

July 2004

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NNI honors Deb Hermann at Annual Meeting; event also yields new board members and revised bylaws

Deb Hermann, Councilperson At-Large from the First District, was honored with the 2004 Larry McManus Good Neighbor Award June 28 at the Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. Annual Meeting. Hermann received a standing ovation from the NNI Members and friends gathered at the Midwestern Theological Seminary. The award is given each year in memory of the late Larry McManus, a leader of the Chaumiere Neighborhood.

Northland Neighborhoods' President Mike Lewis, who presented the award, cited Hermann's long-time advocacy of neighborhood causes. "Our honoree this year lives up to the spirit and letter of the award. She is the perfect choice," Lewis said. Hermann's neighborhood advocacy role spans a 24-year period, prima-

rily in the Gracemor neighborhood. During that time, she was president of the neighborhood organization and led the Gracemor Community Action Network, one of the city's orginal community policing efforts. Hermann has also served in numerous civic posts, including the City Planning Commission. She was elected to the City Council in 2003 and is currently chair of the Council's Neighborhood Development and Housing Committee.

After an annual report presentation by NNI Executive Director Jim Rice, Members ratified Northland Neighborhoods' revised bylaws and elected board members to the organization's 15-member board of directors.

Mary Jo Burton, Director of Communications at the North

Kansas City School District, won election to her first term. Virjean Burton (not related to Mary Jo) was elected to a 3-year term. She had served out the term of Stuart Hunt, whose term expired in June. Virjean is a civic leader and volunteer. Stan Cunningham, a retired person and neighborhood volunteer, also was elected to his first full term, having served out the term of Anita Gorman, whose term expired in June. Mike Lewis, a deacon at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, was elected to a second 3-year term. Lewis also serves as NNI's board president. Kevin Masters, Deputy Chief of the Kansas City Police Department, was elected to his first full term. Masters was serving out a term that expired in June. Misty Dawn Casey and Thomas Schweitzer, **(Continued on page 2)**

2. Northland Reflections - PIAC Hearings Block Party Applications

3. Crime Alert - Senior Workshop - Block Party Applications

4. RecycleFIRST - NNI Meetings

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Kansas City, MO 64119

www.nni.org
816-454-2000

Informational meeting set for Phase 3 of RecycleFIRST

Join representatives from RecycleFIRST on Monday, July 12, 7 p.m. to answer all your questions about recycling.

Phase 3 goes into effect September 1 and this is a great opportunity for members of your neighborhood to learn important information about what to expect.

For more information about this meeting call Janet Shaffer at 454-2000.

NNI Meetings in July

Mon., July 5	Holiday - Office closed	
Tues., July 6	Neighborhood Relations Committee	6:00 p.m.
Thurs., July 8	Greenhaven Neighborhood Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Mon., July 12	Phase III - RecycleFIRST Informational Meeting	7 p.m.
Wed., July 14	Senior Citizen Workshop	9:00 a.m.
Mon., July 19	NNI Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Thurs., July 22	40-46 Neighborhood Meeting/Forum	7 p.m.
Mon., July 26	Meet Your Councilperson	6 p.m.
Mon., July 26	Leaders' Meeting	7 p.m.
Tues., July 27	PIAC Hearing	6:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting (continued from page 1)

who were appointed to the NNI Board in March, were ratified by the Members to serve terms ending in 2006.

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. has 63 certified Member neighborhood organizations. NNI bylaws stipulate that one representative from each organization is eligible to vote on issues presented at the annual or special meetings. Neighborhoods that would like to become NNI Members can call Janet Shaffer at 454-2000 for information.

PIAC hearing slated for July 27 at NNI

The Public Improvements Advisory Committee (**PIAC**), in cooperation with the Mayor and City Council, will hold a hearing at Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. Tuesday, July 27 at 6:30 p.m.

These hearings are being held so that the Committee and Council can hear from citizens about the City's public improvement needs. The PIAC will use information gathered through the hearings to recommend projects for funding to the Council for Year 2004-2005.

For more information contact Janet at 454-2000.

Northland Reflections Supporting the Troops: An Update

by Reta Jo Mitchell

While continuing to report on volunteerism, Mitchell will now reflect on other aspects of Northland life in her monthly column.

I'm pleased to report that Northlanders are supplementing yellow ribbons and thoughtful prayers with gifts from the heart.

Edie Prost's "Operation Support Our Troops" continues monthly care package shipments to Iraq worth almost 1,000 dollars in donated goods and postage.

For Iraqi children, VFW Post 5606 has contributed school supplies and little kids' clothes. VFW Post 4050 is part of "Hidden Heroes." Explained Post Commander Jim Landrum: "Active duty usually means serious cuts in take-home pay." Donations of essentials like staples or even a replacement hot water heater are solicited for families left behind. Sam's Club and Home Depot are two of the "homefront angels" involved.

My husband Bruce has commandeered our kitchen table to sew neck coolers. Of the 107 he has made, a dozen just left for the Middle East with M/Sgt Taryn Bilbruck of the St. Joseph Air Guard.

Expressions of gratitude are trickling back. "In case you want to know where your package ended up, it's being shared at Samra Airfield near Tikrit,

Iraq," wrote CWO2 Tamburello of the US Army.

Though toiletries and snacks, neck coolers and slipper sox are welcome, letters of support are what count for most. Children of the Christian Life Academy regularly pen notes to be tucked into OSOT packages. Wrote Drew, a CLA student, "I hear that MREs (meals ready to eat) don't taste very good. Is that true?"

Media attention to these efforts has been scarce, but word gets around. Some churches and a post office have asked for the needs' list. Someone dropped off four decks of cards and three movie tapes at our front door.

My friend Theresa is, like always, supporting our troops. Sixty years ago, she and her family saved precious sugar to bake cookies for the GIs who freed her native Belgium from the Nazis. Each letter or pair of knitted slipper sox she sends is another affirmation of her thanks.

If you, your church or club would like a troops' needs list or other information, call me at 452-5898. Or, you can drop off items for care packages at the NNI office. A wonderful way to help is a small donation for UPLINK phone cards. (Call the VFW at 756-3390. Families may also request a free card for a soldier.)

KCPD issues Community Crime Alert

The North Patrol Division and the Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department want to make the community safer by sharing the following information with friends, neighbors and family.

Burglars

In the 7300 block of NW Donovan on May 25, around 6 pm, a witness states he observed a suspect (who was apparently selling candy door-to-door) take off the screen to his neighbor's apartment window. After removing the screen, the candy salesman entered the apartment to burglarize. The witness confronted the candy salesman, who left the scene on foot.

The suspect is a black male, 16-17 years old, 5'5", 145 lbs, brown eyes, wearing a do-rag, gray shirt, and blue pants. The suspect also had discoloration around his mouth.

Burglaries are also occurring near Barry and I-29, and in the area between east of I-29, south of Gladstone, north of NKC, to I-435. There is no indication that these are related, but police advise residents to take steps to reduce the opportunity for homes or apartments to be burglarized. Police activity has been increased in these areas, but North Patrol needs your help. Please call 911 on suspicious activity.

Here are some things to remember:

- Have someone watch your home when you are gone.
- If going on vacation, have your mail and newspapers stopped.
- Leave lights on in the interior of your home when you are gone, especially after dark.
- Please call the police to report suspicious activity.
- Pay attention to people who do not belong in your apartment complex or neighborhood.
- Participate in a block watch, or get one started.
- Call the Police to report suspicious activity.

"Water Man" Scam Hits the Northland

In the 5000 block of North Brooklyn on June 22, at approximately 6:45 pm, the listed suspect claimed to work for the Water Department and needed to check the victim's pipes. The victim let the suspect in her home and let him look at the pipes under the kitchen sink. The suspect was left unattended and the victim later discovered that the suspect stole a small amount of money from her purse. The suspect left in a white four-door vehicle.

The suspect is a white male, approximately 35 years old, 5'7", 145 lbs, gray hat, gray shirt and jeans.

Please do not let strangers into your home. Look for an appropriate service vehicle if the person claims to be working for a utility company. If someone claims to be working for a company, call the company and verify their information. When reporting incidents to the police make sure to give a good description.

Block Party applications available at NNI

The Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance would like neighbors to get to know their neighbors and are sponsoring 300 Block Parties this summer.

KCNA will provide grants up to \$100 towards the cost of food for your summer neighborhood block party. This money is available for any party that is held on your block in Kansas City, MO between May 15, 2004 and October 31, 2004.

For more information or to receive a grant application, call Janet Shaffer at 454-2000 or stop by NNI.

Hurry, grants are first-come, first - serve.

Also remember....To block off your street for the party, you must obtain a permit from the City. Permits and barricades are available at Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.

NNI seniors: "Laughter is the best medicine"

Join Steve Smith, from Liberty Hospital, Wednesday, July 14, at 9:00 a.m. to learn the health benefits of laughter.

Smith is widely known as the "Laughter Man" and guarantees to bring a tickle to your heart and soul.

Please join us and bring a friend!

There will be refreshments and door prizes.

For more information, call Janet at 454-2000.