



# Northland Neighborhoods News

As a cost-containment measure, the *monthly* Northland Neighborhoods News is distributed only on the NNI Website ([www.nni.org](http://www.nni.org)). 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.

## Annual Awards Breakfast slated for October 16, 2009

NNI's October 16 breakfast will spotlight Northlanders who have made—and continue to make—extraordinary contributions to the community. The 2009 Larry McManus Good Neighbor Award recipient is neighborhood and school volunteer Terri Wolfe; the Ruthanne Harper Public Service award recipients are Platte and Clay County Presiding Commissioners Betty Knight and Ed Quick. The Jay Dillingham Lifetime Achievement honoree is Ray Brock, long time civic leader and Chairman of Curry Investment Company. New this year are the Reta Jo Mitchell awards for Best Neighborhood Newsletter and Best Neighborhood Newsletter Article. The breakfast buffet begins at 7:30 a.m. at the Intrigue Park Place Hotel, 1601 N. Universal Avenue in Kansas City, and the entire program will end promptly at 9 a.m. Tickets are affordably priced at \$25 per person, \$250 per table of 10. Sponsorships are available at \$2,500, \$1,000, \$500 and \$300 levels. All sponsorships include a table of 10 and special program recognition. All contributions are tax-deductible.

NNI Board President Kevin Masters says the event is “an opportunity for neighborhood, business and government people to join in celebrating Northlanders who have made extraordinary contributions to the Northland and to the community at-large.” Masters says proceeds from the event will help NNI maintain its public service programs and continue its comprehensive services to Northland neighborhood organizations and residents. For more information, call Northland Neighborhoods at 816-454-2000.



### In this issue

YouthWorks .....	2
Newsletter training .....	2
Volunteer Recognition .....	3
Spotlight on Volunteerism ..	4-5
Neighborhood Clips .....	6
Night Out.....	7
Calendar of events.....	8

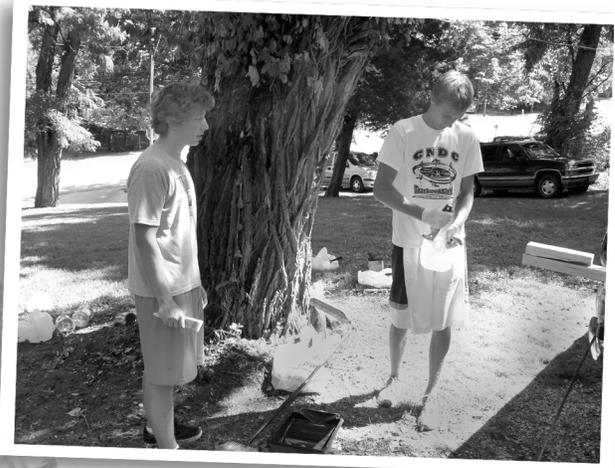
### Mission Statement

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.

### 2010 EXCEL leadership class forming

Enrollment for the 2010 EXCEL Neighborhood Leadership Program is now open. Class sessions will run from January to June 2010. Class size will be limited to 15, so interested persons should obtain an application now by contacting NNI at 454-2000. This will be the third year for the EXCEL program. Graduates of EXCEL praise the program for its quality and usefulness. The intense course equips participants with knowledge, skills and experiences that enable them to lead their neighborhoods to success.

## YouthWorks in the Northland



### Newsletter training seminar to encore

**W**atch for notice of NNI's second Newsletter Writing and Editing seminar. The seminar, conducted by Park University Journalism Professor John Lofflin, was a smash hit last April, with 40 persons attending and more on a waiting list. A huge majority of respondents to a participant survey said they found the seminar interesting, fun, and very helpful. Neighborhood newsletters are critical components of neighborhood communication, but editors are often frustrated by the lack of basic journalistic skills. The Lofflin seminar is an enjoyable way to learn these basics or refresh long-forgotten high school and college courses. The popular seminar will be held at NNI on two evenings in October.

**This summer 130 young people fanned out across the city to work with children and seniors, paint homes, clean up yards and sort food at pantries. YouthWorks' purpose is to provide life-changing, faith-centered youth mission opportunities.**

## September Volunteer Recognition

### Louis & Ometa Kadera

If anyone doubts how immigration has enriched America, keep reading. Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Fabian and Agnes Kadera migrated to the United States from Czechoslovakia. Their families somehow landed in the Midwest, where Fabian and Agnes met, married, and settled in Britt, Iowa. There, in 1927, the first of 3 sons, Louis, was born. One son died in infancy. One son served in the Marines in World War II and later worked for the State Department. Louis served in the Navy in World War II and the Korean War, and worked until retirement at Sears.

Louis finished high school in 1944 and came to Kansas City to go to Central Radio and Television School. He met Ometa Siegelin who—lucky for the Northland—convinced Louis to stay in Kansas City. Married in 1948, the Kaderas produced a son John, who lives in Iowa and daughter Paula Kadera Boyle, who lives in the Little Village neighborhood.

Ometa Kadera was born in Rockville, Indiana in 1928, but moved with her parents to Kansas City in 1929. She graduated from Westport High School in 1945 and worked for the Army Corps of Engineers and Panhandle Eastern Pipeline as secretary. She was later a secretary for the North Kansas City School District. Louis, after retiring from Sears, became a bus driver for the school district. “I had the best route in the district: the special needs children,” Louis says proudly. He also was a bus driver trainer for the district.

In the post-war years, Louis and Ometa moved to a small house on

Pursell Road where they helped form the City of Gladstone. Louis began a 30-year stint as a scoutmaster and, in the mid-1990s, Louis and Ometa helped establish the hugely successful mentoring movement called YouthFriends for North Kansas City School District. The Kadera YouthFriends team served North Kansas City High School, Antioch Middle School and Oak Park High School, helping students with math, reading, or whatever the teacher wanted them to do, which sometimes included acting as chaperones on field trips.

When the Kaderas became senior citizens a few years ago, they focused their YouthFriends activity on Oak Park High School. For the Kaderas, the “friends” part of YouthFriends persisted past the youth stage. One of their students got married and the Kaderas went to the wedding. When the couple had a baby of their own, the Kaderas found themselves in the babysitting mode on occasion. Another of their students passed

away and Louis took on the sad duty of pallbearer. Many new friendships grew from the YouthFriends experience.

Louis and Ometa are also active with the VFW and spend many hours volunteering there. Ometa takes the products of her craft work to hospitalized veterans. Louis is Past Commander of Gladstone VFW Post 10906 and Ometa is Past President of the Ladies Auxiliary. Louis is also part of a team that assists with military funerals. He has assisted at more than one thousand. The Kaderas are modest about their tireless efforts in the service of others. “Volunteering makes a person feel good. Helping others is a privilege. The friends we have made mean so much to us. We will continue to volunteer as long as our health lets us. But we are now 81 and 82, so who knows how long that will be.” Whether that time is 5 years or 25 years, the Kaderas have already set a gold standard for volunteering that will last for a long, long time.





## Spotlight on Volunteerism By Reta Jo Mitchell

### YouthFriends is a Two-Way Street

Nearly 40 years ago, 11-year-old Gary often pedaled over from his nearby home to play with my son Russ. But he often came when Russ was playing elsewhere or was away at Scout Camp. Finally it dawned on me that Gary was seeking the one-on-one companionship of an adult. Once, he confided in me that his large blended family had so many kids, “we’ve even got two Mikes.”

To help fulfill the needs of many “Garys,” in 1995 the mentoring program called YouthFriends was created. At the start, seven school districts, including the North Kansas City School District, participated. Sponsors included the YMCA, the Partnership for Children Foundation,

and school districts in Missouri and Kansas. Today, 70 school districts and thousands of volunteers are involved.

Pam Poulson, coordinator of the NKCS D’s YouthFriends program, once vividly described the reality of life for many children today. “So many of them come home to an empty house,” she said, adding that the “support system of an extended family and neighbors” is often not there. “Kids,” she stated, “spend more time with machines than with adults.”

Today’s kitchen table is seldom the place to gather, share supper, then tackle the nightly homework. The TV set and the computer have taken over.

Recently retired NKCS D superintendent Dr. Tom Cummings, one of the YouthFriends’ founders, always championed the importance of community involvement in our children’s education. Nowhere is such involvement more evident than in the hundreds of Northlanders who daily mentor in our 29 schools.

YouthFriends are carefully screened, then placed in schools where they tutor, escort on field trips, serve as playground pals or lunch buddies. I think of that young boy Gary when I see a grandmother or a young adult chatting with their special school friend over their lunch trays.



**Charlene Steadman works with kids at Linden West Elementary**

The volunteers tutor children in all grades in subjects such as writing, math and history. Kids like to hear about their YouthFriend's old school days, career, even family experiences.

A delightful pleasure for YouthFriends is sharing guest lectures such as the intriguing African folk tales of Brother John Anderson, or local history as described by Northlander Freddie Nichols.

In my 12 years as a Winnwood Elementary YouthFriend, besides tutoring in writing, I've gone on field trips to museums and even escorted kids to the recent Extreme Makeover house that became the new home for several Winnwood students. Last spring, a former Winnwood YouthFriend pal, now at North Kansas City High School, invited me to come judge the school's annual poetry contest.

Why, some ask, do people want to become YouthFriends? Aren't today's kids a handful with their bad manners and concern only for computer games? No, indeed! They treasure the companionship of their special YouthFriend and are both friendly and polite.

Dawn Ray, who became a stay-at-home mom, told me she initially became a Topping YouthFriend to get an inside look at her son's school. That changed when she became a tutor for a struggling little kindergartner. "The big smile I got when that little girl saw me come in was a true delight," Dawn explained. "Kids," she said, "are hungry for an adult's attention."

Reid Flippen, now aged 93, has been a Gracemor tutor for over 12 years. His reason was simple: "I wanted to give back." What he gave back was his extensive skill in math and English grammar.

Louis and Omata Kadera (see Volunteer Recognition article on page 3) have been faithful YouthFriends for 15 years, helping students with special needs. They have

### The Lunch Buddy

When first I sought the measure of my worth,  
And what will mark my tenure on this Earth—  
I sighed. What thing of beauty bears my name?  
What shining act of courage grants me fame?  
Somehow, I was denied the Midas Touch,  
My assets tallied would not come to much—  
I tried. I wondered what is on my page  
Besides "Identifying Marks" and "Age?"  
Someone had written "Lends a willing ear  
And sometimes tenders praise and words of cheer.  
Like oh so many, plays a willing part,  
And, like them, has an understanding heart."  
Then He who weighs all things so warmly smiled:  
"I see you made a difference to a child."

--Reta Jo Mitchell, YouthFriend  
April 2001

served in Antioch Middle, NKC High and Oak Park High, often giving three days a week to those very appreciative young people.

Every YouthFriend I know tells me that they receive more than they give. I know that for me, being a YouthFriend means that I matter. Whatever we do in our twilight years, I think we need to feel relevant and needed.

YouthFriend Virginia Marchio, who spent seven years at Chouteau Elementary, believes that children need good examples which YouthFriends provide. She cherishes the love her young lunch buddies gave her. It was Virginia who called YouthFriends "a two-way street."

(Note: YouthFriends is now offering e-mentoring in which young adults at work can be a "willing ear" on the internet. Also, businesses like the Cerner Corporation are offering career mentoring. To inquire about YouthFriends, call Pam Polson at 413-5470.)

## Neighborhood Clips

### Neighborhood garage sales continue

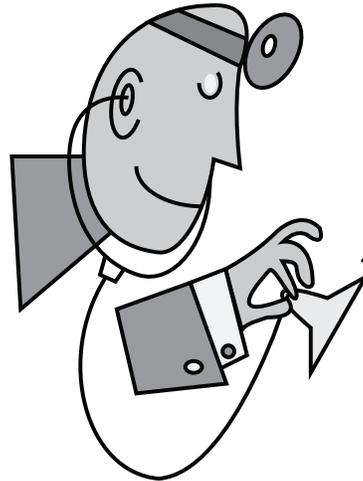
September 12, New Mark (First Pool) and surrounding subdivisions, New Mark Drive and North Oak, 8 a.m.

September 18 and 19, Maple Woods Estates Neighborhood and Maple Park Place, 78th and North Park, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

If your community is planning a garage sale and you would like the information mass e-mailed and/or posted on NNI's website, please contact Janet Shaffer at 454-2000 or [jshaffer@nni.org](mailto:jshaffer@nni.org)

### Learn about Veterans Honor Flight at September 9 senior workshop

Alicia Scott, Community Outreach Coordinator at Kendallwood Hospice, will talk about Veterans Honor Flight. Honor Flight is a non profit organization started several years ago to send World War II veterans to Washington, DC to see their memorial. If you desire some advanced details, go to [honorflight.org](http://honorflight.org), then join Alicia on September 9, 9 a.m. at NNI. Kendallwood Hospice is part of the Northland hub for Veterans Honor Flight. It transported 20 vets in May and will take another flight on September 23. Former Senator Bob Dole greets the vets who then visit Arlington Cemetery and the Korean and Vietnam Memorials. Alicia will show a 12-minute video and get into more details about the program.



### 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.

### Pet licensing is important; NNI can help

Chapter 14 of the KCMO code of ordinances requires residents to license their dogs, cats and ferrets. **Failure to comply will result in a citation being issued with a minimum \$75 fine.** The license fee is \$10 for a spayed or neutered animal and \$33 for animals that have not been altered. There are 4 ways to license your pet:

- Come to [Halfway Home Pet Adoptions](#) (the City's animal shelter), 4400 Raytown Road
- Contact your veterinarian
- Visit [Pet Data](#) on-line.
- Or, come to NNI, 3015 NE Vivion Road

You will need a copy of your pet's current rabies vaccination certificate and proof of the pet's sterilization (if applicable) to

obtain your license. Licensing your pet and keeping the license on his collar will help ensure that you will be notified if your pet is impounded by the Animal Health and Public Safety Division. For further information, contact Patrick E. Egberuare, Division Manager, Animal Health & Public Safety, 4900 Swope Parkway 1st Floor, 816-513-9009.

### 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; Remov-

ing 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.

## Night Out Vs Crime Kick-Off sets new attendance record



**N**NI's 5<sup>th</sup> annual Night Out Against Crime Kick-Off on August 1 was a rip-roaring success. The Spring-like weather drew more than 2,000 people to Gladstone's spacious Oak Grove Park. The mellow crowd included visitors from England, Washington State, Iowa and Texas. There was ample generational and cultural diversity to enrich this popular public service event.



Along with dozens of crime prevention exhibits and equipment displays, the crowd consumed 1,900 hot dogs, 3,000 bags of chips, gallons of pop and water, and 1,487 portions of ice cream, not to mention countless snow cones and cotton candy. Volunteers clocked 396 hours to set up the event and staff concessions. Among the volunteers were Target and Harley Davidson employees. A new feature was an Emergency Response Challenge where kids dressed in police and firefighter clothing and loaded a mannequin into an ambulance, simulating the daily routine of law enforcement, fire and emergency medical professionals.



The band "Midnight Station" provided entertainment along with "Youth With Vision" who did a skit on alcohol and drug abstinence. Ryan McElhaney with Tri-County Mental Health Services was an able master of ceremonies. Financial contributors included Target, Sam's Club, Walmart Foundation and Harley Davidson, as well as many Northland businesses who contributed gift cards, prizes and cash.

Participating agencies included the KCMO, Liberty, Parkville, Claycomo, Gladstone, Riverside, Northmoor and Excelsior Springs police and public safety departments, the Clay and Platte County Sheriff's Departments, and the Platte County Task Force.



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## NNI Meetings and Events September 3 - October 16, 2009

Thursday	9/3	MARC Leadership Program	6:30 p.m.
Monday	9/7	<b>OFFICES CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY</b>	
Wednesday	9/9	Senior Workshop	9:00 a.m.
Thursday	9/10	MARC Leadership Planning	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday	9/15	1 <sup>st</sup> District Roads Meeting	8:30 a.m.
Tuesday	9/15	Greenhaven Neighborhood	7:00 pm.
Wednesday	9/16	Cop Talk	6:30 p.m.
Thursday	9/17	MARC Leadership Program	5:30 p.m.
Monday	9/21	NNI Board Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	9/22	Neighborhood Roundtable	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	9/24	MARC Leadership Program	6:30 p.m.
Monday	9/28	Meet Your Councilpersons	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	10/8	MARC Leadership Program	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	10/14	Senior Workshop	9:00 a.m.
Friday	10/16	Annual Breakfast – Park Place	7:30 a.m.