

# Northland Neighborhoods News



Due to economically tough times, we, like you, are having to prioritize our budget. For that reason we are temporarily unable to print and mail our newsletters. We hope you will give the online version of *Northland Neighborhood News* as much attention as our print version.

## ANNUAL AWARDS: BREAKFAST SET FOR NOVEMBER 12

On Friday, November 12, Northland Neighborhoods will hold its Annual Awards Breakfast. Highlighting the event are awards to Northlanders who have made extraordinary contributions to the community: The Larry McManus Good Neighbor Award will be presented to retired University of Missouri Extension community development specialist Charles St. Clair. The Ruthanne Harper Outstanding Public Service Award goes to Kansas City, Missouri Fire Chief Richard (Smokey) Dyer, and the Jay Dillingham Lifetime Achievement Award recipient is NKC Hospital President David Carpenter. Also this year are the second an-

nual awards for Best Neighborhood Newsletter and Best Neighborhood Newsletter Article.

Sponsorships are available at the \$2,500, \$1,500, \$750 and \$350 levels, as well as single tickets for \$35. Tables of 10 can be purchased for \$350. "There are very few people in the Northland who haven't been helped by at least one of our award recipients. The breakfast is a great way to say thank you," says Jim Rice, Northland Neighborhoods CEO. The breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the Embassy Suites KCI, 7640 NW Tiffany Springs Parkway, and end promptly at 9 a.m.

All contributions are tax-deductible (less the actual cost of the breakfast meal). Checks can be made payable to Northland Neighborhoods, Inc., 3015 NE Vivion Road, Kansas City, MO 64119. Master Card and VISA are also accepted. For more information, call Northland Neighborhoods at 816-454-2000.

## 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.

## REGISTER TO VOTE AT NNI!

Important elections will occur in November 2010, followed by the Kansas City Mayor and Council elections in February and March 2011. Northland voters need to be heard. You can register to vote at NNI. It's quick and easy, so do it today and add to the Northland voice.



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## 2011 EXCEL CLASS NOW FORMING

**N**NI is looking for 10 good men and women to participate in the EXCEL Neighborhood Leadership Program. The highly successful EXCEL neighborhood leadership program will launch its fourth class in January 2011. Persons interested in enrolling should contact Jim Rice at 816-454-2000 or jim\_rice@nni.org. Cost to participants for the entire program (includes training, materials, meals) is \$100. Scholarships are available.

The 8-month training program includes sessions on:

- Discovering the Leader Within You
- Demographics and Community Analysis
- State Government
- Local Government
- Community Infrastructure
- Community Information Management
- Public Education
- Economic Development
- Public Safety
- A City Hall Project

According to NNI CEO Jim Rice, "participants will gain knowledge, experience, power, confidence and networking skills" from EXCEL. Graduates will be equipped to help their neighborhoods and communities become sustainable success stories," Rice says.

## NNI SEEKS QUALIFIED LOW-INCOME HOME REPAIR CONTRACTORS

**N**orthland 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.

## HELP MAKE LORIE'S HOUSE A HOME

**C**onstruction is nearly finished on Lorie's House, a handicapped-accessible home at 4413 N. Kensington. Lorie Perdieu, the new homeowner, is a local advocate for the disabled who has been disabled since birth. Lorie is an articulate and tireless worker for the disabled. Lorie's House is a collaboration of Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. (NNI), the Christian Carpenters, and the Fuller Center for Housing. Financing is supported by a HUD grant, cash and in-kind contributions from the Christian Carpenters, and donations from the community. NNI is offering special campaign-style buttons that say "I helped make Lorie's house a home." Anyone making a contribution of \$5 or more will receive a button. Checks should be made payable to Northland Neighborhoods, Inc., 3015 NE Vivion Road, KCMO 64119. All contributions are fully tax deductible. Get your button today and wear it proudly!



## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

### Melanie Shuler

**M**elanie Schuler's smile can melt an iceberg and her pleasant, efficient manner can lift morale and productivity in any workplace. Two reasons why she is such a sought-after volunteer.

A lifelong Northlander, she received her education at Davidson Elementary, Northgate Junior High, North Kansas City High School, and graduated from Park University with a bachelor's in Management Accounting. She currently lives in Little Village and is active in her homes association.

A sampling of her volunteer activities includes NNI, the Kansas City Symphony, Harvesters, Kansas City Cares, and Little Village Homes Association. Since animals are one of

Melanie's passions, Animal Haven and Wayside Waifs have benefitted from her kindness. At the Spay and Neuter Society, Melanie transported animals to clinics for families without vehicles.

Melanie shrugs off praise for her volunteering. She believes she gets more than she gives. "Volunteering is refreshing and serves as a creative outlet from the everyday grind," she says. "I find the work rewarding. My time, energy, and effort are valued and appreciated." Melanie says she enjoys the interaction with people, whether it be seating patrons, fostering animals, or providing customer service for non-profit organizations. "The best part of volunteering is meeting so

many wonderful people," she says with that winning smile.

Melanie also derives personal growth from volunteering. "I'm always learning something new and that is something I have to do. It must be in my wiring," Melanie says.

When not working or volunteering, Melanie enjoys swimming, Bosu classes and working out in the fitness room at the YMCA. She is also a self-described farmaholic, always looking for neighbors to expand Farmville on her Facebook. There are also adult basic education classes, movies, reading, music, gadgets, and great jokes. "I have a wicked sense of humor," she blushes. Melanie is one busy lady and that's no joke!



## NEIGHBORHOOD CLIPS

### Night Out 2010 boasts record turn-out

More than 1,800 people attended NNI's Sixth Annual Night Out Against Crime Kick-Off July 31 at Gladstone's Oak Grove Park. They consumed approximately 1,600 hot dogs, 2,500 packages of chips, 1,500 ice cream bars, gallons of pop and water, nearly a ton of ice, blizzards of snow cones and clouds of cotton candy.

Special thanks to:

- Neighborhood donors:  
Chuck Weber  
Sherwood Estates Homes Association  
Crestview Homes Association #1  
Shoalbrook II Neighborhood Association
- 23 Target employee volunteers
- 11 Harley Davidson employee volunteers
- 40 NNI volunteers
- KCMO Police Department
- Gladstone Public Safety
- Riverside Police Department
- Clay County Sheriff's Department
- Corporate Donors: Pepsi, Target, Harrah's

### Shape up body, mind and spirit at September senior workshop

Clay County Senior Services and Tri-County Mental Health Services will team up Wednesday, September 8, at 9 a.m. to present the new "Senior Exercise Resource Guide for the Northland" and review Clay County Senior Services' exercise classes. Also, Sally King from Tri-County Mental Health will lead a discussion on "*Kindred Spirits – The Role of Intimate Relationships as We Age.*" For more information, contact Janet Shaffer at NNI 816-454-2000.

### Upcoming Neighborhood Roundtables:

**September 28:** Kansas City's Neighborhood Advisory Council  
**November 23:** KCMO Housing Prosecutor Todd Wilcher

### Snapshots from Night Out



## LINC TO EXPAND NORTHLAND CARING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The Local Investment Commission (LINC) will expand its Caring Communities presence in the NKC Schools this year at six elementary schools. LINC will continue at Crestview Elementary, a Caring Communities site since 1999. The five new school sites are: Chouteau, Davidson, Maplewood, Topping and West Englewood. The six schools have a combined enrollment of 2,100, with 63% of those students eligible for free or assisted lunch—a general measure of family income and poverty. North Kansas City is the largest school district in the metropolitan area and is experiencing changing demographics as an inner ring suburb.

LINC will not return to Eastgate Middle School and Winnetonka High School. The change focuses more resources on the elementary schools and, from an NNI perspective, on neighborhoods.

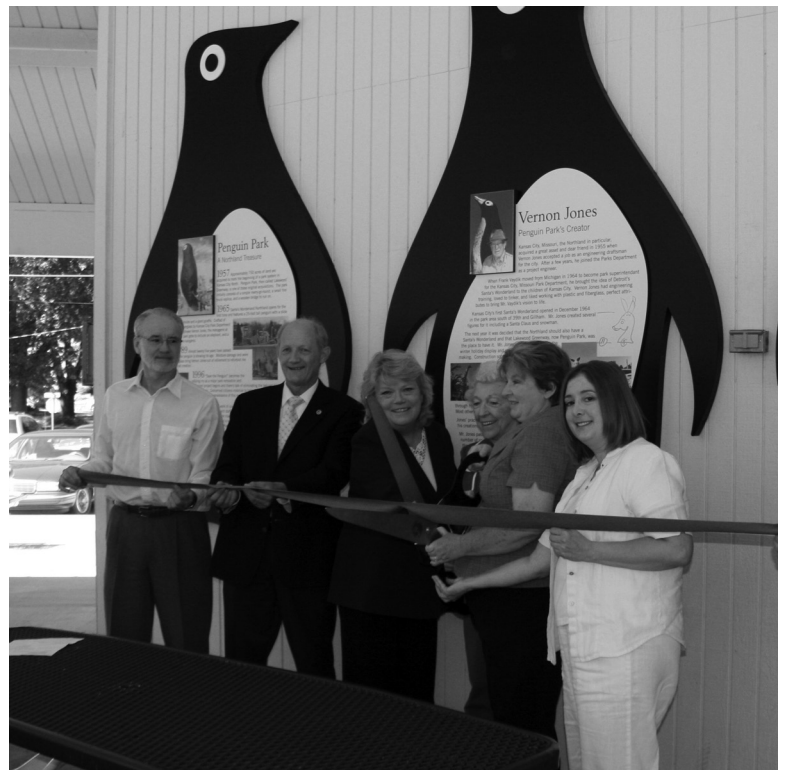
## PENGUIN PARK HISTORIC PANELS DEDICATED

On August 25, Parks & Recreation Commissioners, staff and friends of Penguin Park dedicated a set of historic panels at the park to honor early creators of what has become a top attraction of Kansas City's famous parks and boulevard system.

Penguin Park began as part of Lakewood Greenway, acquired by the Park Department in 1957. In 1964, Vernon Jones, a Parks district supervisor who had created the Santa's Wonderland figures in Gillham Park, decided to build a giant penguin. The penguin was placed on the northern part of Lakewood Greenway and was a big hit from the git-go. Jones went on to create other animals for the park such as a giraffe, elephant and kangaroo.

## DIRECTORY OF SERVICES AVAILABLE AT NNI

- Neighborhood organization, by-law and board development, neighborhood cleanups, including a tool library
- EXCEL neighborhood leadership program
- Space for neighborhood meetings
- Monthly senior citizen health, education and recreation workshops
- Crime prevention training programs and Night Out Against Crime Kick-Off
- Comprehensive code enforcement (4 KCMO code officers are based at NNI)
- Neighborhood Computer Center
- Comprehensive home repair programs
- FOCUS Center: voter registration, pet licensing, code enforcement, animal control satellite, notary public, KCPD Office of Community Complaints, police-community interaction
- Monthly "Meet Your Councilperson" meetings
- Monthly "Roundtable" and communications workshops
- Clearing house on economic development projects that impact neighborhoods
- Neighborhood newsletter printing



## The NNI Board of Directors

### Officers

Dick Davis, President

Dan Fowler, Vice President

Tom Schweitzer, Treasurer

Angela Betts, Secretary

### Board Members

Charles Chamberlin

ElizaBeth Clayton

Dave Dunlop

Richard King

Anita McWilliams

David Mecklenburg

Keith Nelson

Elaine Olvera

Marty Schuettpelz

Beth Sullivan

Dennis Tedford

## PERSPECTIVES

### NNI: A unique organization

by Jim Rice

The waning days of summer seemed a good time to check the compass, be sure NNI is heading in the right direction, and share our findings with you.

#### ***NNI: A unique organization***

NNI is today the only officially designated community development corporation serving the Northland. If there was no NNI:

- The Northland would lose \$650,000 in HUD funding annually. These funds go to Northland families and neighborhoods in the form of home repair and other housing programs.
- The Northland would lose the NNI FOCUS Center, which provides a range of one-stop city services and a broad referral network of governmental and social service agencies.
- Northland seniors would lose monthly health, education and recreation seminars, driver refresher courses provided by a partnership of NNI with AARP and the Regional Police Academy, and a range of minor home repair options.
- The Northland would lose regular educational and public service meetings such as the Neighborhood Roundtable, Meet Your Councilpersons, Cop Talk, and the 1st District Problem-Solving meeting.
- Neighborhoods would lose the newsletter printing service

that produces 300,000 copies annually.

- Neighborhoods in the Northland would lose their link to economic development projects in the Northland. Under NNI's leadership, neighborhoods have received more than \$2 million in direct benefits from TIF projects.

#### ***NNI's holistic approach to home repair***

NNI's early home repair program was funded by a series of grants from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines. The 2003 CHAMP program was NNI's first targeted home repair program. CHAMP (Chouteau Housing and Maintenance Program) flowed from the Chouteau Crossings TIF. It produced more than 300 home repairs in two neighborhoods and became the TIF Commission's poster child for TIF community benefit. The SMART (Sustainable Maintenance and Renewal Today) program, funded by a federal grant, produced 200 targeted home repairs.

#### ***Innovations***

Since 2003, NNI has implemented the following improvements and innovations:

- Using the CD 2000 strategic planning process, NNI Board policies and election procedures were totally revamped. Bylaws were periodically amended to comply with best practices in management, accounting and governance.





- The Neighborhood Information Center was introduced, providing personal computers and Internet access for area residents.
- The Constant Contacts message system was installed, with NNI issuing nearly 180,000 instant messages annually.
- The Board's Neighborhood Relations Committee created the "Journalism 101" program for neighborhood newsletter editors. With help from the Park University Journalism Department, this program is in its third year.
- Among the economic development projects in which NNI has played a leading role since 2003 are: Antioch TIF, North Oak Corridor study and North Oak TIF, Line Creek Corridor study, KCI Area Plan and TIF, Briarcliff-Winnwood Area Plan, the Vivion Road Planned Industrial Expansion Authority (PIEA) program.
- Since 2003, NNI has constructed and sold three new infill houses. The fourth, a Universal Design house, is nearing completion and has a buyer.
- In 2005, NNI completed the 35-unit Chaumiere Place Senior Apartments on the site of the vacant Eastwood Elementary School. The project was 100% occupied within six months of completion and has a waiting list

today. A second senior apartment project is in the planning and financing stage.

NNI is a partner with Children's Mercy Hospital in the Healthy Homes program which provides home inspection and remediation for allergens. It has already helped restore health to a young girl afflicted by life-threatening asthma.

- In 2010, NNI and Legal Aid of Western Missouri produced a manual on how to establish and maintain homeowners associations. A seminar that introduced the manual was repeated due to standing room-only attendance from all parts of the city.

### ***Sustainability***

Nearly all of NNI's programs are designed for sustainability, defined as the quality of a program that "teaches a person to fish rather than giving them a fish."

For example:

- Home repair: NNI conducts its home repair programs following a case management or holistic model. That means NNI looks for the factors that underlie a family's inability to maintain their homes, such as financial or health crises, disability, age, etc. While addressing the specific home repair issue, the NNI staff also tries to solve the

underlying problems through education, counseling or referral to appropriate governmental or social service agencies.

- Crime Prevention:
  - NNI is an officially designated CAN (Community Action Network) Center. This community policing model also employs a holistic approach to correcting disorder.
  - Public service events provide enjoyable, family-centered education on child safety and crime prevention (Safe Trick or Treat and the Night Out Against Crime Kick-Off). These two events draw 6,000 people annually.
  - Housing 5 KCMO Code Enforcement Officers and 2 Animal Control Officers at NNI brings City Hall closer to the neighborhoods it serves and empowers residents to get more involved in solving neighborhood problems.
- The EXCEL Neighborhood Leadership Program graduated its third class in June 2010. The intensive 6-month curriculum provides participants the knowledge, skills, and new relationships to make neighborhood organizations successful and self-sustaining.

## UPCOMING GARAGE SALES

### September 10 & 11

#### **Carriage Hill Ellington Estates Neighborhood**

60th & Antioch  
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
*Friday & Saturday*

#### **New Mark Neighborhood**

**(Includes New Mark Brookings and surrounding areas)**

96th -108th / N Oak & N Woodland/Maple Woods  
Parkway  
8:00 a.m.  
*Friday & Saturday*

### September 17 & 18

#### **Maple Woods Estates Neighborhood**

78th & North Park  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
*Friday & Saturday*

### September 18 & 19

#### **Ravenwood-Summerset Neighborhood Assn.**

56th Place & N Brighton  
8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.  
*Saturday & Sunday*

### September 25

#### **Brookhill & Brooktree Neighborhoods**

Jackson Dr between Brooktree Lane and Shady Lane  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
*Saturday*

### October 1 & 2

#### **Claybrook Homes Association**

77th & N Antioch  
9:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.  
*Friday & Saturday*

## NNI Public Meetings and Events September 2010

Monday, 9/6	<b>Labor Day, NNI Office closed</b>	
Wednesday, 9/8	Senior Workshop	9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, 9/8	Forward Kansas City	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 9/15	<b>COP TALK CANCELLED</b>	
Wednesday, 9/15	Newsletter Editors Training	6:00 p.m.
Monday, 9/20	NNI Board Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 9/21	1st District Problem-Solving	8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, 9/21	Greenhaven Neighborhood	7:00 p.m.
Monday, 9/27	Meet Your Councilpersons	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 9/28	Neighborhood Roundtable	6:00 p.m.