

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. September 2007

Quarterly Edition
Volume 4
Issue 9



Northland Neighborhoods News

NNI to leave Antioch Mall in October



This 1975-vintage building at 3015 NE Vivion Road will be NNI's new home beginning October 8, 2007.

Northland Neighborhoods has signed a 5-year lease for the 4,300 square-foot property at 3015 NE Vivion Road (adjacent to Tires Plus). Occupancy is set for October 8, 2007. The new

facility is accessible from both Vivion and Chouteau Trafficway, has offices for staff, ample meeting and conference space, and parking for 70 cars.

During September, the owners will install a second

bathroom, paint throughout, and modify a wall for the reception area. In the meantime, NNI staff is taking a number of steps to expedite the actual move, scheduled for the weekend of October 6 and 7.

(Continued on page 2)

Annual Breakfast to spotlight Northland's best

Planning for the October 19 Annual Breakfast moved into high gear in August. Sponsor letters went out and invitations were mailed. Highlighting the 2007 breakfast are awards to four Northlanders who have made extraordinary contributions to the community. The 2007 Larry McManus Good Neighbor Award recipients are Bruce and Reta Jo Mitchell; the Outstanding Public Service Awardee is Kevin

Green, the Extreme Makeover: Home Edition builder; and the Jay Dillingham Lifetime Achievement honoree is North Kansas City Schools Superintendent Tom Cummings. The Lifetime Achievement Award has a special poignancy this year with the August 13 death of the award's namesake, Jay Dillingham.

The breakfast buffet begins at
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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.

NNI Board of Directors

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Annual Breakfast

(Continued from front)

7:30 a.m. at Finnigan's Hall, 505 East 18th Avenue in North Kansas City, and the entire program will end promptly at 9 a.m. Tickets are affordably priced at \$25 per person, \$250 per table of 10. Sponsorships are available at

\$2,500, \$1,000, \$500 and \$300 levels. All sponsorships include a table of 10 and special program recognition. Contributions (less the actual cost of the meal) are tax-deductible.

NNI to move

(Continued from front)

These steps include a "garage sale" to dispose of surplus equipment, printing new stationery, cleaning out files, and packing 11 years of accumulated stuff. NNI signage

will appear on Vivion and Chouteau prior to the actual move, but patrons of NNI should continue to use the Antioch Mall offices through October 5.

NNI began serving the Northland in a building at 3826 NE Antioch Road in 1996, and moved to the Antioch Mall in December 1997.

EXCEL to launch September 7

Northland EXCEL, a 7-month college-level course for neighborhood leaders, begins September 7 with a reception and dinner welcoming the 20 inaugural participants.

A joint venture of Northland Neighborhoods, Inc., the Northland EXCEL Steering Committee, and the University of Missouri Extension, EXCEL (Experience in Community Enterprise and Leadership) is designed to build "leaders, trust and community." Participants will learn about demographics and community analysis, social services, understanding poverty, community infrastructure, state government, local government, economic development, and more. The EXCEL curriculum includes 30 hours of presentations and workshops that are eligible for Continuing Education Units through the University of Missouri.

Downsized Antioch Mall redevelopment set to move forward

The Kansas City TIF Commission on August 15 unanimously recommended a revised redevelopment plan for the 57-year-old Antioch Mall. That cleared the way for review of the revised site plan by the City Development Department, the City Plan Commission and, finally, the Kansas City Council. With Council approval, demolition could begin by early 2008. The anticipated completion of the \$72 million project is early 2009. The decision by anchor tenant Sears to remain in its current location rather than moving to the south end of the mall prompted revision of both the financial and physical plans for the mall. The amended plan contains more than \$1 million in neighborhood improvements.

Neighborhood Clips

**NNI Website under-
goes makeover**

Check out www.NNI.org, NNI's revamped website. In fact, check back often because the site is updated on a continuing basis. The home page shows happenings at NNI that may pique the interest of neighborhood folks. The calendar details upcoming events as well as neighborhood meetings at NNI.

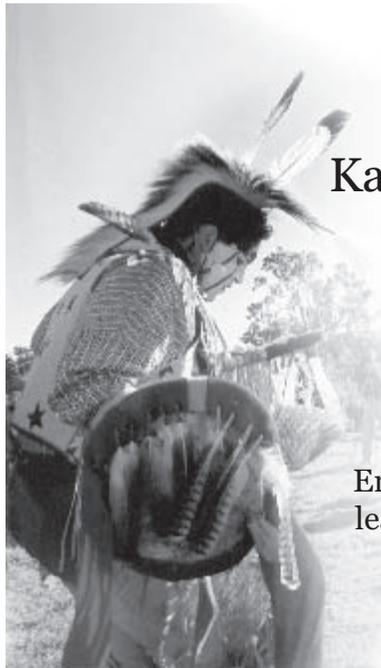
The current NNI newsletter is available, as are older editions. Regular newsletter readers who want to help NNI save paper and postage should consider switching from US snail mail to e-mail notification when the newsletter has been

posted to the website. If you would like to make the switch, please contact Joy Loesch at joy_loesch@nni.org. Please include your full name, US mail address, neighborhood, and e-mail address.

NNI is also using a new e-mail program to provide up-to-date information on special hearings, meetings scheduled after the newsletter was produced, and other information. NNI currently has a very limited list of e-mail addresses for people in the neighborhoods. If you would like to be added to this list you may send your request to joy_loesch@nni.org. Please include your full name, US mail address, neighborhood, and e-mail address.

**Senior workshop
hones in on mort-
gage fraud,
predatory lending**

Julia Jensen, Special Agent, FBI, Kansas City Division, will speak on mortgage fraud at the **September 12** senior workshop. Agent Jensen will pinpoint what individuals need to look for when signing mortgage papers to avoid exploitation by unscrupulous lenders and brokers. Joining Agent Jensen will be Susan Kephart, Attorney with Legal Aid of Kansas City. She will discuss predatory lending, debt collection, and Legal Aid services available for seniors.



Save the Date
**Kansas City Indian Art Market and
Cultural Festival**

Frank Vaydik Park (Line Creek)
5940 NW Waukomis Drive
Oct. 6-7 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Admission is free - donations accepted
Enjoy Native American artwork, jewelry, pottery, leatherwork and cuisine. There will be entertainment, workshops and children's activities.

Get more information at: www.nciac.org

NNI Staff

Full-Time

Jim Rice
Executive Director

James Cianciaruso
*Director of Planning
and Development*

Christy Harris
*Director of Housing
Services*

Joy Loesch
*Director of
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Janet Shaffer
*Community
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Jenny Ellis
Administrative Support

Pearl Brown
Administrative Support

Pat Estes
Housing Assistant

Lola McCloud
Special Projects



Spotlight on Volunteerism

By Reta Jo Mitchell

The Clay County Archives: Where History Lives

My research of old Winnwood Beach once turned up an elusive elephant named Babe. Did she really stroll into Winnwood Lake and refuse to come out? Did rescue attempts involve hundreds? Yes, proof is there in the May 25, 1931 issue of the “Liberty Advance” which reported that “600 men with ropes and cables pulled 60-year-old Babe from her sinking grave.” That newspaper and others detailing Clay County’s 185-year-old history can be researched today at the Clay County Archives in Liberty.

While writing features for the “Sun Chronicle,” I chanced upon the Liberty Ladies College, an exclusive boarding school that burned down in 1913. The school’s history—class schedules, photos, even

its yearbooks—are right there in The Archives. What fun to read about a Victorian Era ladies’ school that had a social club called “Cherchez L’Homme!” (“Look for the man,” to non-French speakers.)

This incredible repository was chartered as a non-profit corporation in 1979 “to serve as a place for manuscripts, records, evidence, documents and whatever else might be desirable to be preserved in the history of Clay County, Missouri.” The charter states that no one will be salaried, and profits (like book sales and research fees) shall go to “charitable, literary or educational purposes.”

Two lucky happenstances were the County’s replacing its records with microfilm and Liberty’s library moving out of the Frank Hughes Library building on Franklin

Street. The Archives took over both, thus perpetuating an entirely volunteer effort to preserve Clay County’s history. Expense money comes from benefactors, members’ \$15 annual dues, and modest fees paid for research.

A partial list of hold-

ings includes census reports, births, marriages, deaths and cemetery records, land grants, deeds and maps. Also, court proceedings and even grade cards from old schools. Invaluable are family collections of pictures and documents.



Lottie Fielder Smalls shows off her collection of books and documents dating from the late 1800s.

Spotlight on Volunteerism

(Continued from page 4)

On July 25, Kansas City resident Lottie Fielder Smalls donated her entire collection of family photos, scrapbooks, diaries, and documents dating from the late 1800s. To illustrate archival thoroughness, Lottie's items will be cataloged under her name, and under White Oak Chapel, the church of free slaves that was her family church. Also, under the Descendents of Fountain Waller, the slave owner who gave his freed slaves the

land for White Oak.

It is fascinating to explore The Archives' landowner records. Fountain Waller, we learn, came from Fauquier, Virginia and purchased land owned by forebears of outlaw Cole Younger in 1834. The Estes family has in their records a land grant issued in 1827 to Thomas Estes and "his heirs and assigns," signed by President John Quincy Adams. Surprisingly, some women were pioneer landowners. One Elizabeth Arnold of Virginia made several purchases in the 1820s, including the area now known as Chaumiere.

Volunteer Kenneth Neth's team has been researching Clay County's more than 300 cemeteries, four of which are now in Smithville Lake. They have found most of the grave sites of the 20 Revolutionary War soldiers who migrated to this area.

Currently, volunteers David and Linda Smith are cataloging the newly acquired criminal records dating back

to 1822. The infamous Mr. James is there, as are several prominent Clay Countians booked for betting and playing cards. Sadly, an early lynching is also recorded.

Volunteer coordinator Carol Olson showed me the sign-in book of recent visitors from California, Florida, New Mexico, Ohio to name a few, all researching their families' histories. Inquiries can also be made by mail. As Carol explained: "They want to know what their ancestors did and how they lived."

Nothing answers that question better than a recent Archives project called "Footprints in Clay," wherein Kevin Fisher and his fellow volunteers have filmed interviews with several longtime residents.

Now that information is incorporated into a remarkable documentary called "The Story of Liberty from Settlement to Suburb." Really, this fine film is



The Clay County Archives are housed at 210 East Franklin in Liberty, MO

a microcosm of middle America: Settlers, geography, industries, schools, homes, social mores. And the struggles like, in Clay's case, the slavery conflict. Photographs, murals and documents give the story life. This film truly belongs in every school library in the County whose "footprints" it has traced. For information on the film, membership, Archives' services, call 781-3611 or claycount-yarchives.org.



family photos, scrap s.

Perspectives

By Jim Rice, executive director,
Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.

Sales tax renewal set for November 6 ballot; PIAC deserves neighborhood support

What would Kansas City and the Northland look like without PIAC? For openers, they would have \$1 billion fewer improvements to roads, parkways and bridges. That's how much the sales tax for capital improvements has generated for neighborhood and city-wide public improvements since it was first enacted in 1983.

With the tax came PIAC, the Public Improvements Advisory Committee, a group of citizens appointed by the Mayor and Council to oversee the annual expenditure for hundreds of projects. This hard-working group of 13 citizens toils year-round reviewing applications for needed projects. It is a demanding job since only a fraction of the requested projects can be funded from available resources each

year.

The tax was renewed in 1988 and 1999 by Kansas City voters who obviously looked favorably on both the PIAC process and the improvements sparked by the tax.

In the Northland, projects for Barry Road, Gower, North Brighton, Maplewoods Parkway, North Oak Trafficway and numerous bridges were funded completely or in part by PIAC. Neighborhood projects like the playground in Golden Oaks Park were also spawned by PIAC. Since 1983, approximately \$200 million in Northland projects have been funded.

The 1 cent PIAC sales tax generates around \$60 million per year.

While PIAC does not begin to meet all of Kansas City's huge inventory of needed improvements, our city would be in sorry

shape indeed if PIAC were not there, year after year, chipping away at the capital needs of our neighborhoods. Renewal of the 1 cent sales tax for capital improvements deserves a strong, positive turnout on November 6, 2007.

NNI Board urges Clay County to restore property tax

At its August 20 meeting, the Northland Neighborhoods Board of Directors approved a resolution urging the Clay County Commissioners to restore the county's property tax levy. Clay County voters in 2001 voted to reduce the Clay County property tax to zero. Now a judge has ruled that the ballot action was in conflict with the Missouri Constitution and the current Commissioners have the authority to restore a property tax levy.

The NNI resolution cited such essential services as road and bridge repair, emergency preparedness, law enforcement, family court, public

health, parks and recreation, records management, and circuit court operations that now go begging because Clay County is financially strapped. These services play "a fundamental and central role in the health and stability of residential neighborhoods within Clay County," the resolution states.

The Northland Neighborhoods Board noted that NNI relies heavily on annual appropriations from Clay County for provision of home repair and other services to the citizens of Clay County. These dollars are at risk unless the property tax levy is restored by September 20, 2007. Clay County will hold public hearings on the issue prior to action by the County Commissioners.

"Nobody likes taxes," said NNI executive director Jim Rice, "but we also expect the County to provide services. Clay County should restore the property tax and move into the 21st Century along with every other county in the region."

Citizen forum to discuss public transit needs

Citizen surveys consistently list improved public transportation as a top concern in the Kansas City region. The One KC Voice citizen engagement alliance will host a forum Wednesday, September 12, from 6:30–8:00 p.m., to talk about public transit priorities — including light rail — in the

Northland community. This is part of a series of citizen forums on transit issues to take place across the metro area this fall. The forum will be held at Northland Neighborhoods, Inc., 5312 NE Chouteau Trafficway, Kansas City, Mo. For more information, contact info@onekvoice.org or call Liana Riesinger, 816-701-8269.

Night Out Against Crime Kick-Off

The third annual Night Out Against Crime Kick-Off was a resounding success with more than 1,100 people attending. The annual event spotlights community partnerships with law enforcement to fight and prevent crime. Night Out, held at Oak Grove Park in Gladstone, was a family affair with the crowd spilt almost evenly between children and adults. Major sponsors were Target



Under the watchful eye of KCPD’s Dan Watts, this youngster enjoyed “riding” a police ATV at the July 28 Night Out Against Crime Kick-Off

and Sam’s Club. Attendees were treated to hot dogs, snow cones, cotton candy, clowns, door prizes, and crowd-friendly exhibits by area law enforcement agencies. Carolyn Long, co-anchor of KCTV 5’s “More in the Morning” News, was master of ceremonies. NNI volunteers tallied more than 200 hours helping with the event.

NNI extends a big thank you to Night Out sponsors

Apple Market
 Applebee’s
 Argosy Casino
 B & B Theater
 Beauty Brands
 Bridging The Gap
 City of Gladstone
 Clay County Sheriff’s Department
 Clay-Platte YMCA
 Claycomo Fire & Police Department
 Consentino’s Sunfresh
 Embassy Suites
 Festival Foods
 Glad Rents, Inc.
 Gladstone Bowl

Goens Rental and Sales
 Granite City
 Green Lantern Car Wash
 Hometown Buffet
 HyVee – Gladstone
 Jim Wagy – McDonalds
 Kansas City Ice Cream Company
 KC Fiesta Party Rentals
 KCMO Parks and Recreation
 KCMO Police Department
 KCMO Police – North Patrol Division
 KCMO Police – Shoal Creek Division
 Kirk Welding

Liberty Police Department
 Line Creek Community Center
 Carolyn Long – KCTV5
 McGrath Ice Service
 Macaluso’s Thriftway
 Maggie Moo’s
 Majestic Theater
 Maple Creek Athletics
 Mark Us 4 Travel
 Meierotto’s Jewelry
 Nick & Jake’s
 North Kansas City Schools
 Northland Clown Guild
 Northland Lanes
 Outback Steakhouse
 Papa Murphy’s

Parkville Police Department
 Pleasant Valley Baptist Church – Clown Ministry
 Pleasant Valley Police Department
 Price Chopper – Barry Road
 Price Chopper – Liberty
 Sam’s Club
 Sonic
 Target
 Ted’s Montana Grill
 Theatre Tech Productions
 Train Wreck (Band)
 Tommy’s Restaurant
 Zona Rosa

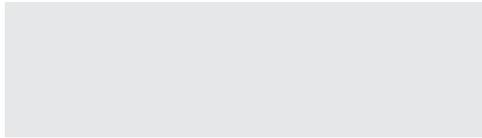


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**WE WILL LEAVE NO
NEIGHBORHOOD BEHIND.**



Public Meetings

September 2007

Wednesday	9/12	Senior Workshop	9:00 a.m.
Thursday	9/13	HomeWorks	6:30 p.m.
Monday	9/17	NNI Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	9/18	Greenhaven Neighborhood	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	9/19	Cop Talk	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	9/20	HomeWorks	6:30 p.m.
Monday	9/24	Meet Your Councilpersons	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	9/27	HomeWorks	6:30 p.m.
Saturday	10/6	NNI moves to new facility	All day