



Northland Neighborhoods News

NNI Annual Meeting set for June 22; Board election, year-end report top agenda

Certified NNI member organizations will meet at Northland Neighborhoods June 22 to elect Board members and get an update on NNI’s journey through the recession year of 2009. Each NNI Member neighborhood association has one vote. Neighborhood leaders should check the listing of current certified members on pages 2-3 to be sure they are eligible to vote.

The 2009-2010 slate of Board member candidates:

Open Seats

Dave Dunlop, Woodbrooke II Neighborhood; Dennis Tedford, Cooley Highlands Neighborhood

Second Term

Dan Fowler, Coves North Neighborhood

First Full Term

Dick Davis, Brookhill Neighborhood; Richard King, Highland Gardens Neighborhood

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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!

“NNI Goes For It!” lived up to its name on May 16 at the Embassy Suites-KCI. The evening marked the third year in the “NNI Goes” series featuring dinner and the music of Andrea Pope and Angelo Cilia. A silent auction, added to the event for the first time, earned high grades from auction aficionados and yielded more than \$8,000 in revenue. That helped shore up receipts from sponsorships and ticket sales, which were down slightly due to the struggling economy. Approximately 350 people attended.

NNI CEO Jim Rice praised Auction Chair ElizaBeth Clayton, her committee and NNI staff for

their hard work and creativity in making the auction a stand-out—even among veteran auction-goers. American Airlines was recognized for contributing the most expensive auction item, airline tickets worth \$1,600. Presenting sponsor for the third year in a row was North Kansas City Hospital. “We are very grateful to North Kansas City Hospital, to all the other generous sponsors and to the more than 100 businesses that contributed auction items,” Rice said.



Public improvements committee sets hearing dates

The Public Improvements Advisory Committee (PIAC) has scheduled district and city-wide hearings to take testimony from individuals and groups concerning needed public improvements. The PIAC will use information gathered through the hearings to recommend projects for funding to the Council for Year Twenty-Seven (Fiscal Year 2010-11) of the one-cent sales tax for public improvements.

In addition to coming to the hearings, citizens also can tell the PIAC about needed public improvements by completing a request form. These forms will be available at the hearings or are available from the Capital Improvements Program. For more information, please call Rose A. Rhodes at 513-1322.

In-District Hearings

District 1

Tuesday, June 2

Kansas City North Community Center
3830 NE Antioch Road
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Tuesday, June 16

Old Northeast
6612 Independence Avenue
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

District 2

Wednesday, July 15

Park Hill Community Ed Center
7703 NW Barry Road
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

Northland Cathedral
101 NW 99th Street
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

City-wide Hearings

Friday, August 14

Committee Room, 10th Floor
City Hall, 414 E. 12th Street
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Tuesday, August 18

Northland Cathedral
101 NW 99th Street
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Wednesday, August 19

The Gem Theatre
1616 E. 18th Street
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Thursday, August 20, 2009

Hillcrest Community Center
10401 Hillcrest Road
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

(Council Districts 1 and 2 include all of the Northland and portions of downtown and Northeast Kansas City).

Certified Members of NNI as of 4/29/2009

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 1. | 40-46 North Neighborhood and Crime Watch | 22. | Claybrook Homes Association |
| 2. | Auburn Hills Homes Association | 23. | Claymont Homeowners Association |
| 3. | Barrington Ridge Homeowners Association | 24. | Claymont North Homeowners Association |
| 4. | Barry Harbor/Hunter's Ridge HA | 25. | Colonial Square Homes Association |
| 5. | Barry Heights Homes Association | 26. | Cooley Highlands Neighborhood Association |
| 6. | Bolling Heights Community Link | 27. | Copperleaf Homes Association |
| 7. | BridgePointe Homes Association | 28. | Communities of North Brook |
| 8. | Briarcliff West Homes Association | 29. | Country Club Neighborhood Association |
| 9. | Brittany Oaks Homeowners Association | 30. | Country Downs Homes Association |
| 10. | Brooke Meadows Homes Association | 31. | Coves North Homeowners Association |
| 11. | Brookhill Homes Association | 32. | Crestview Homes Association #1 |
| 12. | Brooke Ridge Homes Association | 33. | Embassy Park Homeowners Association |
| 13. | Brooktree Homes Association | 34. | Essex Court Homes Association |
| 14. | Carriage Commons Townhomes Association | 35. | Evanston Place Neighborhood Group |
| 15. | Carriage Hills Estates HOA | 36. | Fox Woods Neighborhood Association |
| 16. | Carriage Hills Plats 7, 8, 9 | 37. | Gracemor-Randolph Neighborhood Council |
| 17. | Cedar Ridge Homes Association | 38. | Green Meadows Neighborhood Association |
| 18. | Chapel Wood Homes Association | 39. | Greenhaven Neighborhood Association |
| 19. | Charleston Harbor Homes Association, Inc. | 40. | Grey Oaks Homes Association |
| 20. | Chaumiere Neighborhood Association | 41. | Hidden Lakes Neighborhood Association |
| 21. | Chouteau Estates Neighborhood Association | 42. | Highland Acres Lakeside Heights HA |

June 2009 Volunteer Recognition

Erin Kinghorn

Reta Jo Mitchell, our regular columnist who turns her illuminating spotlight on volunteerism in the quarterly edition of “Northland Neighborhood News,” often reminds us of the volunteer exploits of Northland young people. Erin Kinghorn is a prime example.

Erin, age 15 and a student at North Kansas City High School, was born at North Kansas City Hospital and has lived in the Northland all her life and in the Chaumiere neighborhood since she was 3. She has volunteered at Synergy Safe House and helped at NNI’s Safe Trick or Treat Halloween event. She’s also a secretary intern, a job that gives her the opportunity to write, interact with people and build her resume.

“I like volunteering because it allows me to hang out with members of my community. It’s a way to be helpful and have fun doing it,” Erin says.

Erin, who is working toward the International Baccalaureate program in the NKC School District, currently has a 3.86 grade point average. And, while her volunteering is from the heart, she also knows the volunteer work is building experience and creating great references and relationships. Her hobbies include training therapy dogs and dancing (hip hop, ballet, and jazz). To top off her already loaded schedule, this high-energy 15-year-old also plays the French horn and the e-flat mellophone (a trumpet-like French horn used in marching bands). Three cheers for Erin Kinghorn. NNI depends on volunteers like her.



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- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 43. Highland Gardens Neighborhood Association 44. Hills of Montecaire Homeowners Association 45. Hills of Rockcreek Neighborhood Association 46. Hills of Walden Homes Association 47. Holiday Hills North NAInc. 48. Linden Neighborhood Connection 49. Little Village Neighborhood Association 50. Maple Woods Estates HOA 51. Meadow Lane Homes Association 52. Misty Woods Neighborhood Association 53. New Mark First Pool Homes Association 54. North Bennington Neighborhood Association 55. Northridge Neighbors Group 56. Oak Park Manor Neighborhood Association 57. Old Maple Park Neighborhood Association 58. Patterson Highlands Neighborhood Association 59. Pine Crest Homes Association 60. Pine Grove Homes Association 61. Pine Lake Homes Association 62. Prather Hills Neighborhood Association 63. Ravenwood Summerset NA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 64. Rosemont Homes Association 65. Searcy Creek Parkway NA 66. Sherwood Estates Homes Association 67. Shoal Brook II Neighborhood Association 68. South Oakwood Homes Association 69. Staley Farms Homes Association 70. Stone Ridge Townhomes 71. Strathbury Woods Homes Association 72. Sunset Dixon Neighborhood Association 73. Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association 74. Timber Park Homeowners Association 75. Valley Brooke Neighborhood Association 76. Vrooman Acres Neighborhood Association 77. Walnut Ridge Estates Homes Association 78. Winnwood Sunnybrook NA |
|---|---|
- NA=Neighborhood Association
HA=Homes Association
HOA=Homeowners Association



Spotlight on Volunteerism By Reta Jo Mitchell

The Great Depression and Today's Kids

As volunteer speakers in the North Kansas City School District's Living History program, my husband Bruce and I recently spoke about our experiences in the "Old Days" to 4th and 5th graders in Gracemor teacher Kathy Payne's gifted students classes (SAGE). The kids were keenly interested in this journey back to the 1930s, especially to the Great Depression that marked our tender years.

As Bruce described the dollar-a-day wages, if you were lucky enough to have a job, I wondered: is this ancient history or are these children feeling something of the unease, even the deprivation, of today's economic recession?

Bruce told of school life in the '30s, including trudging there and back barefoot to save his shoe leather. I saw grimaces when he described what went into his lunch bucket—perhaps a slice of leftover meat loaf or a fried egg sandwich.

I explained how my mother helped start my school's free lunch program in the late 1930s. Those simple servings of beans and cornbread or macaroni with tomatoes meant teachers no longer brought peanut butter and bread for their students who had brought nothing.

I showed the kids a picture of girls wearing dresses sewn from used feed sacks. (Perhaps today's version is garage sale shopping or hand-me-

downs.) A photograph of my little sister's third grade class was startling because there were 45 students in that single room. Schools then were short of money because many folks simply could not pay their property taxes, the sole source of funding.

Our discussion of a time without food stamps or unemployment insurance, medical insurance and preventatives like the polio vaccine, seemed quite alarming to our listeners. So Bruce and I decided simultaneously to lighten up a bit.

He told of the time he got into a car with two men who turned out to be

escaped bank robbers. And, of the two paddlings he received for accepting a ride with strangers. I told of my great popularity at school because I could take classmates to the doctor's office where my aunt, the nurse, let us see a real honest-to-goodness skeleton.

A mother, visiting in one class we addressed, shared a passed-along family memory of the boy just fed up with having to gather all the eggs. "Okay," he grumbled, "tell me where the pigs lay the bacon, and I'll gather that too!"

A few days later, some of the students sent us notes of reaction that we found



An early photo of the Barnes School in the Winnwood neighborhood depicts the entire student population.

quite moving. Wrote one boy: “I believe they had happy points and bad points about the hardships of the 1930s.” He added that “today we need to help and maybe, just maybe, we can get a better life from our bad thing.”

One girl wrote that “even though we are going through tough times right now, imagine life without the technology of today.”

We recently watched an ABC “20/20” program that included interviews with teenagers whose families had lost jobs, homes, everything. Yet, remarkably, one of those hurting youngsters quietly reminded: “After a storm, the sun comes out.”

During those long ago, dark Depression days, there seemed to be one guiding principle. It was simply that problems should be kept away from children if at all possible. Perhaps it helped that nearly all of our families and friends were in the same boat.

Once in the 1960s, my friend Lessie and I were delivering a gift of food staples to a needy family. Remarked my friend, who grew up as one of 12 children: “You know, I was a deprived child and I didn’t even know it.”

Today, children do indeed seem to “know it.” Inevitably, they are hearing snatches of these bad economic times in family talk and on the nightly news. Explaining what they need to know without frightening them is no easy task.

Let us hope that, in spite of today’s uncertainty and troubles, our young children can be permitted to experience the pleasures and the wonder of their tender years.

Note: *the North Kansas City School District’s Living History program began in 2001. Since then, its 45 volunteer speakers have given over 1,000 classroom presentations in which they shared their knowledge and experience in subjects relating directly to classroom units (history, science, lifeways, and the arts). The Fall list of topics will be available soon from the program coordinator, Diana Duffy.*



A 1930s vintage photo of Barnes School reveals how kids stayed happy even amid the hardships of the Great Depression

Neighborhood Clips

Night Out Against Crime encores August 1

Come to Gladstone's Oak Grove Park Saturday, August 1, 5 to 8:30 p.m. for fun, food, and loads of crime prevention information and displays. NNI and area law enforcement agencies will again prove that fun, families and crime prevention **do** mix. Call Janet Shaffer at 454-2000 for more information.



A scene from last year's
Night Out Against Crime

June senior workshop focuses on common sense discussion of vital issues

Don't miss the June 10, 9 a.m. senior workshop. Sandra Silva, Executive Director of the Alliance on Aging (formerly Foundation on Aging) will offer practical advice on how to talk through difficult issues. Her topic: "Talk Early, Talk Often."

We all know that all conversations are not the same. Some are easy and flow easily (Can you believe the Royals won/lost again?). Some are just plain tough; tough to start, tough to continue and sometimes even tough to end. Among the "tough" topics are those around aging parents as they consider health issues, housing needs and the care they begin to require. It is so easy for parents and children to delay initiating these conversations and even easier to agree with them when they say, "We don't need to talk about **that** yet!"

When we delay, we end up entangled in confusing and intense conversations in hospital hallways after there has been a broken hip, a stroke or some kind of unexpected diagnosis. The time for considered and reflective conversation has been lost and decisions are reactive and driven by circumstance.

What's the alternative? **Talk Early and Talk Often!** Ms. Silva will share information and anecdotes that will shed light on the dynamics of these "tough" discussions.

FREE health checks for your child and your home now available

The Kansas City Safe and 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.

NNI seeks qualified low-income home repair contractors

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. needs qualified low-income contractors to do home repair work including: 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 at 816-454-2000 for more information.

ABOPT again yields massive drop-off of the nasty stuff

The 2009 ABOPT (antifreeze, batteries, oil, paint and tires) on May 2 produced 40,320 pounds of household hazardous waste dropped off by 363 vehicles. In addition 281 tires and nearly 4 tons of leaves and brush were dropped off at the Antioch Mall parking lot. Metal recycling and paper shredding were also available on the Mall site.

NNI garners Zona Rosa "Change for Charity" award

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. has been selected as a 2009 "Change for Charity" recipient by the Zona Rosa Community Foundation. Just 6 organizations are designated each year to receive a portion of the proceeds from the parking meters at Zona Rosa, the popular Northland mixed-use shopping, dining and entertainment venue. As a recipient, NNI will be featured for 2 months at Zona Rosa and afforded opportunities to include its message in Zona Rosa customer newsletters, displays and LCD screens.

Perspectives

By Jim Rice, NNI Chief Executive Officer

Briarcliff-Winnwood: a plan of the people, by the people and for the people

Yes, it's a headline that borrows pretentiously from the immortal words of Abe Lincoln. But the Briarcliff-Winnwood Area Plan, 10 months in the making, was crafted from the get-go by earnest Northland residents and business people working with talented City staff and their consultants. They all cared enough about their community to spend endless hours at meetings and work sessions hammering out the principles and details of a new vision for a vast segment of the Northland. Bounded by Gladstone and Pleasant Valley Road on the north, NKC and M-210 on the south, I-435 on the east, and the city limits of Kansas City on the west, it is among the largest area plans undertaken by the City in recent years.

The plan area encompasses some of the Northland's most affluent and most distressed neighborhoods; an expansive but aging network of freeways, arterials, and parkways; thriving commercial enclaves and shopping centers at the end of their economic life; and people, young and old and increasingly diverse in their cultures and national origins.

On May 19, the plan cleared the first leg of its journey toward adoption by the City Council when it was unanimously and enthusiastically approved by the City Plan Commission. Testifying at the Commission meeting, Steering Committee Co-Chairs Carol Meierotto of Meierotto's Midwest Jewelry and Keith Nelson of the North Bennington Neighborhood told the Commission that the plan was ambitious because of the pent-up needs of the area, but doable because it was infused by the experience and common sense of the ordinary people who fashioned it. The plan has 6 primary recommendations:

- Serve as a vision and framework for long-range policy decisions on land use, urban design, neighborhoods, housing, transportation, infrastructure and public services
- Promote economic growth and target incentives
- Limit environmental impact on local ecosystems
- Promote stable neighborhoods with a range of housing types and values
- Create a citizen-based approach to implementing the Plan

The last recommendation is the lynchpin for success. Plans are never the cure-all for the ills and deficiencies of a community, and they certainly do not guarantee the all-important element of adequate funding for public and private improvements. But they do provide the roadmap and the milestones to get us to the end of the journey. Let the journey begin.

Neighborhood garage sales continue in June

June 4,5,6: Barry Harbor-Hunter's Ridge Neighborhood, NW Barry Road and Platte Purchase Road, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

June 5, 6: Brittany Oaks Neighborhood, Barry - Mace and Nodaway, 8 a.m.

June 12, 13: Charletson Harbor Neighborhood, N. Brighton and Pleasant Valley Road, 8 a.m.

June 13: Little Village Neighborhood, Vivion Road and NE Davidson or North Troost and Davidson, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

June 13: Chaumiere Neighborhood, Parvin Rd - I-35 - Antioch Rd. - Chouteau Trfwy, 8 a.m.

June 19, 20: Grey Oaks Homes Association, 79th Terr. amd N. Oak, 8 a.m.

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.
3015 Vivion Road
Kansas City, MO 64116

Phone: (816) 454-2000
Fax: (816) 454-1747
E-mail: infolni@nni.org
org
Web: nni.org

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NNI Public Meetings and Events

| | | | |
|-----------|------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Wednesday | 6/10 | Senior Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Tuesday | 6/16 | 1 st District Roads Update | 8:30 a.m. |
| Tuesday | 6/16 | Greenhaven Neighborhood Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 6/17 | Cop Talk at NNI | 6:30 p.m. |
| Monday | 6/22 | Meet Your Councilpersons CANCELLED | |
| Monday | 6/22 | NNI Annual Meeting at NNI | 6:00 p.m. |
| Monday | 6/22 | NNI Board Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| Thursday | 6/25 | EXCEL Graduation | 5:00 p.m. |
| Friday | 7/04 | Independence Day OFFICE CLOSED | |
| Wednesday | 7/08 | Senior Workshop | 9:00 a.m. |
| Wednesday | 7/15 | Cop Talk | 6:30 p.m. |
| Monday | 7/20 | NNI Board Meeting | 6:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday | 7/21 | 1 st District Roads Update | 8:30 a.m. |
| Tuesday | 7/21 | Greenhaven Neighborhood Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| Monday | 7/27 | Meet Your Councilpersons | 6:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | 8/01 | Night Out Against Crime | 5:00 p.m. |