

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. March 2007

Quarterly Edition
Volume 4
Issue 3



City of Riverside and NNI to join forces on home repair

The City of Riverside is on the move. Fueled by revenues from Argosy Casino, this Platte County community is reinventing itself. In recent years, Riverside has invested in infrastructure and public buildings, and cleared land for major economic development projects. The Riverside Board of Aldermen and the administrative staff now want to bring that same energy to the city's aging neighborhoods with a partnership with Northland Neighborhoods.

On February 20, the Board of Aldermen approved a \$100,000 contract with NNI to bring its Custom Solutions home repair program to Riverside neighborhoods.

“This is a classic win-win situation,” says NNI executive director Jim Rice. “Riverside gets the benefit of our experience and expertise in home repair. NNI gets to expand its services into Platte County and work with a group of visionary elected officials and a smart, high-energy city staff.”

Rice hopes the home repair assignment will lead to other opportunities with Riverside. “Job one is to do the home repair work with skill, efficiency and compassion,” Rice says. “If we do this job right, I’m confident we’ll be involved with other Riverside neighborhood projects. In the meantime, we intend to hit the

ground running on home repair.”

The Custom Solutions program, pioneered by NNI’s James Cianciaruso, provides grants of up to \$5,000 per household for low to moderate-income homeowners for new roofs, windows, siding and other repairs. But home repair is only part of the

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NNI’s mission:

To improve the quality of life in the Northland by collaborating with residents, businesses and institutions to empower neighborhoods to build and maintain their own healthy communities. We join with them in absolute dedication to finding solutions and, in that collective spirit, we will leave no neighborhood behind.

Neighborhood Clips

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Connections:
Meetings set for
March, April and
May

Steve Rhoades, of Patti Banks Associates, will be at NNI March 13 to discuss **MetroGreen**, a seven-county plan for an interconnected system of public and private open spaces, trails and greenways.

Heather Jordan of Wheel Cyclery will be on hand April 10 to offer tips on bike safety. Heather will help the young and the young at heart get ready for better and safer bicycle fun this spring and summer.

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day!



Jeff Spivac of the **Kansas City Star** will discuss the **Star's** recent series on Kansas City Neighborhoods on May 8.

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

Cop Talk

“Cop Talk” will be held at NNI on Wednesday, March 21 at 6:00 p.m. Cop talk is an open forum where residents can meet with staff from both Northland police stations to discuss crime and other disorder issues.



Memory is subject
of March 14 senior
workshop

Bone up on your memory skills at NNI's Senior Workshop Wednesday, March 14, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Carolyn DeLaMare from the Clay County Health Department will speak on the important topic of memory and a variety of activities you can use to improve both long and short-term memory skills. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in exercises that can help them better orient to, and become more aware of, their surroundings.



Riverside *continued from front*

Custom Solutions program. The “Custom” part is NNI's holistic approach to each home repair application. When NNI staff members do an on-site evaluation, they watch for other needs such as

health care, financial counseling, and help with code violations. “We look for underlying problems along with the immediate home repair issue,” Cianciaruso says. “That way, we can help families help themselves.”

HomeWorks workshop debuts at NNI in March; To focus on home maintenance and financial planning

Your home is one of the biggest investments you will ever make. Maintaining and enhancing its value should be a high priority. Once you have purchased your home and moved in, too often you are confronted with the dilemma of how much you need to know to be a capable homeowner. With that in mind, NNI will partner with the University of Missouri Extension this spring to present the “HomeWorks: Maintaining Your Housing Investment” workshop series. This



workshop is designed to focus on home maintenance and financial planning. The HomeWorks program will be taught by two specialists from the University of Missouri Extension—Marsha Alexander and Carole Bozworth. The series will be taught at

NNI’s offices on March 15, March 22, and April 5 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. One folder per household will be distributed at the first session for \$5.00. Pre-registration is required and space is limited, so please RSVP early to Jennifer Presberry at 816-454-2000.

NNI Board supports school levy and bond issue

At its February 19 meeting, the NNI Board of Directors approved a resolution endorsing the April 3, 2007 North Kansas City School District ballot questions. The measures would authorize a capital improvement bond issue and an operating levy increase.

The NNI resolution pointed out that the quality of education plays a fundamental and central role in the health and stability of residential neighborhoods. NNI is a Partner in Education with the North Kansas City School District.

North Kansas City School District is seeking a 27 cent levy increase to open and operate Staley High School, hire additional K-8 teachers to manage class size across the district, and continue vital safety and maintenance improvements. Question 2 would authorize a \$21 million bond issue to build a new elementary school, upgrade playgrounds and classroom technology, all of which can be accomplished within the district’s current debt capacity without raising taxes.

NNI Staff

Full-Time

Jim Rice
Executive Director

James Cianciaruso
Director of Planning and Development

Christy Harris
Director of Housing Services

Joy Loesch
Manager of Finance

Jennifer Presberry
Manager, Community Development

Janet Shaffer
Community Development Coordinator

Part-Time and Contract

Lola McCloud
Administrative Support

Jenny Ellis
Administrative Support

Randy Dunn
Intern



Those in my age category likely think that today's music is more savage than soothing. We felt betrayed when the local "Music Of Your Life" broadcasts were stilled. But the good news is that our kinds of music are alive and well and free—right here in the Northland.

For 18 years, director Faye Rader's North Star Community Band has entertained us with music as varied as the classics, John Phillip Sousa, Hoagy Carmichael, even Spike Jones. This all-volunteer group, sponsored by the Antioch Music Store, includes both teenagers and retirees. Says Director Rader: "Whether your instrument needs dusting off or is in mint condition, if you want to make music come join us."

Faye has a winning rapport with her audience. Little kids are

Spotlight on Volunteerism

By Reta Jo Mitchell

Giving The Gift of Music

often seen dancing in the aisles. Now with a ballroom dancing renaissance, band members Danny Fowler and Jenny McGee have become a modern-day Fred and Ginger. Concerts are scheduled on March 16 and May 14 at Oak Park High School, the Band's home. (Contact: 741-8079)

Since 1988, the Gladstone Theatre in the Park has given us the best of Broadway. The 37 shows thus far, presented by Gladstone, North Star Community Band and the Ibsen Dance Theatre, have included everything from "The Pirates of Penzance" to "Grease." Coming this summer are "Cinderella" and "Beauty and the Beast." Bring your chairs for a night of musical theatre under the stars. (Contact: 436-2200)

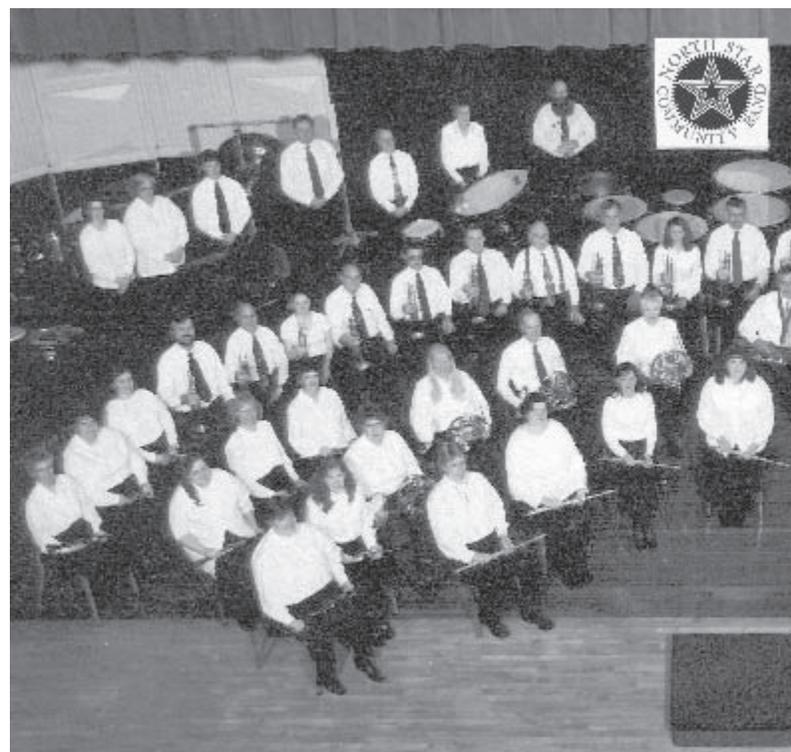
This is the 40th season for the Northland

Symphony Orchestra, whose members include professionals, community musicians and talented students. Director James Murray flavors his free concerts with a true sense of fun. The concert at Park Hill South High School on March 11 is sure to delight with the "Gershwin Cuban Overture" and Aaron Copeland's "Billy the Kid Suite." Concerts are also

scheduled at Oak Park South on April 29 and at Zona Rosa on June 3. At Zona Rosa we'll be treated to music from our favorite movies. Special for the kids will be tunes from the Harry Potter films, maybe even "The Hogwarts March." (Contact: northlandsymphony.org)

Guaranteed to please both jazz and bluegrass fans are the Friday concerts at Macken Park, sponsored by North Kansas City. Also on the program are drawings for prizes. (Contact: 274-6000)

Continued on page 5



Director Faye Rader presents h

As the birthplace of barbershop harmony, Kansas City is rich in this a capella singing style. The Northland's Sweet Adelines have performed in public concerts and in nursing homes since 1974. The ladies render our favorite love songs and also crowd-pleasing rousers. An all-time showstopper was "By the Beautiful Sea," with skirts suddenly flung off to reveal old, 1910 bloomer-style bathing suits. Potential singers are welcome at Thursday evening rehearsals at St. James Lutheran Church on Vivion Road.

In 1995, a very special men's barbershop singing group was formed. A heart attack or similar malady is required for membership in The Cardiac Carolers. Liberty member John Erwine explained that singing is great therapy. This group, based at Saint Luke's Center for Health Enhancement, has as its theme song "I'm Still Having Fun."

John also invites men of all ages who like to sing to look into the Heart of America Barbershop Chorus. Well-known for their public concerts, this group also does

fundraising programs for the Salvation Army. (Contact: 942-9091)

Vintage Memoirs, a singing duo known as USO Girls, performs at nursing homes and veterans' salutes. Singers Peggy Stanley and Rachelle Kropp, of nearby Richmond, performed at the Pearl Harbor Remembrance in Honolulu and on Veterans' Day at our Boardwalk Library. At the Library were several senior citizens. When the girls launched into "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," an elderly gentleman offered me his hand for a dance.

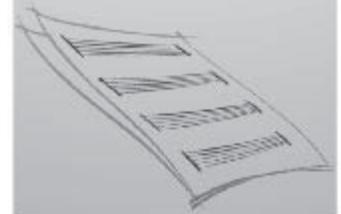
Calling their performance a Ministry, Peggy related how "Alzheimer's sufferers sometimes emerge from their lost world to smile and sing the beloved melodies from their past." (Contact: vintagememoirs.org)

Finally, remember the annual Tea Dance our high school students hold for senior citizens. This year's dance is on April 1 at North Kansas City High School. Already students from all three NKCSH high schools

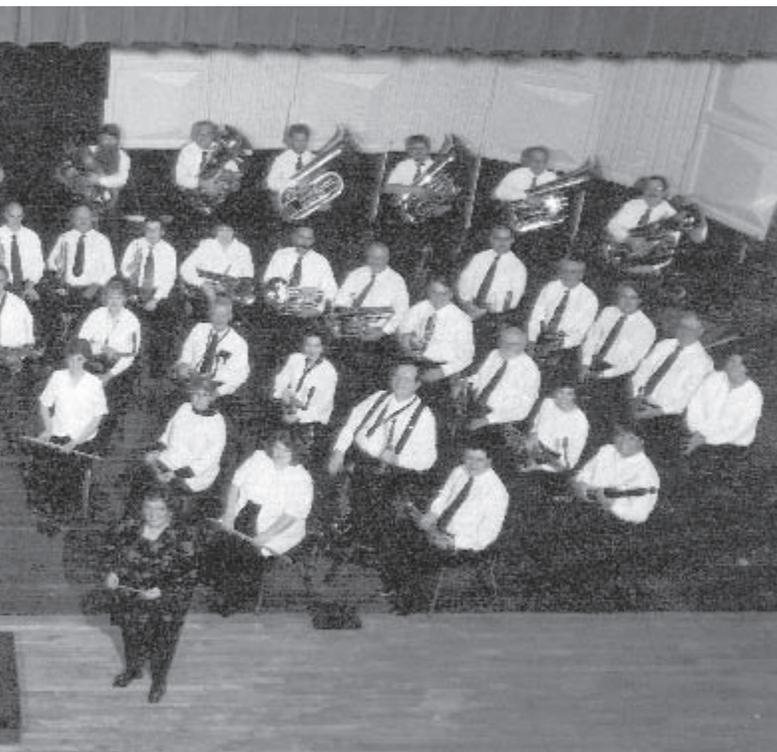


"Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast."

W. Congreve
1695



are honing their two-step skills and planning the refreshments. The District's terrific Honors Jazz Band, under the baton of music teacher Robert Hale, again guarantees to put us squarely "In the Mood." (Contact: 413-5047)



er North Star Community Band.

Focus on neighborhoods of the Northland: A Little Bit of History about the Briarcliff Community

Researched and written by

Nancy Johnson and Bob Wehner, Briarcliff resident

The Frank Lloyd Wright House

Master architect Frank Lloyd Wright has been proclaimed one of America's most influential and imaginative architects. His 70-year career ranged from commercial buildings to homes, all with unique design. His career began in the Chicago area with homes bearing his famous "prairie style," but his career soon moved throughout the world with homes in California and a hotel complex in Japan built to withstand earthquakes.

Briarcliff Hills has a major connection to this famed architect who designed one of the homes on the bluff. This home, built in 1956, belonged to Eloise Bott whose husband purchased the land from Sig Brunn. Mr. Brunn, when asked

to recommend the perfect architect, advised the Botts that Mr. Wright would be a natural. Wright accepted the challenge and the plans were completed. It took some two years to build because the topography of the land presented many hurdles. But the home on the bluff of Briarcliff Hills has the honor of being one of the last homes designed by this master architect. The Frank Lloyd Wright home in

Briarcliff Hills has been said to be a living example of excellence in both construction and in craftsmanship.

The home exhibits Frank Lloyd Wright's dislike of doorways and his affinity for built-in cabinets. The kitchen is an area Mr. Wright must have viewed as being used only by the "lady of the house" in that it is very small and compact. Also, the bedroom has many draw-

ers built in, thus eliminating need for additional furniture for storage. The home did have a wine cellar, but it was transformed into a kennel for the present owner's large dogs. When you drive down Briarcliff Road near the end of the bluff, look to your right and you'll see this most unique home. It is truly a masterpiece by a master architect. It is a shining example of his work and Briarcliff Hills is proud to have this site as one of the last he chose to use for his design.

Another example of Mr. Wright's design is Community Christian Church located near the Plaza at 46th and Main Streets. Take a look at this interesting design the next time you are in the Plaza area.



This unique hillside home in Briarcliff Hills is one of Frank Lloyd Wright's last works



FEATURING THE MUSIC
OF BROADWAY FROM THE
UNFORGETTABLE VOICES OF
**Andrea Pope and
Angelo Cilia**

NNI Goes Broadway!

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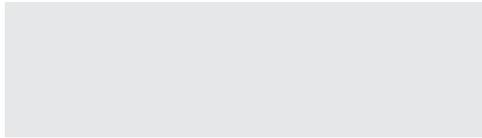


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**WE WILL LEAVE NO
NEIGHBORHOOD BEHIND.**



March 2007

Public Meetings

Thursday	3/8	NNI Member Meeting - NNI Bylaws	6:30 p.m.
Saturday	3/10	Snake Saturday Parade (NKC)	11:00 a.m.
Tuesday	3/13	Connections - MetroGreen	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	3/14	Senior Workshop	9 a.m.
Monday	3/19	NNI Board of Directors	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	3/21	Cop Talk	6:00 pm.
Saturday	3/24	Litter Index Training	8:00 a.m.
Saturday	3/24	NNI Goes Broadway (Finnigan's)	6:30 p.m.
Monday	3/26	Meet Your Councilpersons	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	3/27	KC Election for Mayor-Council	