

NORTHLAND NEIGHBORHOODS NEWS

NNI's SMART Lady



Yvonne Herrick, SMART Program Consultant, installs the first of many SMART yard signs signaling that the \$900,000 home repair program is underway. (Story on page 2)



NNI prepares for growth era; sets \$1,500,000 fundraising goal

Northland Neighborhoods will seek grants and contributions totaling \$1,500,000 for 2006. "It's ambitious, but doable," says NNI executive director Jim Rice. "This new year will mark NNI's 10th Anniversary. As a mature community development corporation, we need to have the capacity to respond to the Northland's increasingly diverse population, its aging housing stock, and the ever important need for community-building."

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According to NNI's Resource Development Committee Chair Mary Jo Burton, \$1 million of the fundraising goal would go toward a new home repair program. "NNI's experience with the CHAMP and SMART home repair programs demonstrates that there is a tremendous need for these programs." NNI's home repair expertise was recognized at a recent

meeting with City housing officials. NNI's Jim Rice and James Cianciaruso were told that CHAMP and SMART will be used as models.

Rice says the additional \$500,000 will build the organizational capacity to improve current services and add new programs to serve seniors, youth, and neighborhoods that need help building their own capacity to help themselves.

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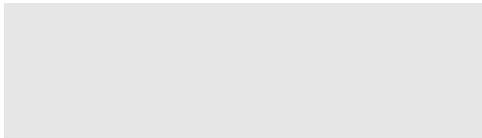


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**WE WILL LEAVE NO
NEIGHBORHOOD BEHIND.**



Dates to Remember
JANUARY 2006

Monday	1/2	NNI Holiday - Office Closed	
Tuesday	1/10	Connections Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	1/11	Seniors Workshop	9:00 a.m.
Thursday	1/12	KCNA Self Help Grant Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Monday	1/16	NNI Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	1/17	Greenhaven Neighborhood Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	1/17	Winnwood/Sunnybrook Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	1/18	Carriage Commons Neighborhood	7:00 p.m.
Thursday	1/19	Auburn Hills Neighborhood Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Monday	1/23	Meet Your Councilperson	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	1/24	Regional Transit Alliance Forum	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	1/25	Oak Park Manor Neighborhood	7:00 p.m.
Sunday	1/29	Country Downs Neighborhood	2:00 p.m.

Regional Transit Alliance Forum set for January 24 at NNI

In 1999, the Regional Transit Alliance (RTA) was established to advocate for a comprehensive, efficient, high-quality regional public transit system. The RTA's region includes seven counties: Platte, Clay, Jackson, and Cass in Missouri; and Leavenworth, Johnson, and Wyandotte in Kansas.

Initially the RTA Board members and staff concentrated on researching, studying and working to educate the community on major transit needs and issues. This work included participating in the following plans and studies: the Metropolitan Transit Initiatives Needs Assessments and Service Plan, the I-35 Commuter Rail Study, the Central Business Corridor Transit Study, the Kansas City Area Transit Authority (KCATA) Governance Study, and the 1999 Light Rail Petition Initiative.

In September 2005, the RTA members ramped up their citizens' advocacy effort. They started building a computerized network that will be utilized to educate and update supporters on regional transit issues. Ultimately, advocates will be asked to contact (e-mail, letter, or phone) elected officials in Jefferson City and Topeka and encourage them to pass legislation that would allow area voters to create a regional funding mechanism for public transit.

The RTA has been contacting organizations throughout the region that have constituents who would champion a high-quality public transit system. Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. is an obvious resource because of the importance that public transit plays in keeping neighborhoods strong. The RTA hopes to plug into NNI's neighborhood network and ask individuals to register as advocates. RTA will hold a forum at NNI on January 24 at 6:30 p.m. People can register by going to www.kctransit.org and clicking on Join Us or by calling the RTA office, 816-471-6808.

This is a long-term project. The goal is to introduce enabling legislation in Jefferson City and Topeka during the 2006 legislative session. The timing of a ballot issue is yet to be determined.

SMART hits the ground running

Program Consultant Yvonne Herrick recently installed the first SMART yard sign at the home of Paul and Jennifer Galatas in the Sunset-Dixon neighborhood. The Galatas family will soon enjoy a new roof thanks to the SMART (Sustainable Maintenance and Renewal Today) home repair program. Before the program reaches completion, some 180 SMART yard signs will sprout up in the five Northland neighborhoods targeted for the \$900,000 home repair program.

As of December 21, 157 SMART applications have been filed with NNI. Thirty applications have had initial review and 10 applications have been sent to the City of Kansas City's environmental review officer. When the City completes its review of these applications, contractors will go to work on the repairs. Of the applications that passed initial review, 9 are in Sunset Dixon, 7 in Crestview, 11 in 40-46, 1 in Russell Manor, and 2 in Gladstone. For more information on the SMART program, contact Yvonne Herrick at 454-2000.

NNI extends thanks to Stakeholder contributors

During 2005, the following businesses and individuals jumped on the NNI Bandwagon. The Board of Directors and staff of NNI are very grateful for this support, which totaled \$7,370 for 2005. The Stakeholder campaign will continue throughout 2006. Tax-deductible contributions should be made payable to Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.

Bayer CropScience	JE Dunn
Jim Bowers, Attorney	Mary Ann Litras
Mary Jo Burton	Kevin Masters
Virjean Burton	Jan Ford
Linda Cochran	Pedcor/Crooked Creek Apts
George Cascone	Pete and Mac's Pet Resort
Misty Casey	Jim Rice
Dru Sears	Sam's Club Foundation
Anita Gorman	Steamatic of Kansas City
Ed Bradley, Liberty First Bank	
Mike Hagen Electric, Inc.	
Heart of America Van Council	
R.T. Salsman Caterers, Inc.	
Saint Patrick Nottingham Society	

NEIGHBORHOOD CLIPS

Connections: Speakers on board for January and February meetings

Tom Cranshaw, executive director of Tri-County Mental Health Services will speak January 10 at 6:30 p.m. Cranshaw will outline Tri-County's programs and services and provide some insights on how recent federal and state budget cuts are impacting Northland residents.

The February 14 meeting will feature the University of Missouri Extension's **EXCEL** (Experience in Community Enterprise and Leadership Development) program. NNI will use EXCEL to train staff and neighborhood leaders. The program fits NNI's strategy of empowering neighborhoods to sustain themselves on a long-term basis.

Connections meetings are held at NNI on the second Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. at NNI and are open to the public. The meetings update neighborhood residents on important issues and programs affecting neighborhoods, the city and the region.

NORTHLAND NEIGHBORHOODS

Board of Directors - Officers

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

Full-Time Staff

Jim Rice	Executive Director
Christy Harris	Director of Operations
James Cianciaruso	Director of Planning & Development
Janet Shaffer	Program Coordinator

Question and answer session scheduled for senior workshop

Staff from the Foundation on Aging will speak at NNI's senior workshop on Wednesday, January 11 at 9:00 a.m.

The Foundation has received a grant to develop a community-based strategic plan to provide older adults better access to services.

Foundation staff will conduct a very short survey, followed by an open discussion about the needs and concerns of the senior population.

For more information, contact Janet Shaffer at 454-2000.

KCNA, NNI to host self-help workshop

The Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance (KCNA) and NNI will host the workshop, "How to Apply for a Neighborhood Self-Help Fund Grant" on Thursday, January 12, 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. 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 or by contacting James Prim, 753-8600, ext. 1038.

Antioch plan gets ok from Planning Commission; moves on to City Council

The Urban Redevelopment District (URD) for the Antioch Mall Redevelopment Plan got a unanimous thumbs-up from the City Planning Commission on December 20. That paves the way for a City Council committee hearing and a final vote from the full Council as early as January. The Council will be asked to approve a regular TIF (tax increment financing) plan and a "Super TIF." Super TIF provides for use of 100% of both property tax and economic activity tax increments. Regular TIF allows only 50% of the economic activity tax increments.

If the plan gains Council approval, supporters of the plan will seek a State Supplemental TIF from the State of Missouri. According to NNI executive director Jim Rice, the state TIF is critical for the neighborhoods surrounding the Antioch Mall. "The State Supplemental TIF will provide about \$8 million for neighborhood improvements, including infrastructure and home repair. Opportunities to put that kind of capital in our neighborhoods don't come along very often," Rice says. "The next 30 days will tell the tale."

The plan calls for the complete demolition of the 1957-vintage mall and replacement with a new open-air retail complex.