

Good Neighbor Award will go to Deb Hermann at Northland Neighborhoods Annual Meeting



Deb Hermann, Councilperson At-Large from the First District, will receive the 2004 Larry M c M a n u s

Good Neighbor Award June 28 at the Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. Annual Meeting. The award is given each year in honor of the late Larry McManus, a leader of the Chaumiere Neighborhood located between Antioch Road and Chouteau Trafficway.

Northland Neighborhoods President Mike Lewis, who will present the award, cited Hermann's long-time advocacy of neighborhood causes. "Our honoree this year lives up to the spirit and letter of the award. She is the

perfect choice," Lewis says. Hermann's neighborhood advocacy role spans a 24-year period, primarily in her own Gracemor neighborhood. During that time, she was president of the neighborhood organization and led the Gracemor Community Action Network, one of the city's original community policing efforts. Hermann has also served in numerous civic posts, including the City Planning Commission. She was elected to the City Council in 2003 and is currently chair of the Council's Neighborhood Development and Housing Committee.

In addition to the McManus Award, the agenda for the Annual Meeting will include an annual report presentation, ratification of

Northland Neighborhoods' revised bylaws and election of board members to the 15-member governing body. Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. has 59 Member neighborhood organizations. One representative from each organization is eligible to vote on the bylaws and board member issues. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Vivion Road and North Oak Trafficway.

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. is a non-profit community development corporation that administers housing, home repair and a variety of problem-solving programs for neighborhoods in Clay and Platte Counties.

2. Spotlight on Volunteerism

3. NNI Board Candidates - Senior Workshop - Block Party Funds

4. RecycleFIRST - NNI Meetings

www.nni.org
816-454-2000

Informational meeting for Phase 3 of RecycleFIRST

Join representatives from RecycleFIRST on Monday, June 14, 7 p.m. to answer all your questions about recycling.

Phase 3 goes into effect September 1 and this is a great opportunity for members of your neighborhood to learn important information about what to expect.

For more information about this meeting call Janet Shaffer at 454-2000.

NNI Meetings in June

Wed.,	June 2	Proposed closing of Fire Station #40	6 p.m.
Mon.,	June 7	Neighborhood Relations Committee	6 p.m.
Tues.,	June 8	Meeting with Chaumiere Residents on the Senior Apartment project	6:30 p.m.
Wed.,	June 9	Senior Citizen Workshop	9 a.m.
Thurs.,	June 10	FOCUS Center Coordinators Meeting	9 a.m.
Thurs.,	June 10	Greenhaven Neighborhood Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Sat.,	June 12	ABOP Clean-up - NNI parking lot	8:00 a.m.-Noon
Mon.,	June 14	RecycleFIRST Informational Meeting	7 p.m.
Tues.,	June 22	Community Policing Task Force	6 p.m.
Thurs.,	June 24	Sunset Dixon Neighborhood Meeting	7 p.m.
Mon.,	June 28	NNI Annual Meeting - Midwestern Baptist Seminary	6:30 p.m.

Spotlight on Volunteerism: *The new generation of samaritans*

by Reta Jo Mitchell

*Why can't they be like we were,
Perfect in every way?
What's the matter with kids today?*

— "Bye Bye Birdie"

If you think today's youth are all indolent and self-centered, I have news. Throughout the Northland, young people are incredibly involved in volunteerism.

These are kids whose school food-drive barrels are as common as backpacks. Kids whose 17th birthday is a rite of passage to blood donation. Kids from North Kansas City, Oak Park, Park Hill and Park Hill South high schools who recently walked all night to raise \$90,000 for cancer research.

By volunteering, NKC High students learn to "look beyond themselves," remarked teacher Doug Winkler. They look after their school's town through yearly cleaning of parks and tending roadway flower beds. They've cooked dinner for anxious parents at a Ronald McDonald House.

"Why can't they be like we were/Dancing to Sammy Kaye?" wondered the "Bye Bye Birdie" lament. So Northtown kids learn the waltz and foxtrot for their annual senior citizen's Tea Dance.

St. Pius X students also hold a dance along with a "Prom Night" dinner at a nursing home, and they regularly do service for Harvesters.

Winnetonka High collects school supplies for the needy, does a Cystic Fibrosis Walkathon, and delights little ones with the annual Easter egg

hunt. A special event is their Custodial Appreciation Luncheon. While custodians dine, students clean the school. (This year's volunteer undertakings totalled 16.)

Along with drives like collecting teddy bears for police to give to frightened children, Oak Park presents its annual Theater for a Cause. This year, drama students staged "Arsenic and Old Lace" to aid a classmate with spinal bifida. Through community support and SRO ticket sales, their friend received a much needed van and wheelchair lift. Bracelets created by special needs students were sold at performances.

Park Hill students routinely collect supplies for Synergy. An impressive project is Senior Community Service Day with hundreds of 12th graders fanning out everywhere. They groom parks, wash fire trucks, clean the historic Washington Chapel, scrub down police cars and do yard work for the elderly.

Park Hill South's 2003 blood drive yielded 145 pints. They collect toys for Ronald McDonald Houses and personal care items for Hope House, an abuse sanctuary for whom they also do an Angel Tree.

Liberty High's food drives this year brought in 8 tons of food. They also raise money for Heifer International, a worldwide effort to give cows or chickens to Third World families on the "teach a man to fish" premise.

Student Lisa Ash described the fun in things like "Cow Patty Bingo," but also the very personal reward from helping others.

Younger kids are fledgling samaritans like those at Antioch Middle School whose "Cents for Santa" provides gifts for the needy. And, New Mark Middle where annual sucker sales bring in funds to buy stockings and mittens for poor children.

Winnwood Elementary is helping City Union Mission equip homeless kids for camp. Northview and Nassau elementaries partner in food drives such as: "We'll bring the cake mix, you bring the icing."

Some young people strike out on their own. Three Northgate Middle School girls raised over \$400 for medical supplies needed by hospital mercy ships serving Africans. Jacob Gunter is the Smithville freshman who collected 109 pounds of comfort items for troops in Iraq.

From Socrates' youths to today's "Y" Generation, cynics have decreed that the young don't count for much. But with guidance from teachers and parents, look at what our kids are doing for others, often while holding down jobs. If they are typical, the future for volunteerism looks very bright. For, as the poet Milton explained: "The childhood shows the man, As the morning shows the day."

The NNI Slate: FOR ELECTION

Michael Lewis

Currently serving as president of the NNI Board, Mike is a Deacon at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. He is running for his second term, which will expire in June 2007.

Virjean Burton

Civic leader and volunteer, Virjean is currently serving out the term of Stuart Hunt, which expires in June 2004.

Stan Cunningham

A retired person and neighborhood volunteer, Stan is currently serving out the term of Anita Gorman, which expires June 2004.

Kevin Masters

Deputy Chief of the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department, Kevin is currently serving out the term of Johnny Simpson, which expires in June 2004.

Open Seat

Mary Jo Burton

Director of Communications, NKC Schools, and active in NNI's Community Policing Task Force and Leaders' Meeting programs, Mary Jo would fill seat of Wayne St. Vincent, whose second term expires June 2004.

For Ratification

Thomas Schweitzer

A retired financial officer, community volunteer and resident of Briarcliff Estates, Tom was appointed March 15, 2004 to fill out the term of Carolyn Clinesmith, which will expire in June 2006.

Misty Casey

A resident of Pine Lake Neighborhood, active in the community and in local and regional politics, Misty was appointed March 15, 2004 to fill out the term of Jim Silke, which will expire in June 2006.

Officer Slate

President

Mike Lewis

Treasurer

Thomas Schweitzer

Vice President

Doniele Kane

Secretary

Pam Moore

"ABOP"

(Anti-freeze, Battery, Oil & Paint)

Saturday, June 12, from 8 am to Noon, Northland Neighborhoods, Inc., the City of Kansas City, and Antioch Center will provide residents an opportunity to safely dispose of household waste.

Tires will also be accepted from Kansas City residents ONLY.

Block Party applications available at NNI

Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance would like neighbors to get to know their neighbors and are sponsoring 500 Block Parties this summer.

They will provide grants up to \$100 towards the cost of food for your summer neighborhood block party. This money is available for any party that is held on your block in Kansas City, MO between May 15, 2004 and October 31, 2004.

For more information or to receive a grant application call Janet Shaffer at 454-2000 or stop by NNI.

Hurry, grants are first come-first serve.

Also remember....To block off your street for the party, you must obtain a permit from the City - permits & barricades are available at Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.

NNI seniors: "Container Gardening"

Join Melody from Earl May Nursery on Wednesday, June 9, 9 a.m., to discover the unique capabilities of container gardening.

Container gardening is perfect for a limited garden space and she will show you ways to achieve a beautiful garden.

Melody will provide some nice gifts and there will be refreshments and door prizes.

For more information, call Janet at 454-2000.