expect now. I expect Portland's most exciting, creative, and interesting people. Ours is the most interesting neighborhood in Portland. Could Old Town Chinatown become any better? You bet. Let us get there together.



Ted Occhiliano is the editor of the *Crier*



Our Community Our Neighborhood

News & Events

MAX Yellow Line Opens

Old Town Chinatown now enjoys direct connection to communities on the east bank of the Willamette all the way to the Columbia thanks to TriMet's new MAX Yellow Line. On May 1 thousands of Portlanders attended events along the line, and admiring the art and sculpture distinguishing each of the ten new stations. Of special interest are artist Valerie Otani's large wooden Japanese gates at the Expo Center stop. This striking and moving



display documents the history of Japanese Americans who gathered here in 1942 before being sent to internment camps throughout the northwest. Among them were families who left behind homes and businesses here, in what today is the nationally designated New Chinatown Japantown Historic District.

Broadway Bridge to Remain Closed until Labor Day

The Broadway Bridge has been closed (July 6) to traffic to allow removal of the worn steel grating from the lift span deck and replacement with a new solid deck. Installation of the new deck panels, which span the full width of the roadway, cannot be completed under traffic conditions.

The bridge is scheduled to reopen with its new solid lift span deck by Labor Day, Monday, September 6. When it reopens, one traffic lane will be open in each direction and the south sidewalk will be open. The two northern traffic lanes and north sidewalk will reopen in early 2005 when the \$28 million renovation is completed.

Multnomah County maintains the Broadway Bridge, five other Willamette River bridges, and more than 350 miles of roads. For more information, call the County Bridge Hotline at 503-988-4884.

August Brings National Night Out

Every first Tuesday in August (August 3, 2004) brings celebrations of neighborhood life and public safety throughout the United States. Our neighborhood version, in the North Park Blocks, features jazz by the legendary Sweet Baby James and the Original Cats, indie jazz from Cash Cow, food served by Western Culinary Institute, tabling by community groups, and the annual neighborhood safety awards. The event is sponsored by ONI, Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association, Pearl District Neighborhood Association, Downtown Neighborhood Association, and Zimmerman Community Center with additional support from Northwest Resource Federal Credit Union, Good Sam and Umpqua Bank.

A Call to Artists!

Central City Concern is sponsoring a juried art competition designed to obtain works of art for permanent installation in its new building at 8 NW 8th (on the corner of West Burnside and NW 8th).

The unifying theme is recovery and all that recovery implies: hope, a future, honesty, possibilities, and other interpretations. Art will be incorporated primarily into the shared spaces, such as community rooms and lobbies. Of particular interest is art that incorporates mirrors, which would be synergistic with the work of recovery. Other mediums are welcome.

For more information, including an application form and schematics of the building, please visit their website at www.centralcity.org. Artists may also stop by the Central City Concern office at 232 NW 6th Avenue, or call 503.294.1681. Deadline July 31st. Central City Concern is a non-profit agency working to end homelessness in the Portland metro area.



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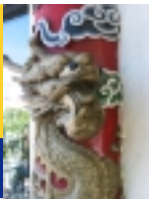
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Our Community Our Neighborhood

News & Events



River Renaissance Strategy Invites Public Review

The River Renaissance Vision, created with the participation of over a thousand Portlanders in 2000, established "where we want to go." A wealth of research and analysis, conducted over the last two years, tells us "what we need to know to get there." The Strategy recognizes the relationships between the Willamette River, its tributary streams, and the lands that drain to them. It is informed by, and will provide direction to, ongoing and upcoming projects that address Portland's river economy, urban design, watershed health, and community life and culture. The Portland Planning Commission has now made the strategy available for public review and discussion. The document is available in e-form at www.river.ci.portland.or.us, or can be picked up in print at 1900 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite 4100.

Downtown Signage

The city of Portland is undertaking a program to install fixed, pedestrian-oriented informational and directional signage in Portland's Central City. The project goals are to implement a signage system that merges clear, concise, functional way-finding information to enhance pedestrian circulation and to enhance downtown Portland's identity. The primary audience for this program is new or infrequent visitors to Portland.

The signage, located in the public sidewalks, will consist of directions to major destinations as well as maps to assist with orientation. Major destinations highlighted in Old Town Chinatown include the Classical Chinese Garden, the Japanese American Historical Plaza and the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center.

Development and implementation of this system is being undertaken by the Portland Development Commission in close cooperation with Portland's Office of Transportation and public and private stakeholders, including a 20-member Project Advisory Committee. The project will be funded with tax increment proceeds from four the city's urban renewal areas. Three consulting firms are assisting with project development.

The design and sign locations will be refined this summer. The signs are anticipated to be installed fall, 2004, conditioned upon the security of maintenance funds. For more information, please contact Sara King, project manager, at 503.823.3468

NW Documentary Screens Film on Oregon's Korean Americans

Local filmmakers at NW Documentary, based in Old Town Chinatown, premiered their documentary about Korean Americans at a gala event at the Portland Museum on July 9. *Sun Gu Ja: A Century of Korean Pioneers* was written and produced by the non-profit company in collaboration with the Korean Society of Oregon and the Oregon Council for the Humanities. In addition to the hour-long film, the evening featured Korean music by Osanori and food catered by Be Won. NW Documentary Arts and Media is located in the New Market Theatre. www.nwdocumentary.org

Pardon Our Dust

Sewer construction on NW Couch between Naito and 8th is going well and is on schedule to be completed by October. All merchants in the construction area are accessible and open for business.

Environmental Services is working to reduce sewer construction impacts and we appreciate your patience during this important project.

For project information call Environmental Services at 503-823-7898.



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OLD TOWN CHINATOWN CRIER

A Publication of the Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association

Burnside Transportation and Urban Design Concept Plan

The Burnside Transportation and Urban Design Plan features an expansion of the one-way grid using Burnside and Couch from 2nd Avenue to 15th Avenue. The "Link" consists of public right-of-way remaining on Burnside once the couplet is created. This space was identified in the adopted plan as an opportunity for building and open space improvements with the potential to significantly influence redevelopment of this portion of Burnside and bring social and economic vitality to the area. On July 19th, there was a public open house to review the proposed alternatives for this part of Burnside and offer opinions on which alternative works best and why. This information will be considered by the project's Stakeholder Advisory Committee as they make a final recommendation on the design for the "Link".



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Please submit short news items, opinion pieces and letters to the editor to Ted Occhialino at topdx@comcast.net. The Crier reserves the right to abridge letters which should be no more than 150 words. We also can place your business-card sized ads for \$50 - please contact Kim Faucher at kfaucher@nrfcu.org. The deadline for the Fall issue is September 15, 2004.

Membership in OTCTNA and attendance at all meetings is open to people who live, own businesses or property, or work or volunteer in the neighborhood.

Ground-Breaking for 3rd and 4th Streetscape Construction Scheduled for Fall.

A ground-breaking ceremony and community celebration will kick off construction of the new 3rd and 4th Avenue Streetscape, which gets underway in October. Construction will happen block-by-block with access to retail businesses maintained throughout. Additionally, the Portland Business Alliance will distribute its new Old Town Chinatown business map throughout the city.



Earlier this year Portland Office of Transportation completed initial grading of the streets. This included removal of old streetcar tracks from NW Flanders Street between 3rd and 4th Avenues, one of the projects' two specially landscaped "festival streets."

Association Committees and Neighborhood Meetings

Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association Board of Directors. Meets first Tuesdays from 4:30-6:30 PM in the ground floor conference room of the Port of Portland, corner of NW Second and Everett. Exception: the August meeting is cancelled & the September meeting will be held at Central City Concern, 232 NW 6th Ave. Everyone is welcome! Contact: Howard Weiner (howard@calsk8.com)

OTCTNA Joint Land Use & Design Review Committee. Meets, as required, first Tuesdays from 3:00-4:30 PM at Central City Concern, 232 NW Sixth Avenue. If you have issues to bring before the committee, contact Paul Verhoeven (paul@saturdaymarket.org)

OTCTNA Public Safety Committee. Meets first Thursdays from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM at Central City Concern, 232 NW Sixth Avenue. The public is welcome at this brown bag lunch meeting. Contact: Howard Weiner (howard@calsk8.com)

OTCTNA Communications Committee. Meets last Mondays from 4:00-5:00 PM at Northwest Resource Federal Credit Union, 221 NW 2nd Ave. Contact: Carol McCreary (carolmccreary@comcast.net)

Old Town Chinatown Visions Committee. Meets second Wednesdays from 11:30 am - 1:00 PM at Central City Concern, 232 NW Sixth Avenue. The public is welcome at this brown bag lunch meeting. Contact: Mark Riesmeyer (mark@centralcityconcern.org)