



March 2009 BIGELOW HIGHLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION VOL. 16, #2

The Friendly Neighbor

Check out our rebooted website: www.bigelowhighlands.org
Thanks go to Bryon Stull and Jon Yunker for bringing us back online.

Dioxins at Priest Point Park

by Elizabeth Shé

Summer: time to frolic on the shore. Unfortunately for those of us who frequent Priest Point Park, researchers have found high levels of dioxin (a carcinogen) in the mud and sediment of Budd Bay. One hotspot is the shore of Priest Point, especially the south end, though the Thurston County Health Department advisory includes **all** of lower Budd Inlet.

Vulnerable creatures -- children, older folks, dogs -- are particularly at risk, and should avoid swimming and walking in the intertidal zone (below the high tide mark).

If you do come in contact with the sand or water, rinse thoroughly with clean potable water. Better yet, swim and play elsewhere until the mess is cleaned up.

Are you ready for an emergency?

Neighbor Trevor Contreras is working on a program called **Map Your Neighborhood**.

The program helps us prepare for disasters by connecting neighbors, assessing resources, and learning what to do immediately after a disaster.

Training is provided by Thurston County Emergency Management, and lasts a couple hours.

Trevor is looking to schedule a training for us in late June. Please contact him if you would like to participate in the program.

Trevor can be reached at (503) 807-7923 or trevcon98@yahoo.com

Willow Oling's House – Where the Art & Garden Walkabout Begins

Willow's house – the starting point of our Art & Garden Walkabout – was built in about 1894, making it a neighborhood pioneer. It has a lovely, ancient walnut tree, and several other trees that may have been planted when the house was new. Willow, who is a professional garden designer, has been planting more trees

(and shrubs and flowers) for the past 20 years. Willow has also painted the house a rather brilliant lavender, with green trim. Now such extroverted colors are becoming commonplace, but Willow's house, in keeping with its pioneering tradition, was the first in our neighborhood to sport such bold colors.