



# Northland Neighborhoods News

## Frigid economy sends Northland projects into cold storage

The Northland has struggled with public infrastructure since the annexation days 50 years ago. In recent years, new subdivisions and shopping centers blossomed in the Northland, primarily in the area north of Vivion Road. Much of the public infrastructure has been funded by public-private partnerships in the form of tax increment financing (TIF) projects like Shoal Creek and Chouteau Crossings. Now Northland infrastructure and economic development projects have been struck low by the cold winds of the national and local economic crisis.

The Antioch Mall redevelopment at Vivion and Antioch Roads, already languishing before the economy tanked, has a decidedly deserted look and the hoped-for March 2009 start date is doubtful. The culprit: retailers struggling with the credit crunch. One bright light: The new QuikTrip on Antioch just south of Vivion was activated by the TIF Commission at its December meeting. The project brings life to a deserted property and will produce more than \$500,000 in public improvements over its 23-year time table.

The North Oak TIF, fueled by North Oak Village and the Pour Boys development, is ready for a \$1 million bond issue for infrastructure and neighborhood improvements. The hitch: Despite high interest rates, investors aren't investing.

Chouteau Parkway is nearly "shovel

ready." MODOT has set aside \$20 million for construction, engineers have completed right-of-way plans, and construction drawings are underway. Just one problem: the City hasn't enough money to acquire right-of-way and relocate businesses. Another fallout from the sinking economy and its impact on City revenues.

The badly needed North Brighton reconstruction has languished for several years. The dollars to complete the job are not there, but a portion of the project is included in the Economic Stimulus wish list the City is sending to Washington. That \$788 million list would be a huge boost for Kansas City, but the list falls way short of funding many pressing needs for roads, bridges and water-sewer improvements in the Clay County portion of Kansas City.

It's going to be a long, cold winter.

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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.

### NNI Goes For It!

In 2007, it was NNI Goes Broadway. In 2008, NNI Goes Hollywood. Now, on May 16, 2009, Northland Neighborhoods will pull out all the stops with NNI Goes For It! The "It" is the return of the magnificent voices of Andrea Pope and Angelo Cilia with another great song list AND NNI's first silent auction.



Respecting the difficult economic times, ticket prices have been reduced from \$60 to \$50, not to mention some great buys on hundreds of auction items. Watch for more details in the February issue of Northland Neighborhoods News, but mark your calendars now for a great evening on May 16.

January 2009

## Volunteer of the Month Frank Dillenkoffer

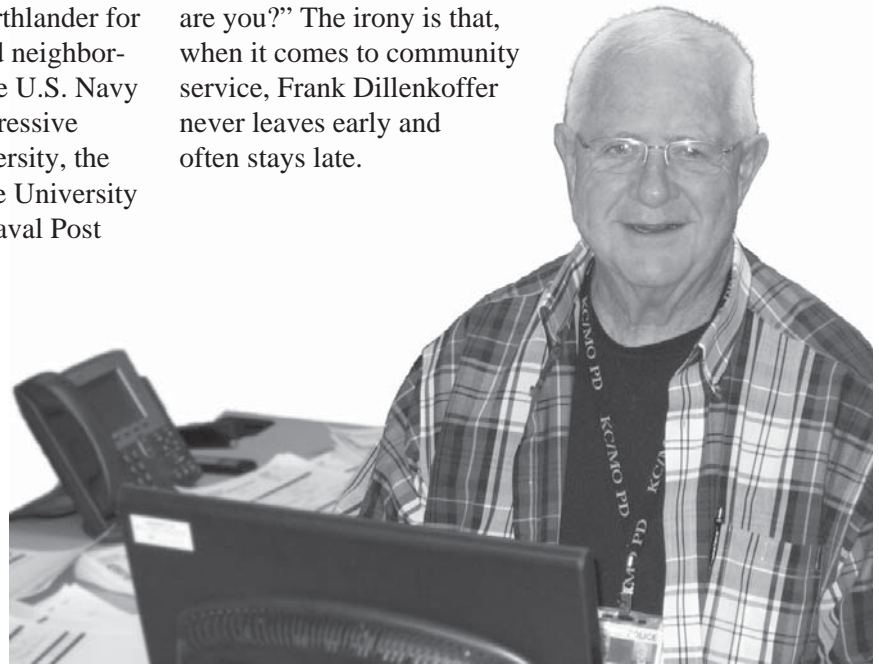
Even after a lifetime of public service, some people never stop giving. Frank Dillenkoffer is one of those people. These days, Frank volunteers at the Shoal Creek Patrol Division as an Auxiliary Officer. Markus Smith, Community Interaction Officer at Shoal Creek, has to remind himself that Frank is not a full-time police employee. "Frank is more than a volunteer. He is part of the team of men and women in blue," Smith says.

A native of New Orleans, Frank has been a Northlander for 15 years. He and his wife live in the Brentwood neighborhood. His long professional resumé includes the U.S. Navy and the National Weather Service. Frank's impressive academic credentials were earned at Park University, the University of Oklahoma, Tulane University, the University of Michigan, the Menninger Foundation, the Naval Post Graduate School, and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

A KCPD volunteer since 2007, Frank says law enforcement runs in the family. His father and great grandfather served in law enforcement and his son Eric is a KCPD officer. Officer Smith describes Frank as a man of great intellect, integrity and humor. "Frank always gets his work done and then looks for more," says Smith. The litany of his work tasks

include reviewing and analyzing daily reports, making follow-up calls to businesses and citizens, helping with home security assessments, problem-solving non-911 calls, and much more.

Frank's humor shines through all the time. As a volunteer, he receives no compensation, but he frequently kids Officer Smith with questions like "You're not going to dock me for leaving early, are you?" The irony is that, when it comes to community service, Frank Dillenkoffer never leaves early and often stays late.



## A footnote to the December issue's Spotlight on Volunteerism

Last month's Spotlight on Volunteerism story ended with an intrepid Bruce Mitchell off on a quest to trade 2 bicycles from the Mitchell household. Reta Jo Mitchell reports that Bruce successfully traded the bikes for winter jackets to donate to Winnetonka High School's Thrift Store. The store gives clothing and school supplies to students. To donate, contact WHS teacher Cathy Coquyt at 413-5500.

### The Mitchell bikes ready for "re-bicycling."



Bruce Mitchell presents the products of his trade to Desiree Evans (center) and Ashley Williams (right) of the Winnetonka Thrift Store.



## Neighborhood Clips

### **NNI to sponsor neighborhood newsletter competition**

NNI Board member and Neighborhood Relations Committee Chair Keith Nelson believes communication is crucial to neighborhood success, and newsletters are a key to good neighborhood communication. Keith and his committee have created a program to recognize great neighborhood newsletters and assist those that may be struggling. This winter, NNI will sponsor free journalism workshops that will give beginning newsletter scribes the fundamentals and help newsletter veterans refresh their skills. Following the workshops, entries will be accepted for "Best Neighborhood Newsletter" awards that will be given at NNI's Annual Breakfast in October 2009. There will be categories for both printed and on-line newsletters. Watch for full details in the February NNI News. For more information now, call Jim Rice or Jennifer Presberry at 454-2000.

### **January senior workshop to focus on stroke risk**

Knowledge is power. So, if you or your loved ones are concerned about the risk of a stroke, beat the odds by learning all that you can. Join Diane Murphy, RN, CCRN, on Wednesday, January 14, 9 a.m. and learn more about risk factors, signs of stroke, and treatment options. Diane is with Saint Luke's Hospital Brain and Stroke Institute. She has advanced credentialing as a Critical Care Registered Nurse (CCRN) and has worked in the neurosurgical intensive care unit at Saint Luke's Hospital for 4 years. During her 23 years as a Registered Nurse, Diane has worked in both ICU and Acute Dialysis settings. In addition to the bedside care Diane provides, she also teaches ICU Renal and Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy classes to clinical staff.

**The Clay County Health Department will provide blood pressure checks immediately after the workshop.**

### **FREE health checks for your child and your home now available**

The Kansas City Safe & Healthy Home Partnership will review your child's health, and the health of your home. The Home environmental assessment includes checking indoor air quality and ventilation, dust and allergen levels, moisture and mold, a household chemical survey, a home maintenance survey, and a home safety check up. You can enroll today by calling 816-235-6331 or contact Yvonne Herrick at NNI, 454-2000 to see if you qualify.

### **Stormwater grants now available**

Applications for Platte County's 2009 Stormwater Grant Program are now available. This program provides funds to help established Home Owner's Associations in Platte County make stormwater related improvements. Applications for the Program can be obtained at [http://www.co.platte.mo.us/county\\_offices\\_departments/planning\\_zoning.html](http://www.co.platte.mo.us/county_offices_departments/planning_zoning.html) or by calling Nate Baldwin, Platte County Engineer, at 816-858-3473. Applications are due by January 30, 2009.

### **NNI food drive ends January 31; items still needed**

Northlanders have once again been generous in contributing to NNI's annual drive to help the St. Benedict Food Pantry at 6600 NE 69 Highway in Pleasant Valley. The pantry is locally operated and serves all persons in need regardless of geographic area. Collection of non-perishable food items (canned and boxed goods) began November 19 and continues through January 31, 2008. Hygiene and baby items are welcome and needed. NNI's goal was to gather 3,000 items by January 31. With your help, NNI can still meet and surpass that goal. For information, contact Janet Shaffer at 454-2000.

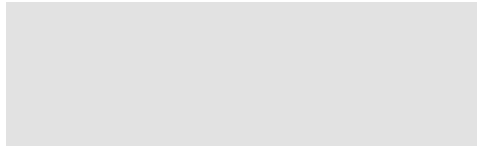
### **NNI seeks qualified low-income home repair contractors**

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. is looking for qualified low-income contractors to do home repair work in the Northland. Qualification proposals from Section 3-eligible contractors are needed in the following categories: Heating and Cooling (HVAC) Systems; Roofing; Windows and Doors; Gutters; Plumbing and Water Heaters; Code Violation Remediation; Siding; Removing Barriers to Access; Weatherization Activities; Lead Testing and Abatement; Flatwork/Concrete; and General Contracting. Please contact Larry Washington or Yvonne Herrick at 816-454-2000 if you are or know a contractor interested in earning money while helping improve the quality of life for individuals and the community.

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## January 2009

### *Public Meetings at NNI*

Monday	1/12	Northland Trails	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	1/14	Senior Workshop	9:00 a.m.
Monday	1/19	Silver Haired City Council	9:00 a.m.
Tuesday	1/20	1st District Roads Update	8:30 a.m.
Tuesday	1/20	Greenhaven Neighborhood Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	1/21	Cop Talk at NNI	6:00 p.m.
Monday	1/26	City Council Transportation/Infrastructure Committee	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	1/27	Neighborhood Roundtable	6:00 p.m.

**Notes:**

The January NNI Board meeting is canceled in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

**The Transportation/Infrastructure meeting will take the place of the January Meet Your Councilperson meeting.**

