

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

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ORGANIZATION  
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KANSAS CITY, MO  
PERMIT NO.1848**



**The NNI Board of Directors will meet February 21 at 6:30 pm.**

### **NNI Meetings in February**

Tues., February 1	Holiday Hills Neighborhood Meeting	6 pm
Tues., February 8	Connections: Kansas City Aviation Director Mark Van Loh	6:30 pm
Wed., February 9	Senior Citizen Workshop	9 am
Thurs., February 10	Greenhaven Neighborhood Meeting	6:30 pm
<b>Mon., February 21</b>	<b>Presidents' Day - NNI offices closed</b>	
Mon., February 21	NNI Board Meeting	6:30 pm
Mon., February 28	Meet your Councilperson	6 pm

## A message from Northland Neighborhoods' President

For Northland Neighborhoods 2004 was a banner year. We made significant progress on:

- High-impact home repairs
- Affordable new infill housing
- Planning for a redeveloped Antioch Shopping Center
- A new and brighter future for North Oak
- Activating NNI Board committees: Administration and Finance, Neighborhood Relations, Planning and Development, Resource and Development
- Sensible growth policies for the I-435 Corridor
- New senior apartments
- Community-police partnerships
- A Neighborhood Solutions program
- New "Connections" meetings

In the "Year In Review" article in this issue, you will learn more about the many programs and services we offer...and how they impact you and your neighborhood. In 2005, we will continue and expand the programs launched in 2004.

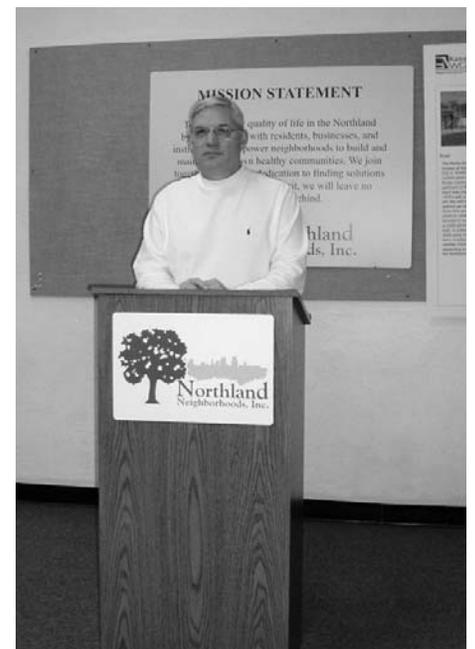
Forging new linkages and partnerships with Northland businesses and institutions will be a major new initiative this year. As always, the involvement and support of our neighborhoods will be crucial to our success. Best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2005!



Mike Lewis

President, Board of Directors  
Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.

**“Forging new linkages and partnerships with Northland businesses and institutions will be a major new initiative this year.”**



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# The 2004 Year In Review:

## Neighborhood Relations Committee helps launch Solutions Program

To get the most bang for the buck, NNI concentrates scarce resources in the most distressed neighborhoods. But, to meet the challenge of serving every Northland neighborhood, NNI created the Neighborhood Solutions program.

Issues developed during block and neighborhood meetings became part of NNI's Neighborhood Information System. The System offers access to research data, maps and the ability to create newsletters, fliers, web sites, presentations and other digital publications. This technology also enables "solutions teams" to manage solutions, map progress, report results, and hold themselves accountable.

Because some problems do not fit with established programs and services, NNI created "Custom Solutions." A Custom Solutions Bank was established to fund some Custom Solutions.

The Neighborhood Relations Committee, chaired by Kay Fugate of ReMax of Kansas City, oversees the Neighborhood Solutions program. During 2004, the committee collected information from seven neighborhood associations, approved Custom Solutions Guidelines and a number of grant/withdrawals from the Custom Solutions Bank.



**Kay Fugate chairs NNI's Neighborhood Relations Committee.**

## SBC awards second grant to NNI

NNI received a 2004 SBC Excelerator grant of \$8,000 on December 17, 2004. This followed a 2003 grant of \$20,000 for NNI's Neighborhood Information Center. SBC officials said it was very unusual for an organization to receive an Excelerator grant two years in a row. The grant will be used for computer technology training for staff, volunteers and neighborhood leaders.

## U.S. Senator Kit Bond goes to bat for NNI and scores home run

Impressed with the success of the CHAMP program, U.S. Senator Christopher (Kit) Bond secured federal funds for a new home repair program. NNI's new \$900,000 home repair program will be called SMART (Sustainable Maintenance and Renewal Today). The grant will enable NNI to complete repairs to nearly 200 homes in a targeted neighborhood yet to be determined.

## CHAMP redefines neighborhood revitalization

The Chouteau Housing Assistance and Maintenance Program (CHAMP) began in September 2003 and will conclude in February 2005. CHAMP lived up to its name in the two neighborhoods adjoining the Chouteau Crossings Shopping Center at I-35 and Chouteau Trafficway.



**A young Northlander enjoys her CHAMP patio doors.**

NNI completed more than 200 repairs averaging about \$4,200 per home. Inspired by CHAMP, homeowners in the neighborhood invested more than \$500,000 of their own funds to make additional home repairs. CHAMP's new roofs, siding, windows and driveways have created curb appeal and energy efficiency in the Winnwood-Sunnybrook and Chaumiere neighborhoods.

CHAMP was selected for a Cornerstone Award, given annually by the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City to recognize projects that have contributed to the growth and stability of Kansas City's economy.

# Greenhaven wins Harvester contest



**Keely Norris, President, Greenhaven Neighborhood Association, accepts check from Executive Director Jim Rice.**

Greenhaven Neighborhood Association was a big winner in the Harvesters food drive contest sponsored by Northland Neighborhoods during the 2004 holiday season.

On January 11, NNI awarded \$150 to the neighborhood that donated the most items and \$50 to the individual or couple who donated the most items.

Greenhaven Neighborhood Association donated 92 non-

perishable food items and Jim and Diane Reed from Parkville donated 125 items. Altogether, the contest brought in 468 lbs. of food, which will provide 360 meals.

Harvesters provides food for food pantries throughout the Kansas City area on a year-round basis

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## These numbers could save you time and irritation when problems occur

City Manager Wayne Cauthen has recommended sweeping changes in the way Kansas City handles customer service. But, these changes may take a while to implement. Until then, these numbers could help during times of major and minor emergency.

### **Snow Removal 816-513-2673**

Is snow not being removed within the usual timeframe in your neighborhood? Call to see why.

### **Water Main Break 816-513-0209**

Pipes cracked from freezing weather? Call this number for repairs outside of your home.

### **Gas Leak 1-800-582-0000**

Fear you or your neighbor have a gas leak? Evacuate the building, and then call for help.

### **Power Line Down 1-888-544-4852**

Never approach a downed power line yourself, even if it's on your vehicle or property.

### **Illegal Dumping 816-513-3485**

Neighbors getting rid of their old stove the easy way after the holidays? Call an investigator.

### **Potholes 816-513-2777**

Call Street Maintenance during business hours. After hours, leave a message at **513-9224**.

### **Repeated Arson 816-513-0900**

Are vagrants lighting fires inside a vacant house? Call the Fire Non-Emergency Number.

### **Abandoned Vehicles 816-784-4080**

Vehicles that are snowed in or stuck are one thing, but abandoned vehicles still need to be towed.

### **Utility Assistance 1-800-582-1234**

Need help with your utilities this winter? MAAC has assistance programs for those who qualify.

### **Weatherization 816-784-4020**

Sometimes just a little bit of work can yield great savings on your energy bills in extreme weather.

### **Animal Control 816-513-9800**

If you see someone leaving their pets out in harsh weather, please report it; you might save a life.

## **NNI offers free smoke detectors**

Home fires cause more than \$500,000 in damage every hour in the United States. Smoke detectors are one of the most important home safety features, and can help reduce the toll on property and human life.

A smoke detector can significantly increase the chance of surviving a home fire. Proper placement, regular testing and routine maintenance of smoke detectors can ensure that they are working and will sound the alert if a fire breaks out.

Persons who need a smoke detector should call Northland Neighborhoods. Contact Janet at 454-2000.

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## **Membership renewal applications in the mail**

Renewal certification applications have been mailed to NNI's certified neighborhood associations and need to be returned to Janet Shaffer as soon as possible.

Under NNI bylaws, only certified Members may vote at the Annual Meeting. The deadline for neighborhood associations to be certified in time for the 2005 Annual Meeting is May 2005.

Certifications must be renewed annually. NNI currently lists 65 neighborhood associations as officially certified.

For more information, contact Janet Shaffer at 454-2000. Neighborhood associations not currently certified may also contact Janet to obtain an application form.

## **Meet your Neighbor**



**Major Jan Zimmerman**

**J**an Zimmerman, Commander of the new Shoal Creek Patrol Division, has been a Major with the Kansas City Police Department since 2000. She has also held the positions of police dispatcher, Entruant Officer, Police Officer, Sergeant, and Captain. From 1975 to 1979, Jan worked in the medical field as a Licensed Practical Nurse.

While serving as commander of the Central Patrol Division, Jan successfully resolved the long-standing problem of disorderly crowds in the Westport entertainment district. Jan is a strong proponent of community policing and served on two city-wide task forces sponsored by the Community Policing Steering Committee.

Major Zimmerman received her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and her Masters Degree in Public Administration from Park University. During that time she was awarded the Stanley Fisher Outstanding Graduate Student Award. She also attended the Southern Police Institute/Administrative Officers Course at the University of Louisville and the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Jan is active in the Kansas City community. Her volunteer time has been spent as a board member for the Newhouse Battered Women's Shelter, Metropolitan Community Service Program, Kidsafe, Keep Kansas City Beautiful, and Brush Creek Partners. She has also been involved with the Mayor's Safe City Initiative, Citizen Police Academy, and is currently involved in the FBI National Academy Associates.

Jan is married to Captain David Zimmerman of KCPD and has two daughters, Britt and Jacquelyn. She has lived in the Northland for 20 years and enjoys spending her free time with her family.

Jan is very excited about starting KCPD's Shoal Creek Patrol Division and looks forward to attending neighborhood meetings to get acquainted with Northland residents and address issues they may have. It is very important to her that members of the community and the Shoal Creek Division work together to make the Northland the best place to live.

Temporary offices for the new Division are located in the Antioch Center next door to NNI.

("Meet Your Neighbor" is a quarterly column that features a person who makes a difference in the life of our neighborhoods.)

## Year in Review (continued)

### Family's dire housing conditions inspire innovative community partnership

A family of five, a single mother of two and her two rescued foster children, lived in a tiny, ramshackle house with holes in the floors and walls. In October 2003, a relative approached NNI for a home repair grant. But the house was outside NNI's target area for home repair, and estimates to make the house barely habitable were \$20,000.

So, NNI brought together Northland Habitat and Kansas City's Housing and Economic Development Financial Corporation (HEDFC). Habitat knew how to build quality housing at a very low cost. HEDFC had the ability to acquire and clear property. NNI could provide administrative and social service backup.

With exterior work on the new house on NE 60th Street completed, Habitat crews are now pressing forward with the interior work.



**A Habitat volunteer puts finishing touches on the Jacobs porch.**

### NNI partnership with Cohen-Esrey to transform school into senior apartments

On December 17, 2004, the Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) approved tax credits for the \$5.5 million Chaumiere Place senior apartment project. This enables NNI and Cohen-Esrey Development to proceed with final design and construction of the 35-unit apartment village.



**The old Eastwood school will house senior apartments.**

The project will utilize the former Eastwood School and its 4-acre site at 4140 N. Walrond. The school building will contain 23 total units (16 two-bedroom and 7 one-bedroom apartments) and a 2,300 square foot community center in the former gymnasium. Twelve new, 2-bedroom patio units with attached garages will be constructed on the remainder of the site. Construction should begin by June 2005.

### NNI intervenes in Antioch Mall TIF plan

In September 2004, Canadian-based Eastbourne Investments, Ltd., owner of the Antioch Mall, announced its intention to redevelop the Mall with tax increment financing (TIF).

There were no provisions for redeveloping the business properties along Vivion and Antioch Roads, and no provision for improvements in adjacent neighborhoods. NNI retained an attorney to negotiate with Eastbourne to secure changes in the plan.



**The 50 year-old Antioch mall is slated for redevelopment.**

### NNI takes lead in North Oak planning

The North Oak Corridor Plan will address declining conditions and future development opportunities for North Oak, from Englewood Road to 32nd Street.

Jim Rice, NNI Executive Director, and Tammy Henderson, an executive with Hunt Midwest, were appointed by Mayor Kay Barnes to co-chair the North Oak Corridor Steering Committee. The Committee includes business owners on North Oak and residents of adjacent neighborhoods.

TranSystems/PBA has been selected as the consultant team for the plan. The planning work will begin in February 2005 and conclude by fall of 2005. Ultimately the plan must be approved by the Kansas City Plan Commission and adopted by the City Council.

## Speakers set for February, March and April Connections meetings

Mark Van Loh, Kansas City's new Aviation Director will speak at NNI's February 8 Connections meeting. Van Loh will update the group on current plans and activities at the two Kansas City airports.

On March 8, KCPT (Channel 19) Public Affairs Director Nick Haynes will share his unique perspective on American media. Nick is the host of Channel 19's Kansas City Week in Review.

Connections meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at NNI.

Mike Herron with the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department will be the April 12 Connections speaker.

## James Cianciaruso to manage NNI's Neighborhood Solutions program



James Cianciaruso took charge of NNI's Neighborhood Solutions program January 10. James is currently a graduate student at UMKC's School of Public Administration.

The Neighborhood Solutions program includes neighborhood problem-solving, community organizing and the Neighborhood Information Center. James will be available at NNI approximately 20 hours each week.

## Jacobs fund slowly edging toward \$10,000 goal

In partnership with the North Kansas City School District, NNI is trying to furnish the new home being built for the Irene Jacobs family by Northland Habitat and financed by the Housing and Economic Development Financial Corporation (HEDFC).

A special fund has been established to purchase furniture, appliances and housewares. To date, about \$1,600 has been contributed toward the \$10,000 goal. Contributions of new or very good used furniture items will also be considered. Cash donations should be made payable to Northland Neighborhoods, Inc., The Jacobs Fund, 5312 NE Chouteau Trafficway, KCMO 64119. All contributions are tax-deductible.

The Claycomo Lions Club, the Claycomo Fire Department, and other local Claycomo businesses joined together to provide Christmas for the Jacobs family.

Gifts included clothing, CD players, toys, personal needs items and groceries. Bicycles and a big red wagon were delivered Christmas morning by Claycomo fire fighters. It was a very rewarding experience for the family—and for Club and the Fire Department members.

## NNI Seniors: New Clay County senior services program to begin February 1

Please join Clay County Senior Services Executive Director Tina Uridge on Wednesday, February 9 at 9:00 am at NNI.

Ms. Uridge will speak on the services the new senior tax levy-funded program will provide.

February 1 is the start date to begin services, including transportation, in-home assistance, emergency alert devices, and home delivered meals. Uridge will explain eligibility guidelines and how to access services.

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

Mike Lewis	President
Mary Jo Burton	Vice President
Tom Schweitzer	Treasurer
Kay Fugate	Secretary

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

**www.nni.org**

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# Spotlight on Volunteerism: The Message of the Blue Bins



**by Reta Jo Mitchell**  
**Lecturer on the Environment**

Those modest bins don't hold much: some paper and cardboard, two kinds of plastic, steel and aluminum cans. But what a message they send! At long last, Kansas City has joined the curbside recycling crusade and embraced its mission: to minimize land fill need and cost, reduce petroleum use, save irreplaceable metals, and spare more trees.

In only 11 months, 55 percent of us have begun setting out bins. Over 250,000 stickers for extra bags have been purchased. Our roadways are not awash in the trash of irate dumpers, non-recyclables are not cluttering the bins. The message is simple: pay attention to the people's concerns, allow learning time and get the devoted staff of Bridging the Gap to do the teaching. (Their illustrated handout in both English and Spanish is posted on many refrigerators.)

The recycling effort reminds me of the Stop Smoking movement that actually began over 90 years ago with teetotaler Carry Nation. All such drives pick up

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steam only when vital connections are made, such as the danger of secondhand smoke. Or, with recycling, the cost of a barrel of oil jumping to over 50 dollars. Thus, the connection: PETE 1 and HDPE 2 plastics that are recycled mean less oil used in polyester and other polymers for clothing, furniture and such.



**“Neither sleet nor snow keeps Northlander Suzy Miller from her appointed round.”**

Recycled cooking grease carries a dual message. It becomes diesel fuel while saving a fortune in sewer line unclogging. Generating electricity with windmills or fuel pellets made from hog waste (Maryville's

Missouri State University does this now) lessens dependency on natural gas.

Recycling some of those 200 million tires thrown out annually reduces mosquito breeding havens and air-polluting fires. Old tires are now used in road surfaces, football fields like that of the Detroit Lions, or on playgrounds (see Penguin Park).

The most important message is the commitment of our kids. They want more trash burned to make energy, all of the nine kinds of plastics recycled, and the glass taken at curbside. When I spoke to Mrs. Mulcahey's 8th graders at New Mark School, 84 wrote me notes, expressing their concern for the environment and their eagerness to help save it. A few 4th graders once told me that adults should be fined for not recycling, but most said we grownups need, not punishment, but knowledge.

Now that we are on the way, a final message can be found in a popular song of the early 1970's: "It's not where you start, it's where you finish..."