## Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. November 2007

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# Northland should turn out big for sales tax renewal

By Jim Rice, Executive Director, Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.

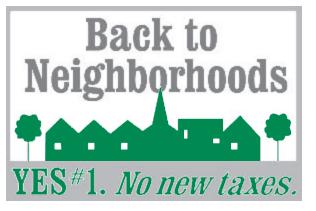
he Northland Neighborhoods Board of Directors endorsed the November 6 renewal of Kansas City's 1-cent sales tax for capital improvements... and for good reason. Over the past 25 years neighborhoods in the Northland have secured badly needed public improvements including better storm drainage, neighborhood playgrounds, park development, community center upgrades, streets and bridges. To be sure, we are a still a long way from closing the gap on the Northland's backlog of needed infrastructure, but just imagine where we would be without the sales tax's annual infusion of \$60 million for essential public projects.

The November 6 ballot issue does not raise taxes; it extends an existing tax for 10

years. And the November 6 measure mandates that at least 35% of the tax receipts go for neighborhood improvements, divided equally among the six Council districts. Since the Northland contains two Council districts, the new measure gives the Northland an even greater share of the pie.

Renewing the tax is clearly in the best interest of neighborhoods. But there is an added incentive for the Northland to turn out in record numbers. The sales tax election is one more opportunity (as was the recent Mayor-Council election) for the Northland to demonstrate its power as a force to be reckoned with. In the months and years ahead, the Northland will need all the political clout it can muster to get the public resources it needs and deserves to reach its potential as a vibrant 21st Century community.

I urge you to support the sales tax renewal on November 6.





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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. Page 2

## NNI's 2nd Annual Breakfast draws 400

pproximately 400 persons attended NNI's October 19 Annual Breakfast at Finnigan's Hall. Highlighting the 2007 breakfast were the Larry McManus Good Neighbor Award to volunteers Bruce and Reta Jo Mitchell; the Outstanding Public Service Award to Extreme Makeover/Home Edition builder Kevin Green; and the Jay Dillingham Lifetime Achievement Award to North Kansas City Schools Superintendent Tom Cummings. Net earnings from the event totaled approximately \$9,200. NNI extends special thanks to the Breakfast Sponsors.

## "Neighborhood" Level

Mike Hagen Electric HNTB Hunt Midwest King Hershey St. Luke's Northland Hospital

## "Block" Level

Curry Investments Lewis Rice & Fingersh, L.C. North Kansas City Schools St. Patrick Nottingham Society UMB

## "House" Level

James and Elizabeth Clayton/Greenhaven Neighborhood Edward Jones – Jay Craven Fairview Christian Church (Myrna Garzee) Harrah's Casino and Hotel Councilwoman Deb Hermann Councilman Russ Johnson Kansas City Equity Fund KC Consulting LLC/Kim Carlos KC Parks and Recreation Metropolitan Community Colleges/Maplewoods Campus Brent Lagergren Patti Banks Associates Polsinelli Shalton Flanigan Suelthaus P.C. Schweitzer & Associates **Synergy Services Tri-County Mental Health Services** White Goss March Schulte & Weisenfels PC

Gathered to present the Jay Dillingham Lifetime Achievement Award are (left to right) Mary Jo Burton, John Dillingham, award recipient Tom Cummings and Jim Rice.



NNI Board of Directors

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## **Neighborhood Clips**

## November Roundtable cancelled

The Northland Neighborhoods' Roundtable originally scheduled for Tuesday, November 27, has been cancelled due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The next Roundtable will be January 29, from 6-8 p.m. at NNI's new offices at 3015 NE Vivion Road. The topic and speakers will be announced in the December newsletter and on the NNI Website.

## Check out the NNI FOCUS Center

NNI continues to be an active FOCUS Center. That means you can do some one-stop shopping at NNI. Services include City service referrals, Code Enforcement, conferences with representatives from the North Patrol and Shoal Creek police divisions, pet licensing, notary public, voter registration, and access to the KCPD Office of Community Complaints Satellite.

## November Senior Workshop to feature verbal judo and flu shots

Officer Dwight Parker, an instructor at the Regional Police Academy, will help seniors master the art of verbal judo. The talking gymnastics begin at

9 a.m., November 14 at NNI's new offices. Also on hand will be the Clay County Health Department with flu shots, which are free for Medicare or Medicaid card holders and \$20 for non-Medicare and non-Medicaid persons.



## Renovation, addition at KC North Community Center completed

Ansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation hosted an open house October 27 at the Kansas City North Community Center, 3930 N. Antioch Road. The event showcased recently completed interior renovations and a building addition. Renovations included architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing improvements. Most areas received new ceiling tiles and flooring, fresh paint, upgraded lighting and new cabinetry. The old weight room is now the new aerobics room.

The 2,200 square-foot building addition, located on the east end of the existing facility, contains a new weight room, toilets, showers and locker room facilities. The weight room has three new televisions and all new commercial/club grade equipment. Community Center operating hours have also been extended to Sunday, 8am-5pm, Monday through Friday, 5am-9pm, and Saturday, 7am-5pm. NNI Staff

#### Full-Time

Jim Rice *Executive Director* 

James Cianciaruso Director of Planning and Development

Christy Harris Director of Housing Services

Joy Loesch Director of Administration

Jennifer Presberry Manager, Community Development

Janet Shaffer Community Development Coordinator

#### Part-Time and Contract

Jenny Ellis Administrative Support

Pearl Brown Administrative Support

Pat Estes Housing Assistant

Lola McCloud Special Projects

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WE WILL LEAVE NO NEIGHBORHOOD BEHIND.

