



Northland Neighborhoods News

Special Notice: The *monthly* Northland Neighborhoods News is distributed only on the NNI website (www.nni.org). This cost containment measure will remain in effect until economic recovery enables NNI to increase the foundation and corporate grants. The Quarterly edition will continue to be published and distributed in both printed and online formats. We apologize for any inconvenience this causes our readers.

NNI Goes For It! Dinner. Music. Friends. Shopping!

Out of the Great Depression came the unforgettable song, “Happy Days are Here Again.” You may not be ready to sing about happy days just yet, but on May 16 you can take a breather from the current economic doldrums by coming to NNI Goes For It! The fun begins at 6:00 p.m. at the Embassy Suites by KCI, NNI is pulling out all the stops with NNI Goes For It! Returning are 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, individual ticket prices have been reduced from \$60 to \$50, tables of 10 - \$500. Expect to find some great bargains on hundreds of auction items.

Sponsorship opportunities:

Presenting - \$5,000 (Includes table of 10 plus 4 bonus tickets; major recognition in all promotional materials, including Show program; large banner with company logo at the event; mention during the event)

Producer - \$1,500 (Includes a table of 10, recognition in Show program, mention during the event)

Director - \$750 (Includes a table of 10, recognition in Show program)

Star - \$2,500 (Includes a table of 10 plus 2 bonus tickets for the event, recognition in Show program, mention during the event)

Mark your calendars and get your tickets now for a great evening of music, friends and shopping on May 16.

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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.



March 2009

Volunteers of the Month Richard and Joyce Dyer

In many ways, the Dyers are typical salt-of-the-earth Northlanders. They worked for two lifetimes, raised children and finally retired. But they don't believe in just sitting around.

Richard was born in Lake City, Missouri at the height of the Jazz Age. Joyce was born in Warsaw Missouri a year before the stock market crashed and sent America into the Great Depression. Richard spent 4 years in the Navy during World War II. He

and Joyce were married in May 1947 and came to Kansas City to begin their post-war life. Moving north of the river in 1955, Richard worked at a local lumber company for 27 years and then as a maintenance man for 9 years before retiring. Joyce worked at National Bellas Hess and Quincy Research Center.

The Dyers have 2 sons, 4 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren, but still find time for hobbies. Joyce is involved in TOPS

Club and loves to crochet. Richard enjoys yard work in the summer and surfs his computer daily. They are regular attendees at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, where they are involved with a variety of activities. To top it off, Richard and Joyce are regular members of the newsletter mailing team at NNI. Their love of volunteering springs from their desire to give back to the community. It also brings them new friendships and keeps them in the know about what is going on in the Northland.



Neighborhood Clips

Sign up now for neighborhood newsletter training

This Spring, NNI will sponsor free journalism workshops to give beginning newsletter scribes the fundamentals, and help veteran editors 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 more details in the April NNI News. To sign up for the workshops, call Jim Rice or Janet Shaffer at 454-2000.



March senior workshop: aging with purpose and joy

Don't miss the March 11, 9 – 10:30 a.m. senior workshop with guest speakers Bill Wasserman, MSW, Humorist; and Sally King, LCSW, Older Adult Care Coordinator, Tri-County Mental Health Services, Inc.

Bill Wasserman began his college career at age 56, earning both bachelors and masters degrees in social work. Born in Saint Joseph and raised in Kansas City, Bill lived for thirty years in California building and managing successful fine jewelry stores. He and his wife Pauline returned to Kansas City in 2000 to care for Bills's aging parents. As he supported his mother through the latter stages of Alzheimer's, Bill drew comfort from contemplation and learning to redirect his thinking, eventually opening new doors for personal growth and experiencing increasing joy and purpose in the lives of others. He currently works at Tri-County Mental Health leading educational groups and speaking on older adult mental wellness.

Licensed clinical social worker Sally King is Older Adult Care Coordinator at Tri-County Mental Health Services, serving Clay, Platte, and Ray counties. Her role is to advocate for increased awareness of older-adult depression, train volunteers and professionals in the myths and truths of this depression, address treatment issues and barriers for this population, and link older adults to appropriate services.

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.

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.

Live Like Your Life Depends on It!

Nobody wants to have a chronic health problem. But, most of us will experience a chronic illness during our lifetime. [Live Like Your Life Depends on It](#) is a 6-week course on chronic illness and healthy ways to live life fully. Developed by Stanford University Department of Medicine, the course focuses on pain management, exercise, nutrition, medication usage, stress management, assessing health information and working with your doctor. The class is taught by trained facilitators from University of Missouri Extension and the Regional Arthritis Center and will meet 6 weeks on Thursdays, 9 – 11:30 a.m., March 12 to April 16, 2009 at NNI. Each session will end with a light lunch.

Pre-registration is required but the class is free. Call 816-454-2000 to register. Funding provided by Clay County Senior Services.



Spotlight on Volunteerism By Reta Jo Mitchell

Beyond the ABCs

As a NKC School District volunteer, I've seen its amazing array of services and programs beyond the traditional classroom. Through these special offerings, our district's dedicated professionals and thousands of volunteers take to heart the oft-repeated precept that "it takes a village to raise a child."

At a recent Parents As Teachers (PAT) meeting, I watched Moms and Dads exploring developmental stages with their children. Madison Cleveland, aged two, and her Mom carved out Playdough "animal cookies" while 19-months-old Gavyn Vieth shared bowling and other skills with little friends. Gavyn, I learned from his parents, is also "in-training" to become a big

brother soon.

PAT, now worldwide, was the realized dream of Senator Kit Bond while he was Missouri's governor. It serves 1,538 families in our district alone, from children's prenatal stage to age five. Parents are guided in everything from a learning curriculum to health checks, including in-home visits. PAT's guiding principle is a clarion truth: "Babies are born to learn, and you (parents) are already your child's first and most influential teacher."

The district's early childhood courses include Special Education Preschool and Achievement Plus, an in-school program for four-year-olds. At Winwood Elementary, I have observed

preschoolers learning everything from good manners to the alphabet.

As a one-time working Mom, I would have welcomed the Adventure Club, a fee-based program to provide a "safe and enjoyable environment" before and after school and in the summer, for elementary school children. Activities range from crafts and science projects to field trips in the company of staff and volunteers.

For over a decade, YouthFriends have gone into our schools as lunch buddies, playground pals or tutors. A common sight in the halls is a child and a grayhaired volunteer bent over a book together. (What pleasure compares to the unexpected encounter, hug included, with a former little Youth-Friend student now in college?)

The volunteer WatchDOGS program (Dads of Great Students) brings valuable male role models into our schools on the playground, in the lunchroom, and in the halls or libraries as reading chums.

The district's SAGE (Students in Academically Gifted Education) identifies gifted students and provides them with advanced learning experiences in critical thinking, problem solving, research, writing and mathematical skills.

My husband Bruce and I are volunteer speakers in the district's Living History program. In the SAGE classrooms



Parents as Teachers gather in the "classroom" with their kids.

we demonstrate environmental issues like recycling, wherein students study our scientific, plastics names' list, then dig into our recycling bin to identify the plastic items and products made from them. (For example, plastic pop bottles that became my Polartec fleece jacket.)

The Living History program provides volunteer speakers with many unique experiences and areas of expertise, designed to augment classroom study units.

In our high schools, students in Missouri's A+ program maintain good grades in serious academics while also serving as volunteer tutors to younger students. For this, they receive college or trade school tuition help. The 21st Century Learning program allows high schoolers to explore important careers, including on-site visits. Today, some are now learning about biomedical careers at the Cerner Corporation.

Every student matters here, so our district has a program to help teen parents with child care, parent education and pre-vocational skills while pursuing their high school diplomas. The district is also mindful of the needs of those adults seeking a G.E.D., reading tutoring or help in learning English as a second language. Volunteers are essential in these tutoring programs.

To learn about any of these programs or services, or to volunteer, just call the NKCS D at 413-5000, and you will be appropriately directed.

P.S. To the little boy so passionate to learn to read, not to worry. In school districts like ours YOU are the first priority.



FIRST DAY

Know what? Some of the Mommies cried.
I worried: would my shoes stay tied.
We took a nap and had red juice,
And after a while we got turned loose
outside to holler and run.
The jungle gym was my most fun.
But that preschool's not what I need,
I'm "desprut" to get teached to read!

Photo, courtesy of Harvey Finkle from his book: Readers: A Book of Postcards. Pomegranate Art Books

Perspectives

By Jim Rice, NNI Chief Executive Officer

It IS easy being green (with just a bit of effort)

Green is good these days, more than ever. Going green can help both the environment and the economy. Increasing your disposable income by making energy-saving improvements around the house can enable you to make other needed and desirable purchases that, in our own small way, stimulate the economy.

NNI tries to do its part. Our annual ABOPT pick-up (anti-freeze, batteries, oil, paint and tires) helps residents deal safely with hazardous household wastes. ABOPT returns on Saturday, May 2 at Antioch Mall. We help with

neighborhood cleanups. And, our home repair programs place a priority on energy-efficient projects and materials. Of course, we also recycle office paper and plastics. But, we all could probably do more. Sometimes, it is difficult to find our way through the maze of recycling procedures. Once again, that stalwart environmental champion Reta Jo Mitchell (see her column on page 4 and 5) has come through with the "Recycling Update" below. And, once again, we are indebted to Reta Jo for her diligence and caring.

Acceptable

Newspaper
Advertising Inserts
Office Paper
Chipboard
Telephone Books
#2 HDPE Plastic Containers
Yogurt or Margarine Tubs
Envelopes
Manila File Folders
Junk Mail
#1 PET Plastic Containers
Magazines
#3 – 7 Plastics EXCEPT Styrofoam
Catalogs
Aluminum Cans
Corrugated Cartons
Steel (tin) Food and Beverage Cans
Carrier Stock
Deli or Salad Bar "Clamshells"

Not Acceptable

Automotive Product Bottles
Blueprints
Carbon Paper
Construction Paper
Drink Pouches
Egg Cartons
Film Canisters
Foil
Frozen Food Containers
Styrofoam
Gift Wrap
Hanging Folders
Hardback Books
Microwave Trays
Paper Plates or Cups
Paper Towels
Paperback Books
Photographs
Plastic Bags
Plastic Cereal Box Liners
Plastic Lids or 6 pack rings
Scrap Metal
Shredder Paper
Tissue Paper
Trash
Vitamin/Prescription Bottles
Wax Cardboard
Frozen Juice Containers

Reta Jo offers some additional helpful tips:

- Rinse items. When in doubt, leave it out.
- Metro North Drop-off Center takes all acceptable items listed as well as glass, toner and ink cartridges, and most paper products.
- Some grocery stores take plastic sacks. Ask yours!
- For hazardous materials and used oil: Call Deramus Center at 784-2080.
- To volunteer at Metro North, phone 561-1090 or visit the center.
- For additional information, call Deffenbaugh at 913-631-3300.

NNI Public Meetings and Events March – May 2009

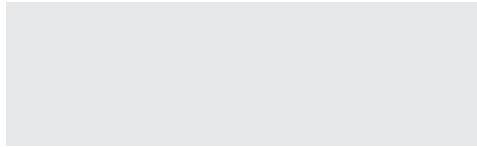
Saturday	3/07	KC Budget Hearing at NNI	10:00 a.m. to Noon
Wednesday	3/11	Senior Workshop	9:00 a.m.
Friday	3/13	Keep KC Beautiful Training	11:00 a.m.
Monday	3/16	NNI Board Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	3/17	1 st District Roads Update	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday	3/17	Greenhaven Neighborhood Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	3/18	Cop Talk at NNI	6:00 p.m.
Monday	3/23	Meet Your Councilpersons	6:00 p.m.
Saturday	3/28	Keep KC Beautiful Training	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday	3/31	Neighborhood Roundtable	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	4/08	Senior Workshop	9:00 a.m.
Wednesday	4/15	Cop Talk at NNI	6:00 p.m.
Monday	4/20	NNI Board Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	4/21	1 st District Roads Update	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday	4/21	Greenhaven Neighborhood Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	4/22	NNI Town Hall Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Monday	4/27	Meet Your Councilpersons	6:00 p.m.
Saturday	5/02	ABOPT at Antioch Center Mall	8:00 a.m.
Wednesday	5/13	Senior Workshop	9:00 a.m.
Saturday	5/16	NNI Goes For It! at Embassy Suites	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	5/19	1 st District Roads Update	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday	5/19	Greenhaven Neighborhood Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	5/20	Cop Talk at NNI	6:00 p.m.
Monday	5/25	Meet Your Councilpersons	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	5/26	Neighborhood Roundtable	6:00 p.m.

Be sure to check out the calendar at www.nni.org
for the most up-to-date information.

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Sixth Annual Town Hall Meeting slated for April 22

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. will host its sixth annual Town Hall Meeting April 22, 2009 at 6 p.m. at NNI, 3015 NE Vivion Road. After brief remarks by the NNI chief executive officer and Northland Council members, the evening will conclude with presentation of the annual Neighborhood Champion Awards.

The 2009 Neighborhood Champion Awardees:

Deletta Dean, KCMO Neighborhood and Community Services Department
Karen Dolt, Northland Health Care Access
Lillian Gage
Dan Hemry, Chaumiere Neighborhood
Kevin Kooi, Crestview Elementary School
Sheila Lillis, Gladstone Parks and Recreation Department
Trish Martin, Shoalbrook II Neighborhood
Brook Robinson, Target
Cindy Weber, Synergy Real Estate Group

The Neighborhood Champion awards are given annually to neighborhood leaders, business people and government officials who have made extraordinary contributions to their communities.

