



# NORTHLAND NEIGHBORHOODS

*We will leave no neighborhood behind*

February 2004

Quarterly Edition

Volume 1, Issue 1

## A New Years' Message from the Northland Neighborhoods' Executive Director

**Jim Rice, NNI  
Executive Director:**  
**"I arrived in June...  
and liked what I  
saw."**



It's a new year and a new era at Northland Neighborhoods.

The last half of 2003 was a time of transition. A time to give thanks for NNI's first seven years that built a record of caring and resourcefulness. A time to reflect on where NNI should go in the future.

New board members were elected in June 2003: Carolyn Clinesmith, Bob Corbett, Matt

Guilfoil, Bill Sanders and Jim Silke. They added new perspectives and new energy to an already fine board. I arrived in June as well, and liked what I saw. In October, Mike Lewis moved from Vice President to President of the Board. Mike, Deacon at St. Patrick's Church and a former pipefitter, blended vision, negotiating skill and Celtic wisdom in his leadership of NNI.

As the summer of 2003 waned, the board leadership and I were ready to launch new initiatives to help NNI live out its mission:

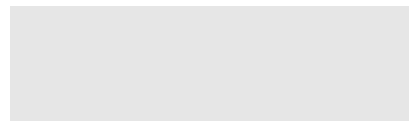
*Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. improves the quality of life in our area by fostering collaboration between neighborhoods, public and private resources. NNI empowers neighborhoods to build and maintain their own healthy and dynamic communities.*

**Housing:** The Chouteau Housing Assistance and Maintenance Program (CHAMP) is so successful that we have a waiting list. Of the 210 applications pre-approved by NNI, 134 have received final approval from the TIF Commission staff. Sixty repairs have been completed, and \$146,047 in private funds has been leveraged from homeowners who added their

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**Northland neighborhood leaders** will meet Monday, February 23, at NNI to talk with council members and discuss several upcoming programs and initiatives. NNI staff will be on hand to answer questions about NNI. The meeting begins with chats with City Council members at 6 pm followed by the roundtable discussion at 7 pm.

**The NNI Board of Directors will meet February 16 at 6:30 pm.**

### NNI Meetings in February

Tues., Feb. 3	Holiday Hills Neighborhood Meeting	7 pm
Thurs., Feb. 5	Self-Help Grant Workshop	6:30 pm
Sat., Feb. 7	NACA Homebuyers Workshop	9 am
Sun., Feb. 8	Country Downs Neighborhood Meeting	2 pm
Sun., Feb. 8	Clay/Platte Baseball Meeting	5 pm
Wed., Feb. 11	NNI Senior's Workshop	9 am
Thurs., Feb. 12	Greenhaven Neighborhood Association	6:30 pm
Mon., Feb. 16	NNI Board Meeting	6:30 pm
Mon., Feb. 23	Meet Your Councilman/Leader's Meeting	6 pm
Wed., Feb. 24	Northland Community Policing Task Force	6 pm
Wed., Feb. 25	Code Enforcement Training for Neighborhood Leaders	9 am

## A New Year's Message

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own dollars to the grants to do more improvements.



Before...



After: CHAMP driveway improvements

Thanks to a partnership with the Housing and Economic Development Financial Corporation (HEDFC), two new houses at 43rd and North Jackson are taking shape. HEDFC has also awarded a contract for a "universal design" home at 4413 NE Kensington Avenue. Our plan is to complete seven more new or rehab houses by July 2004.



New infill house at 43rd and N. Jackson

In August 2003, NNI formed a partnership with Cohen-Esrey

Development to convert the Eastwood School property at 4140 N. Walrond into senior apartments. In October, the North Kansas City School Board approved sale of the property to the partnership. Local residents had a hand in designing the apartment community of 40 one and two-bedroom units. A complex maze of financing still lies ahead for the \$4.3 million project.



The former Eastwood School, 4140 N. Walrond

NNI is spearheading a demonstration project designed to prove that organizations such as NNI, HEDFC, and Northland Habitat for Humanity can work together to produce high quality housing at an affordable price for families in dire need. If the demonstration is successful, it will be a first for the metro area.

### Community Organization:

In December 2003, NNI announced its community-organizing initiative. It will help fill the gaps created by limited public dollars for housing and infrastructure improvements. It is based on "neighbors helping neighbors" make connections, change minds, manage solutions and build democracy. Included in the overall community-organizing program will be community policing initiatives sparked by the Northland Community Policing Task Force launched at NNI in December.

Other initiatives include improved office operations, new communications programs, and more services for senior citizens. 2004 is off to a good start. The board and staff of NNI are committed to helping every Northland neighborhood be successful. Your participation will be critical. Together, we will leave no neighborhood behind.

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## Town Hall event slated for March 23

On March 23 at 7 pm Northland Neighborhoods will host a special Town Hall Meeting to review the previous 12 months of activities involving Northland Neighborhoods, City Hall and the KCMO Police - North Patrol. Featured at this meeting will be Councilwoman Deb Hermann, Jim Rice, NNI Executive Director and Major John Armilio, Commander of the North Patrol Division.

Make plans to come and hear from our community leaders on all of the past progress and future goals of our Northland community.

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### Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. Board of Directors - Officers

Mike Lewis	President
Doniele Kane	Vice-President
Wayne St. Vincent	Treasurer
Pam Moore	Secretary

Jim Rice - Executive Director  
Janet Shaffer - Newsletter Editor  
Christy Harris - Director of Operations

[webnni@nni.org](mailto:webnni@nni.org)

# Meet Your Neighbor:



## John Baker Sunset Dixon Neighborhood

Back by popular request is “Meet Your Neighbor,” a monthly column that features a person who makes a difference in the life of our neighborhoods.

Meet John Baker from the Sunset Dixon Neighborhood.

John Baker grew up in a small town in western New York, south of Buffalo. He moved to the Kansas City area in 1955 and then to the Sunset Dixon neighborhood in February 1976. He retired from HNTB after 40 years as a civil engineer. He has 8 children, 17 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

John was one of the key people involved in organizing Sunset Dixon neighborhood in January 1997. He originally served as the 1st Vice President and recruited volunteers to distribute the neighborhood newsletter.

John has been involved with so many things in our community that it is difficult to list all that he has accomplished. Within his own neighborhood, he organizes projects like painting a senior citizen's home, raking and shoveling neighbors' yards and driveways, picking up trash along the roads during his daily walks, organizes the neighborhood cleanups, and serving as the neighborhood president and vice president.

Additionally, he provides transportation for people who need a ride to a doctor's appointment, or to pick up medicine or groceries. He also helps senior citizens with minor home repairs - fixing doors, locks, plumbing and electrical problems. He is very active at St. Patrick's Church and volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, helping build homes in our community.

John was also the first recipient of the “Larry McManus Good Neighbor Award” at the NNI annual meeting in June 2002. The award is in honor of longstanding neighborhood leader Larry McManus, who died in April 2002. The award recognizes those who share McManus' passion for community improvement.

Last, but not least, John has been a great help to the staff at Northland Neighborhoods. When we moved into our new office space three years ago, John helped with painting, fixing holes in the walls and moving furniture. We depend on his knowledge and creativity with so many projects in our office. We don't know what we'd do without him!

## NNI Seniors: Healthy Cooking



### January Seniors' Workshop

Join Glenda Kinder, Nutrition Specialist through the University of Missouri Outreach and Extension, Wednesday, February 11, 9 am for some great tips on healthy cooking. Learn how to adapt your favorite family recipes to prepare healthier meals.

Refreshments will be served and there will be a drawing for door prizes. For more information call: Janet, 454-2000.

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## Free tax services at NNI

Beginning in February 2004, Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. will sponsor free income tax services through Liberty Tax Service.

NNI offers this service to residents of the Northland who are senior citizens, disabled or low income.

For more information and to pick up your free certificate, call Janet, 454-2000.

# Spotlight on Volunteerism: A Salute to the "Curbside" Crusaders

by Reta Jo Mitchell

From the beginning, they were committed recyclers, hundreds of Northlanders among them. Led by a fledgling non-profit group called Bridging the Gap, they faithfully manned the drive-up recycling centers. Their hope was to bring curbside recycling to Kansas City, already a fact of life in over 10,000 American cities.

The experts warned them: a volunteer effort will last a year or two at most. But here in Kansas city, almost 10,000 volunteers, 14 drop-off centers, and 13 years later, the experts were proved wrong.

The crusade grew. Small municipalities nearby set up their own volunteer-run dropoffs or even curbside collection. A hazardous waste facility started up, and a "Restore" was opened, to funnel surplus building materials back into the community at little or no cost. Meanwhile, Kansas City voters repeatedly turned down curbside initiatives, decrying the loss of once "free trash bags" and predicting a deluge of littering if any bag limits were imposed.

Many of us did not become recyclers, sad to say. But the volunteers at the Northland's two centers, and elsewhere—Scouts, church groups, clubs

and school-kids, and people like me—carried on. Little children joined in to stomp the plastic milk jugs and lob cans into proper bins.

At the Antioch Center, I became known as "the cardboard lady." I'll always remember the nurse from Children's Mercy Hospital and her small son and daughter who helped me bring order to chaos in the cardboard bin. (And, the Lynn Laughlin Award I received in 1996 for "dedication to the environment.")

Recently, I've been giving talks in Northland schools about the other "3 R's": Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. The kids are concerned about depleting our forests for paper, wasting oil to make more plastic and growing costs and even shortages of landfill space. They like seeing where the recyclables go: old paper money into stationery, milk jugs (#2) into fences, or millions of worn-out tires into playground cover. They admire my snuggly warm Polartec jacket that began life as plastic pop bottles (#1).

Once, when I displayed Christmas tree ornaments made of volcanic ash from Mt. St. Helens, a little boy remarked: "That's like if life gives you lemons and you make lemonade!" Our kids see plenty

of "lemonade" to be made from burning un-recyclable trash for electricity and reprocessing fast food restaurant cooking oil for diesel fuel.

Through their reading and study, the kids are ready for RecycleFIRST, Kansas City's curbside plan that begins in select neighborhoods in March. My Teddy bear T-shirt with the message, "Please save the Earth, I'm not done playing yet!" is very real to them, and can become real to more adults too.

Bridging the Gap is seeking volunteers to give talks to neighborhoods and other groups about the new plan. Also, they'd like to recruit ambassadors to act as information-providers right in the neighborhoods. Training will be brought to Northland locations, and the Bridging the Gap people are great teachers.

To enlist, please call Laura O'Brien at 561-1061, extension 109. For general information call 513-3490 or log on at [222.kcmo/environ.com](http://222.kcmo/environ.com).

And many thanks to those volunteers who have made curbside recycling a coming reality.

## Neighborhoods must be certified to vote at NNI annual meeting



**Voting at the 2003 NNI Annual Meeting**

Time will soon run out for neighborhood associations wishing to participate in Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.'s annual meeting in June. Nearly forty neighborhoods have now completed the simple process.

Certification, required under NNI's bylaws, involves completing a simple form. This "member certification" process is necessary 1) to make sure NNI has updated information on association addresses and contact persons, and 2) to qualify an association for voting at NNI's annual meeting.

Under NNI's by-laws, members are defined as organized and active neighborhood associations that hold open meetings, have submitted a written request for membership, and have been admitted for membership by vote of the NNI board.

If your organization has not been certified, please call Janet Shaffer at 454-2000.

## NNI voter registration site

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. is now a permanent voter registration site for Clay and Platte Counties. Janet Shaffer and Christy Harris have been deputized and can register you from 8am - 5pm, Monday through Friday at the NNI offices, 5312 NE Chouteau Trafficway. Please call 454-2000 before you come in to register.

If you are not already registered, you must have proof of identification such as a driver's license or another photo ID. If you have a name change or have moved, you also need to register.

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## Homebuyer's workshop slated for February 7

NACA (Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America) is a non-profit corporation whose goal is to stabilize neighborhoods and maximize home-ownership opportunities for working people and families. NACA is offering a homebuyers workshop Saturday, February 7 from 10 am - 2 pm at NNI, 5312 NE Chouteau Trafficway.

If you are interested in buying a home or refinancing a home please plan to attend this important workshop.

For information, call 531-6222.

## North Patrol seeks candidates for volunteer program



**Frank Korosac - Volunteer KCPD North Patrol**

The North Patrol Division has a new program that places qualified persons in roles never before offered to volunteers. If you are attracted to an unusual and important volunteer opportunity, KCPD may be able to match you up.

Volunteer jobs available in the new program include crime analysis, parking control, community relations and report taking. North Patrol is already evaluating other roles that could be capably and safely assumed by citizen volunteers.

To become a KCPD volunteer, you must fill out an application and go through an interview process.

To obtain an application or get more information about the program, contact Sgt. Jon Brady or Officer Jim Silke at 437-6200.

# North Patrol, NNI embark on roadmap for Northland community policing

Community policing began in Kansas City a decade ago. From the beginning, it has been closely identified with the C.A.N. (Community Action Network) Centers. They represent community policing in its purest form. They serve specific geographic areas, are staffed by two Kansas City police officers, codes inspectors and a team leader. The City of Kansas City, Missouri funds a modest budget for office operations. The value and cost-effectiveness of the C.A.N. Centers are greatly enhanced by dedicated volunteers.

As the philosophy and practice of community policing evolved, KCPD added other specialized units to the community policing arsenal: Community Action Team (C.A.T.), Park Anti-Crime Team (P.A.C.T.), Community-Police Action Cooperative (C-PAC) and, in the Northland, the CRIME-FREE MULTI-HOUSING PROGRAM.

KCPD embarked on a massive internal effort to convert its entire force to the philosophy and practice of community and problem-oriented policing. Police operations are, by necessity, decentralized. Patrols function on a beat, sector and division basis. Yet, police command structure tends to be centralized and "top down." But community policing works best if decisions in the field are made from the "bottom up."

The magnitude of change KCPD undertook in embracing community policing would have been daunting even in a smaller, less hierarchical organization. So, while this department-wide con-

version is still evolving, KCPD deserves enormous credit for its past successes and its continuing effort. The 2002 KCPD Strategic Plan fully embraces the philosophy and practice of community policing.

## What is Community Policing?

Community oriented policing is proactive, solution-based and community driven. It occurs when law enforcement agencies, businesses and law-abiding citizens work together to: arrest offenders, prevent crime, solve on-going problems, and improve the overall quality of life.

Simply stated, community policing is a partnership of public safety professionals and community members engaged in reducing or eliminating the symptoms and causes of disorder.

Partnership with the community makes remarkably good sense. It is both effective and efficient. Effective because it gets to the root of intractable community problems. Efficient because it harnesses the incomparable energy of ordinary citizens taking charge of their own destinies. It keeps faith with that most fundamental instinct of American democracy: to govern ourselves.

## The Northland Community Policing Task Force

### The task force seeks to:

- Reaffirm willingness of the Northland community and the KCPD to collaborate in designing and implementing a community policing system that will best serve the needs of all

Northland citizens.

- Identify and clarify all existing community policing formats now in use in the Northland.

- Explore possible new community policing formats that might bring value to the Northland community.

- Explore and define the impact of an additional North Patrol Division and the new police academy.

- Create a master plan for Northland community policing.

The task force will conduct structured discussions with task force members at 4 to 5 meetings. It will review and discuss key documents such as the KCPD Strategic Plan, the Safe City Initiative, and other pertinent materials. Through consensus, it will formulate recommendations to the North Patrol Division Commander for review and approval. Finally, it will issue a report to the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners.

The first task force meeting was held at NNI on November 25, 2003.

Jim Rice, executive director, Northland Neighborhoods, Inc., reviewed NNI's current direction. NNI has targeted brick and mortar initiatives in home repair, new housing construction and rehab, of senior-oriented housing.

These initiatives fit within a comprehensive community-organizing program designed to help neighborhoods become self-sustaining. Community policing (or problem-oriented policing) is a critical part of the community-

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organizing effort.

Everyone is a stakeholder in community policing because crime and disorder can affect all neighborhoods, regardless of socio-economic status.

Community Policing, by definition, comes about through partnerships between professional law enforcement and the community.

The prospect of a second Northland patrol division and the new police academy give added weight to the need for a community policing master plan for the Northland; thus the task force.

Officer Jim Silke reviewed a 1998 meeting attended by 77 people representing 33 Northland organizations from both Clay and Platte Counties. Topping the list of issues at that meeting was disorder related to juveniles. Officer Silke described the status of the Northland today, five years after the 1998 meeting. Today, there are 25,000 more people in the Northland, with further population increases predicted. Officer Silke led a discussion of current disorder issues facing the Northland.

### **Crime**

The North Patrol Division now looks at crimes per 10,000 people. These statistics show a fairly stable picture, except for burglaries and stealing. However, some residents feel crime is worse. Many have experienced crime personally or in their neighborhood. Officer Silke reminded the group that perception of crime can be as troublesome as the reality of crime. He noted a continuing concern with juvenile crime and disorder issues such as neighborhood feuding.

### **Traffic**

Complaints about traffic safety, especially speeding on residential streets, are a standard feature of neighborhood meetings. North Patrol deploys the Traffic Unit as often as possible to minimize deployment of regular North Patrol forces normally engaged in 911 response or community policing activities. North Patrol also utilizes a volunteer who screens a location to assess the traffic problem. North Patrol is currently expanding the volunteer program to help defer some of the traffic-related calls for service.

### **Rental Housing**

The number of rental housing units, both single-family and multi-family, is growing in the Northland. However, the percent of owner-occupied housing north of the river is 64%, very comparable with the city as a whole.

Chris Sicoli and Don Smarker, North Patrol Division, manage the division's Crime-Free Multi-Housing Program. They reported that 10% of the population commits 90% of the crime. Most of the 10% live in rental units, due somewhat to general social and economic factors. Experience has shown that rental units scattered or concentrated in a single-family dominated community such as Kansas City, Missouri often presents disorder issues. Sicoli and Smarker noted a trend toward more crime in single-family rental units. The Crime-Free Multi-Housing Program addresses factors in the physical design and management of rental units that contribute to disorder. Sicoli reported that Kansas City does not have a landlord registration ordinance. Such legislation could be helpful in dealing

with irresponsible landlord behavior.

### **General Discussion**

A roundtable discussion then ensued on 911 response time, citizen reluctance to call police due to poor response, the Northland's inherent problem of large land mass and relatively low density, and increasing disorder flowing from nuisance businesses along North Oak Trafficway.

In response to concerns about response time, Sgt. Brady commented that KCPD reviews all calls and other data to discover trends; then deploys accordingly. He underscored the importance of reporting crime—even if it doesn't always result in officers coming to the scene of the complaint.

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## **Self-Help Workshop Scheduled**

The Kansas City Neighborhoods, Alliance (KCNA) and NNI will host the workshop, "How to apply for a Neighborhood Self-Help Grant" on February 5, 6:30 pm at NNI.

"The NSHF grants are aimed to assist neighborhood associations not only secure funds for programs, but to grow their organizations," said James Prim, NSHF Administrator. "This year workshop attendance is mandatory if an association desires to apply for the grant. They must also be in good standing with past reports."

More information is available on the web at [www.kcna.org](http://www.kcna.org) or by contacting James Prim, 753-8600, ext. 1038.