

Northland Neighborhoods News

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April 2008

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Mission Statement

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.

5th Annual Town Hall Meeting slated for April 23

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. will host its fifth annual Town Hall Meeting April 23, 2008 at 6 p.m. The event will be held at the Doolin Conference Center, NKC Schools Administrative Complex, 1900 NE 46th Street. Mary Jo Burton, president of the NNI Board, Jim Rice, NNI executive director, and Northland Council members will make brief remarks. The highlight of the evening is the presentation of the annual Neighborhood Champion Awards.

The Neighborhood Champion awards are given annually to neighborhood leaders, business people and government officials who have made extraordinary contributions to their communities. According to NNI's Jim Rice, "The Town Hall Meeting gives us an opportunity to acknowledge our City Council members and neighborhood champions who add so much to that special Northland quality of life."

2008 Neighborhood Champions

- Marsha Alexander, University of Missouri Extension
- Carole Bozworth, University of Missouri Extension
- Christina Carroll, KCMO Code Enforcement Officer
- Tom Heleniak, Claybrook Neighborhood
- Pat Kissinger, Grey Oaks Neighborhood
- Roger Neu, Little Village Neighborhood
- Charles St. Clair, University of Missouri Extension
- Wayne St. Vincent, Barry Harbor Neighborhood
- Rosemary Salerno, General Manager, Zona Rosa
- Barbara Sanders, Chaumiere Neighborhood

A night to experience incredible musical talent and a scrumptious dinner in the Intrigue Park Place Hotel. No awards. No presentations. No speeches. No commercials. Just pure fun, for a good cause. The event will support the programs of

Northland Neighborhoods

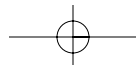
Tickets are \$60.
Tables of ten are \$600.

Call (816) 454-2000
for information.



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Volunteer of the Month

April 2008

Anita McWilliams

Anita McWilliams knows the importance of being a positive influence in her community. With a generous spirit its own reward, she jumps into projects expecting nothing in return. Growing up in a military family, Anita lived in several U.S. communities. The family finally settled in Lee's Summit where she graduated from Lee's Summit High School.

After Anita met her husband Ed, a life-long Northlander, they moved to the Winnwood-Sunnybrook neighborhood in 1983 and raised two children there. Anita has served as Secretary, Vice Presi-

dent and is currently President of the Winnwood-Sunnybrook Neighborhood Association. She is involved in KCMO's Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), the Caring Communities at Eastgate Middle School, and Bridging the Gap's Litter Index. Anita is



also a Public Health Ambassador. She graduated from NNI's EXCEL Leadership Program and is a veteran volunteer at NNI's Safe Trick or Treat Halloween event and the National Night Out Against Crime Kick-Off. In their spare time, Ed and Anita enjoy spending time with their five grandchildren, family and friends. Their favorite pastime is hiking, camping, gardening and flower arranging.

NNI is pleased to name Anita McWilliams as the April Volunteer of the Month.

Senator Bond takes on foreclosure crisis

U.S. Sen. Kit Bond visited Kansas City March 21 to discuss federal responses to the growing foreclosure crisis and the impact on the community and neighborhoods. Bond participated in a panel discussion held at Northland Neighborhoods. Panel members included local leaders and organizations working on the foreclosure issue. "Too many families in Missouri and across America are feeling the pain of the housing crisis, and they need our help now," Bond said in opening the panel discussion.

Bond detailed his housing relief proposal, Security Against Foreclosure and Education (SAFE) Act of 2008 to provide targeted housing relief to families and neighborhoods. NNI and the Local Investment Commission (LINC) will continue the discussion on April 17, 6 p.m. at NNI. For more information call (816) 454-2000. More information about the foreclosure issue can be found on the LINC website.

NNI graduates first neighborhood leader class

The inaugural class of the Northland EXCEL neighborhood leadership program held its graduation ceremony on Thursday, March 6 at the Kansas City Missouri Police Academy. Police Chief James Corwin and NNI Executive

Director Jim Rice spoke to the graduating class.

The EXCEL program was developed by NNI in cooperation with the University Extension and a community advisory committee. Over seven months, the 18 Northland EXCEL participants engaged in 30 hours of training on essential leadership skills

and strategies.

"The March 6 graduation ceremony was a celebration of our time together and an opportunity to recognize the first class of Northland EXCEL," says Jennifer Presberry, community development manager at NNI.

"Developing strong neighborhood leadership is the centerpiece of NNI's mis-

sion. This first class certainly sets a gold standard for future classes," Presberry says.

The next Northland EXCEL class will be formed in fall of 2008. Interested persons should contact Jennifer Presberry at 454-2000 or Jennifer_presberry@nni.org for information.

Neighborhood Clips

Don't forget to vote on April 8

Among several important local issues on the April 8 ballot, Question 1 would authorize continuation for 15 years of a 3/8 cent sales tax to keep ATA buses operating. Thousands of people rely on the bus system each day to get to work, school, the doctor and to meet other important needs. Northland Neighborhoods, Inc., along with dozens of other area organizations, has endorsed continuing this tax.

April senior workshop focuses on personal safety

KCPD Officer Markus Smith will discuss personal safety at the April 9, 9 a.m. Senior Workshop. With warmer weather arriving, open garage doors and windows and even shopping can be hazardous

without proper care and planning. Markus will help you enjoy the outdoor season and remain safe. Also, the Clay County Health Department will do blood pressure checks from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Home Ownership Made Easier (H.O.M.E.) beginning in May

Is home ownership something you **dream** about, but the process sounds like a **nightmare**? Do the words "equity", "escrow," and "variable rates" sound confusing? Then you need to sign up for the three-part **homeownership class** offered by Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. and University of Missouri Extension. No matter where you live or where you *want* to live, this class will prepare you to own a home. Dates for the next series of classes are Wednesday May 7, 14, and 21 at Harrah's

from 6 to 9 p.m. A light dinner will be provided at 5:30 p.m. and the cost is \$25. For more information, call Jennifer Presberry at 816-454-2000.

The Metro North Recycling Center Needs You!

The Metro North Community Recycling Center needs extra volunteers to help provide recycling services to Northland residents. The center accepts approximately 20 items for recycling, including many not accepted through Kansas City's curbside recycling program. Volunteers assist recyclers with their materials and provide important one-on-one education to recyclers. Scheduling is flexible – whatever amount of time you have to give is appreciated! This is a great opportunity for individuals or groups. For more information

about volunteering, please call Bridging The Gap's Volunteer Line at 816-561-1090.

Ravenwood garage sale coming April 26 and 27

Looking for that old chair that can be brought back to glory with a little elbow grease? Or that piece of kitchenware or garden tool you just have to have? Ravenwood's Neighborhood garage sale can satisfy that shopping urge. The spring sale is April 26 and 27, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The shopping quest begins at 59th Terrace and North Brighton.

Save the date for ABOPT

The ABOPT (hazardous materials drop site) date is Saturday June 7, 8 a.m. to Noon at Antioch Mall, east side of the parking lot.



Pictured (left) are graduates of NNI's EXCEL Neighborhood Leadership class front row, left to right: John Gales, Doug Henderson, Pamela Wiltfong, Rochelle Bradley-Gales, Valerie Anderson, Jerry Sargent, Paula Brooks, Anita McWilliams, and special presenter Police Chief James Corwin; back row, left to right: Paul Matsuoka, Dennis Tedford, Jessica Rich, Tanya Finn, EXCEL Facilitator Jennifer Presberry, Julie Hensley, Dianna Wells, Dawn Ray, Elizabeth Clayton, and James Clayton.



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Public Meetings at NNI

April 2008

Wednesday	4/09	Senior Workshop	9:00 a.m.
Tuesday	4/15	1st District Roads Update	8:30 a.m.
Wednesday	4/16	Cop Talk (at NNI this month)	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	4/17	Foreclosures: Community Impact	6:00 p.m.
Monday	4/21	NNI Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	4/23	Town Hall Meeting - Doolin Center	6:00 p.m.
Monday	4/28	Meet Your Councilpersons	6:00 p.m.