

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. June 2007

Quarterly Edition
Volume 4
Issue 6



Northland Neighborhoods News

Annual Meeting set for June 25 at Golden Oaks Education Center

Northland neighborhood organizations will elect members to NNI's Board of Directors at the June 25 Annual Meeting at Golden Oaks Education Center, 3100 NE 46th Street. Attendees will also receive NNI's annual report covering the period June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007. Each NNI member neighborhood association may

cast one vote in the election. See page 2 for a list of organizations eligible to vote.

Following a May 21 candidate forum, the NNI Board voted to approve the 2007-2008 slate of candidates for seats on the NNI Board of Directors. The slate includes Lory Daniels, Family Involvement Coordinator at Eastgate Middle School; and Keith

Nelson, president of the North Bennington Neighborhood Association; they will run for the open Board seats. Both are Northland residents. These seats are currently held by Mike Lewis, whose second term expired in June, and Virjean Burton, who is retiring from the Board after one

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NNI, along with Northland Health Care Access and Tri-County Mental Health Services, sponsored a reception for the new Mayor and Council on May 9 at Ameristar Casino. Pictured left to right: Deb Hermann, John Sharp, Cathy Jolly, Cindy Circo, Jan Marcason, Russ Johnson, Bill Skaggs, Mayor Mark Funkhouser, Ed Ford and Beth Gottstein.

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NNI's mission:

To improve the quality of life in the Northland by collaborating with residents, businesses and institutions to empower neighborhoods to build and maintain their own healthy communities. We join with them in absolute dedication to finding solutions and, in that collective spirit, we will leave no neighborhood behind.

NNI Board of Directors

Officers

Mary Jo Burton
President

Bill Sanders
Vice President

Misty Dawn Casey
Secretary

Tom Schweitzer
Treasurer

Board Members

Virjean Burton

Stan Cunningham

Mike Duffy

Dan Fowler

Gene Hankins

Mike Lewis

Park Lightfoot

John McNerney

Kevin Masters

Mario Mayorga

Marty Schuettpelz

Annual Meeting set
(Continued from front)

term. Running for election to second terms are Mary Jo Burton, current President of the NNI Board of Directors; Stan Cunningham, who is retired and lives in the Chaumiere Neighborhood; and Kevin Masters, a

Deputy Chief of the Kansas City Police Department who lives in the Coves North Neighborhood.

Persons interested in future openings on the Board should complete a Board Member application, which

may be obtained by calling NNI at 454-2000, by dropping by the NNI offices at 5312 NE Chouteau Trafficway between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by requesting an on-line application form.

Neighborhood Organizations eligible to vote at Annual Meeting

The following member neighborhoods renewed their certifications prior to May 31 and are eligible to vote at the June 25 Annual Meeting. Neighborhoods that are not listed should contact Janet Shaffer at NNI (454-2000).

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Barrington Ridge Homes Association | 18. Country Club Neighborhood Association | 36. Meadowlane Neighborhood Association |
| 2. Barry Harbor Hunters Ridge | 19. Country Downs Homes Association | 37. New Mark First Pool Association |
| 3. Beverly Manor Neighborhood Association | 20. Coventry Homes Association | 38. North Bennington Neighborhood Association |
| 4. Bolling Heights Community Link | 21. Coves North Homeowners Association | 39. Oak Park Manor Neighborhood Association |
| 5. Briarcliff West Homeowners Association | 22. Crestview Homes Association | 40. Old Maple Park Neighborhood Association |
| 6. Bridge Pointe Homeowners Association | 23. Essex Court Townhomes | 41. Patterson Highlands Neighborhood Association |
| 7. Brittany Oaks Homeowners Association | 24. Foxwood Neighborhood Association | 42. Ravenwood/Summerset Neighborhood Association |
| 8. Brook Ridge Homeowners Association | 25. Golden Oaks Neighborhood Association | 43. Rosemont Homes Association |
| 9. Brookhill Homes Association | 26. Gracemor Randolph Neighborhood Association | 44. Searcy Creek Neighborhood Association |
| 10. Carriage Commons Homeowners Association | 27. Gray Oaks Homes Association | 45. Sherwood Estates Homes Association |
| 11. Carriage Hill Estates Homes Association | 28. Green Meadows Neighborhood Association | 46. South Oakwood Neighborhood Association |
| 12. Cedar Ridge Homeowners Association | 29. Greenhaven Neighborhood Association | 47. Stone Ridge Townhomes Association |
| 13. Chaumiere Neighborhood Association | 30. Highland Gardens Neighborhood Association | 48. Sunset Dixon Neighborhood Association |
| 14. Chouteau Neighborhood Association | 31. Hills of Rock Creek Neighborhood Association | 49. Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association |
| 15. Claybrook Homeowners Association | 32. Hills of Walden Homes Association | 50. Vrooman Acres Neighborhood Association |
| 16. Claymont North Homes Association | 33. Holiday Hills Neighborhood Association | 51. Walnut Ridge Estates Homes Association |
| 17. Cooley Highlands Neighborhood Association | 34. Little Village Neighborhood Association | 52. Winnwood Sunnybrook Neighborhood |
| | 35. Maple Park Neighborhood Association | |

Neighborhood Clips

Bring your green thumb to June 13 senior workshop

Master gardener Cass Sullivan will be on hand for the June 13 Senior workshop. The subject: Container Gardening. It is a great way to maintain the joy of gardening without the space and hard work traditional gardening requires. Sullivan will create 2 container gardens which will be given to 2 lucky seniors. The fun begins at 9 a.m.

Soaring gas prices make transit a hot topic

Expect conversations, debates, dialogues and maybe even some study circles on the subject of transit. Two “Explore the Core by Bus” UMKC Communiversity courses will debut in June and August. As the Kansas City area grows in population and fuel prices continue to skyrocket, the need for efficient public transportation is greater than ever. The courses are an opportunity for those realizing the value an updated transit sys-

tem can provide. For those interested in dialogues on transportation, visit www.onekcvoice.org for information on current regional discussions and for upcoming transit discussions near you.

Cop Talk



The June “Cop Talk” is Wednesday, June 27 at 6 p.m. “Cop Talk” is an open forum where residents can meet with staff from both Northland police stations to discuss crime and other disorder issues.

Congrats to North Bennington on PIAC victory!

The Public Improvements Advisory Committee (PIAC) has recommended \$500,000 in improvements for North Bennington, from 44th to 48th Streets. The nod from PIAC culminates years of work by North

Bennington president Keith Nelson and other members of the North Bennington community. These improvements are funded by a 1-cent Kansas City sales tax that is up for renewal in November 2007.

Northland garages and basements now eleven tons lighter thanks to A.B.O.P.T.

Environmentally-responsible Northlanders delivered at NNI’s May 12 A.B.O.P.T. event. To be exact, they delivered 22,423 pounds of latex paint, flammable liquids, oil, antifreeze, pesticides, batteries, propane, oxidizers, aerosols, and fluorescent light tubes. To give additional weight to the occasion, A.B.O.P.T. participants hauled 462 old tires to the drop-off site at Antioch Center.



NNI Staff

Full-Time

Jim Rice
Executive Director

James Cianciaruso
Director of Planning and Development

Christy Harris
Director of Housing Services

Joy Loesch
Manager of Finance

Jennifer Presberry
Manager, Community Development

Janet Shaffer
Community Development Coordinator

Part-Time and Contract

Lola McCloud
Administrative Support

Jenny Ellis
Administrative Support

Pat Estes
Housing Assistant

Jennifer Dawani
Graduate Intern



The writer Maurois once said the “the minds of different generations are unpenetrable one by the other.” Those who think there is an unbridgeable generation gap have never met the 949 YouthFriend volunteers in the North Kansas City School District, many of them senior citizens. Like 91-year-old Reid Flippin, a popular math tutor at Gracemor Elementary.

Reid and 26 other YouthFriends recently received their 10-year certificates. Then there are the Kaderas, Louis and Omata, who have helped special needs students at Oak Park and North Kansas City High Schools since our YouthFriends began 12 years ago. Donald and Deana Mason are also originals, serving as reading tutors and lunch buddies at Davidson Elementary and Northgate Middle

Spotlight on Volunteerism

By Reta Jo Mitchell

Bridging the Generation Gap

schools.

An exciting YouthFriends program is E-mentoring, a one-on-one relationship on the computer. Harley-Davidson employees Sharon Fatino and Gina McEnaney have, for five years, each corresponded with three New Mark girls during school hours. Such non-judgmental chats provide encouragement from a mature,

young adult. Gina recently closed out the year by going to New Mark School for a lunch with her girls—arriving on her own “Harley Hog.”

A true generation-bridging service is the NKCS D’s Living History Speakers’ Bureau, whose volunteers have taken their expertise and experiences into classrooms for six years. For example, speaker

Brother John Anderson breathes life into the biographies of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks during Black History Month.

Living History’s 52 speakers yearly visit about 200 classrooms. Participant Bruce Mitchell takes kids back to his one-room school in Iowa, or up in the air in his “theory of flight” talk. When Maple Park Middle School teacher Pam Rohlfling asked Bruce for a talk on helping deployed troops, he taught her students how to sew neck coolers to go in Care packages. (He has personally sewn and sent 430 of the much-appreciated scarves to Iraq and Afghanistan.)

Born of a tragic school shooting in Arkansas is another volunteer program called WATCHDOGS, with fathers and grandfathers serving as playground monitors and as invaluable male role models. BACK-SNACK is a new, school-based service that is a blessing for children of low-



Becoming a “Seamster”

Bruce Mitchell teaching Maple Park student Robbie Westlie how to sew a soldier’s neck cooler.

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Spotlight on Volunteerism

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income circumstances. These kids go home for the weekend with a welcomed supply of peanut butter, soup and pudding, even cartons of shelf-stable milk. All thanks to those wonderful Harvesters volunteers.

Two years ago, the Northland Alpha Masonic Lodge and Alpha Eastern Star Chapter initiated a special way to help children, called TOSS (Title One School Support). When a school staff member notices a child lacking a warm coat or decent shoes, one call to TOSS's guardian angels brings a same-day delivery.

An incredible source of caring for kids is

Pleasant Valley Baptist Church's 1,500 volunteers. They have painted classrooms and repaired school exteriors for years. Nor do they forget the little ones' favorite playground: the Penguin Park cleanup is one of their projects.

What better way to help young scholars than to give them their own dictionaries? The Norclay Optimist Club has donated a Webster to 3rd and 4th graders for 17 years. Club member Harriett Nelson recalls meeting a college student who still had his dictionary, one of the 34,000 the Club has given to kids.

A national children's assistance group is Foster Grandparents, wherein low-income senior citizens receive a modest stipend for helping those with exceptional needs. You'll find them doing 20-to-30 hour work weeks at group homes, shelters and daycare centers.

Deserving our attention is POMC (Parents of Murdered Children) whose members relive their sorrow to secure such vital protection as the Amber Alert, Megan's Law, Jessica's Law and the predator-list acts. They ask only that we contact our representatives when such legislation is being considered. Their local memorial in the Northland's

Children's Fountain Park reminds us of the need. It is called "Remembered Angels."

Is all this cross-generational volunteering worth it? Experts say it is an enhancement to good health. I have given over 125 classroom Living History talks about the cultural gifts of the American Indians. Today's kids are impressed to learn how the tribes were so caring of their children, with the elders serving as principal tutors. Among dozens of thank-you notes from kids is this one: "Thank you for teaching us how the Indians respected their children and never forgot them."

Meet Your Councilpersons will have new faces

Monday, June 18 will mark a change in format for NNI's "Meet Your Councilpersons" meeting. These monthly sessions have traditionally included only the 4 Council members representing the 1st and 2nd Council Districts, primarily comprising the Northland. Beginning at the June 18 meeting, at-large Council members from Districts 3-6 (Melba Curls,

Beth Gottstein, Cindy Circo and Cathy Jolly) will also be invited to participate.

According to NNI Executive Director Jim Rice, this change will give south-of-the-river Council members more awareness of Northland issues and provide more city-wide insights for Northland residents. "My hope is that this new format will help bring us

together as one city while building even greater respect for our diverse interests," Rice says.

The regular date and time for "Meet Your Councilpersons" is the fourth Monday at 6 p.m. The June 18 meeting was scheduled on the third Monday since NNI's Annual Meeting falls on June 25, the fourth Monday in June.

Perspectives

Neighborhood Leadership is the key to success

By Jim Rice



“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach him to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”



That old adage is never truer than in the life of neighborhoods. Providing people the education and skills to help themselves opens the door to long-term success and sustainability. And it all begins with those special people we call “neighborhood leaders.” They are the cornerstones of the community-building process.

That’s why NNI will roll out a major neighborhood leadership program this September. The University of Missouri Extension and NNI will launch EXCEL (Experience in Community Enterprise and Leadership Development) to provide an intense, 7-month neighborhood leadership training. A carefully selected community advisory panel worked 13 months to craft a rigorous curriculum designed to equip neighborhood leaders with the knowledge, skills and confidence

to guide their neighborhoods to success. Participants will study state and local government policy and structure, poverty simulation, organizational management and much more.

The lengthy curriculum prep time, the quality of the faculty, and the rigor of the 7-month program demonstrates the importance of neighborhood leadership. We have to get this right. The Northland is blessed with an army of good souls who step up to take the helm of their neighborhoods. The job is often challenging, thankless and lonely. If you have to fly by the seat of your pants, the task can be even tougher. EXCEL gives you the tools and confidence to build success.

Other initiatives in NNI’s Community-Building program will supplement EXCEL.

- HomeWorks: NNI partnered with University of Missouri Extension to present the “HomeWorks: Maintaining Your Housing Investment” workshop series to Northland homeowners. Participants learned everything from appropriate carpet cleaning solutions to how to properly unclog a drain to the most energy efficient window treatments. The class will be offered again in September.
- Neighborhood Roundtable: NNI presented its first Neighborhood Roundtable in May. The program features topical speakers followed by a “roundtable” discussion with neighborhood leaders showing and telling how they solve problems in their neighborhood organizations.

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Perspectives

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- **Community Policing:** This summer and fall, NNI will push for new community policing initiatives in partnership with the North Patrol and Shoal Creek police bureaus and other Northland law enforcement agencies. These police-neighborhood partnerships are the only long-term solutions for curing community disorder.

I urge you to make these efforts successful by getting involved. Indeed, that is the only way they will be successful.

Save the date

October 19 is the date for NNI's Annual Breakfast. The location will again be Finnigan's Hall in North Kansas City. Awards for Lifetime Achievement, Outstanding Public Service and the Larry McManus Award for Extraordinary Neighborhood Service will be presented.

Veterans Often Face Barriers to Continuing their Education

Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) projects were first authorized by Congress in 1972. A major portion of the Congressional Intent of the legislation is to help eligible veterans identify barriers – academic, economic, social—that might make it difficult to take advantage of educational opportunities. Once these barriers are identified, VUB staff can assist veterans in overcoming them.

One of the most common barriers for a veteran who wants to continue his/her education is the need to “update” academic and computer skills. Many people have jobs that do not require using math, writing, or science skills on a daily basis, so veterans are uneasy about the prospect of having to take College Algebra or Composition classes. The Veterans Upward Bound program can help by providing refresher instruction in these, and many other subjects.

When the decision is made to return to school the first question most people ask is “Ok, how am I going to pay for this?” The VUB program can help find an answer to that question. Possible funding sources include Montgomery GI Bill or veterans rehabilitation benefits, and/or state vocational rehabilitation education benefits. Campus based aid, scholarships, federal Pell Grants, and student loans that must be repaid with interest may also be available. VUB assists veterans in reviewing the available options and selecting the most appropriate funding for individual circumstances.

Social barriers may be a bit more difficult to address and might include factors such as the subtle influence of family attitudes and values that may not have fostered enthusiasm and encouragement to go on to higher education. Some veterans may feel they are “too old to go back to school” or just do

not know where to start, or who to ask, to even consider the possibility of additional schooling.

The VUB program services, which are available to veterans in Jackson and Clay Counties, include personal academic advising and career counseling, GED preparation, refresher instruction, assistance completing college admission and financial aid applications, study skills & test taking workshops, career exploration, cultural field trips and campus visits, tutorial services, and referrals to other agencies.

To learn more about the University of Kansas Veterans Upward Bound program, you can find information at <http://www.ku.edu/~vub>, or, contact Veterans Upward Bound, Gateway Tower II, Suite 105, 400 State Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66101, 913-321-5512, toll-free 877-446-9337, Email – vub@ku.edu.

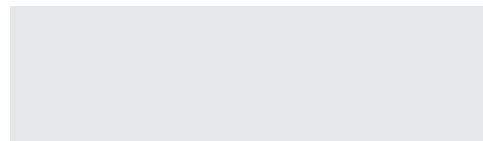


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**WE WILL LEAVE NO
NEIGHBORHOOD BEHIND.**



June 2007

Public Meetings

Wednesday	6/13	Senior Workshop	9:00 a.m.
Monday	6/18	Meet Your Councilpersons	6:00 p.m.
Monday	6/25	NNI Annual Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	6/27	Cop Talk	6:00 p.m.

Note: NNI Board meeting follows Annual Meeting.