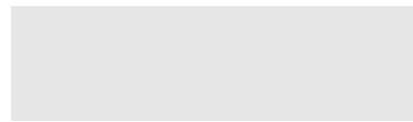


Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.  
5312 NE Chouteau Trafficway  
Kansas City, MO 64119

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The monthly **“Meet Your Councilperson”** event is Monday, September 27, 6 - 7 pm at NNI. Following that, Northland neighborhood leaders will meet.

**The NNI Board of Directors will meet September 20 at 6:30 pm.**

### **NNI Meetings in September**

Mon.,	September 6	Labor Day - NNI Offices Closed	6 pm
Wed.,	September 8	Senior Citizen Workshop	9 am
Thurs.,	September 9	Greenhaven Neighborhood Meeting	6:30 pm
Mon.,	September 13	RecycleFIRST informational meeting	7 pm
Mon.,	September 20	NNI Board Meeting	6:30 pm
Thurs.,	September 23	RecycleFIRST informational meeting	10 am
Thurs.,	September 23	40-46 Neighborhood meeting	7 pm
Mon.,	September 27	Meet your Councilperson and Leaders Meeting	6-8 pm



# NORTHLAND NEIGHBORHOODS

*We will leave no neighborhood behind*

September 2004

Quarterly Edition

Volume 1, Issue 8

## **NNI volunteers make a difference**



***Energizing five  
senior citizens'  
homes in the  
Northland***

On July 27-29, eighty-nine students and 27 adults from the Clay-Platte Baptist Association, descended on the Northland in late July to repair and spruce up five homes that needed

some attention.

The homes, all occupied by seniors, were selected based on the income guidelines of the Municipal Court Fund Program.

The Court Fund paid for the materials and the volunteers clocked approximately 1,700 hours of labor.

This year NNI referred three  
*(Continued on page 2)*

### **Inside**

- 2. Parents As Teachers, NNI Seniors Workshop**
- 3. Northland Reflections, Neighborhood Conference and Grant Awards**
- 4. Leaders' Meeting, Calendar**

## ***NNI makes a difference (Continued from page 1)***

homes in the Maple Park Neighborhood, one home in Old Maple Park Neighborhood and one home in Platte County.

The program offers senior citizens on fixed incomes badly needed home repairs, youth volunteers gain skills they will carry with them for the rest of their lives and neighborhood property values improve. It's a win-win situation for all involved.

NNI has participated in the program for 8 years and plans to continue again next year.



***These young volunteers caulked windows, painted and repaired a front porch***

***This house got energized by some high-energy young women from the Clay-Platte Baptist Association***



***Everyone was happy at the end of this "Energize and Restore" project.***

## **Parents As Teachers "helps parents and children"**

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. Your child will learn more during the first 3 years than at any other time in life.

If you are the parent of an infant, toddler or preschooler, Parents As Teachers (PAT) is for you. PAT is a FREE program available through the NKC School District for all families with children, birth to 5 years old.

Parents participating in PAT will gain knowledge in development-growth and strengthen the parent-child relationship through personal home visits by a trained parent educator.

If you would like to enroll in this program or would like more information, call 413-5650.

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## **NNI seniors: Missouri Gas Energy Safety**

Summer is almost over and soon it will be time to turn on our furnace once again. Natural gas is a safe, reliable and efficient source of energy when used properly. When used improperly, it can be extremely dangerous.

In this workshop Jeff Harris and Kevin Fightmaster, MGE Safety Specialists, will offer important information regarding gas safety in your home. Jeff and Kevin will also discuss the importance of having a carbon monoxide alarm in your home.

For more information call Janet Shaffer at 454-2000.

# Northland Reflections

## *Our Generational Connections*

by Reta Jo Mitchell

"Grandpa, tell me about the good old days," goes that wistful ballad of the Judds. Whether those old days were all that "good" is debatable. What is not is the two-way reward ensuring when adults share their life's experience, or are otherwise involved, with kids.

To Scout leaders and little league coaches, connecting is a given. At this moment, hundreds of Northland YouthFriends, some in the 80's, are heading back to school as lunch buddies or tutors, for what is often called "the love connection." As one, I've had kids consult me, confide in me, even try to figure out my age. (When I say I am five weeks younger than Shirley Temple, off they go to the library.)

Our area is rich in adult-child connections, like that of the Norclay Optimist Club whose remarkable beneficence includes free dictionaries for students, hearing aids for little patients at Children's Mercy Hospital, fixed-up used bikes for those having none.

When the "Golden Seniors" gather at the NKC Community Center, they play cards, hone computer skills, and bring donations for "the boys and girls over there" in Iraq and for needy children in our school. In October they will hold their

annual baby shower for the Pregnancy Crisis Center, with a bit of fun included, perhaps by a visit from the Stork.

As I heard journalist Maria Shriver expressing the need for youngsters to relate to their elders, I thought of the NKCS D's Living History Program. It has 35 speakers freely sharing their experiences and expertise with students. Last year alone, 125 classroom presentations greatly enhanced historical, literary and cultural units of study.

Battlefield veteran Ron Klump vividly recounts his tour of duty in the deltas of Vietnam. Helen Firestone tells what it was like to venture out into the workplace as a Union Station Harvey Girl. Midori Harbison explains the role of the kimono in the Japanese culture.

The rural past came alive through "Little House on the Prairie" reenactor Bobbie Watson. With no cow in sight, Bobbie taught the little ones all about milking. And was often greeted with waves displaying those unmistakable finger movements.

Bobbie linked yesterday to today and loved doing it...Older generations sharing their knowledge and themselves with those succeeding. That is what is meant by "the thread that runs so true."

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"To those NNI friends who donated comfort items to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, their--and our--sincere thanks."

OPERATION SUPPORT OUR TROOPS  
Local contact: The Mitchells, 452-5898

# Neighborhood Conference features Grant Awards

Don't miss the 9th Annual Heartland Area Neighborhood Development Symposium, September 25, 2004.

This year the focus of the conference will be "Preparing for the Future of Neighborhoods" and is designed to assist neighborhood volunteers and professionals with their efforts and organization.

The conference will be presented in three tracts which are: **Leadership Tract** - Grant Writing Skills, ACCENT Training and Preparing Older Residents for Future Legal Issues. **The Neighborhood Tract** - Evolution of Neighborhoods, Partnering with Developers, Good Neighbor Training, and City Scope. **The Crime Tract** - Identify Theft, Emergency Management/Risk Assessment and Predatory Lending.

After the workshops there will be a luncheon where the 2004 Neighborhood Grants will be awarded for Beautification, Communications and Crime Prevention/Safety. Deadline for submission of applicants is 5 pm, September 10, 2004.

The conference is **FREE** if you register before September 25, 2004 and will be held at the Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Road in Kansas City, just east of the Plaza.

For information or to register, contact Nancy McNellis at 913-895-6374.