

## Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. December 2007

Quarterly Edition  
Volume 4  
Issue 12



### Big win for KC sales tax renewal

**J**ackson County led the pack in votes cast and percent of approval, but Clay and Platte Counties also gave overwhelming approval for renewing Kansas City's 1-cent sales tax for capital improvements. In a final count of the November 6 vote, Jackson County provided 79% approval, Platte

County 77%, and Clay County 73%.

The November 6 vote did not raise taxes; it extended an existing tax for 10 years. And, under this renewal of the nearly 25 year-old tax, at least 35% of the tax receipts go for neighborhood improvements, divided equally among the six Council districts.

Among the many projects impacted by the renewal are improvements to Waukomis from 68th Street to Barry Road; the Line Creek drainage project; North Brighton, M-210 to Parvin Road; and Maplewoods Parkway, M-152 to Barry Road.

### NNI Halloween event: fun tricks and a ton of treats



**“Dorothy” looks happy in spite of the encounter her friend the tin man had with the tornado.**

**N**early 2,500 persons (1,147 adults and 1,304 children) braved lurking witches and creepy goblins to attend NNI's third annual Safe Trick or Treat event October 31. Their reward: 800 cartons of milk, 1,120 pounds of candy, more games than the Summer Olympics, and Spooky House. Geared to children 12 and under, this scary delight consisted of a Spider Room, Pirate Room, Dark Ghouley Room, Cemetery, Weird Disco Room and an amazing Wizard of Oz Room. A monster-size thank-you to Ed and Anita McWilliams, Winnwood Neighborhood, Paula and Roger Brooks and Julie Hensley, Sherwood Neighborhood, and

*(Continued on page 2)*

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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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*Secretary*

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Mike Duffy

Dan Fowler

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Kevin Masters

Mario Mayorga

Keith Nelson

Marty Schuettpelz

**Halloween event**

*(Continued from front)*

Charles Craig and Ron Groves, Spirit Halloween Superstore, for making Safe Trick or Treat a big success.

Key sponsors were Antioch Mall Spirit of Halloween Store, KCPD – Shoal Creek Division, North Kansas City Schools, and Eastgate Middle School. The following “spirited” businesses also generously supported Safe Trick or Treat:

Apple Market

Belfonte

Citizen’s Bank

Chuck Weber

KCMO Parks and Recreation/Shoal Creek Living History Museum

Macaluso’s Thriftway

Morgan Stanley

North Kansas City School District

Red X in Riverside

Sam’s Club

Save-A-Lot

Target

Tires Plus

Walmart – Liberty and Gladstone locations

**Neighborhoods Donations**

Chaumiere Neighborhood Association

Crestview Homes Association

Grey Oaks Homes Association

Maple Park Neighborhood Association

Old Maple Park Neighborhood Association

Ravenwood/Summerset Neighborhood Association

Sherwood Estates Homeowners Association

Winnwood/Sunnybrook Neighborhood Association

**KCPD’s regional academy opens to rave reviews**

An impressive opening night crowd gave high marks to the new Regional Police Academy at its November 13 grand opening. Located next to the new Shoal Creek Police Station at Pleasant Valley Road and Shoal Creek Parkway, the 100,000 square-foot main building houses 6 classrooms, a simulated firearms Training Room, an indoor running track, a library, men’s and women’s locker rooms, and a basketball court. An auditorium seats approximately 500 people and an administrative wing includes several offices and a break room. The site sports a 1.1 mile driving track, an outdoor rifle range, an indoor shooting range, and an outdoor running track. Also located on the site is a storage building, a simulation building and a tower to oversee the driving track.



**Cadet joggers can see the weather while being protected from the elements at the new police academy.**

**Neighborhood Clips**

**Roundtable in January**

The next Northland Neighborhoods' Roundtable will be Tuesday, January 29, 6-8 p.m. at NNI's new offices at 3015 NE Vivion Road and will feature Pat Klein, KCMO's Capital Improvements Program Manager. Learn more about the impact of the recent renewal of the 1-cent sales tax for capital improvements, how the Public Improvements Advisory Committee (PIAC) works, how to submit applications, and more.

**Holidays take center stage for December senior meeting**

Fun, games and food will be the order of the day at NNI's December 12 seniors conclave. The sights, sounds, and suspense of Bingo (with prizes) will rule from 9 to 11 a.m., followed by lunch courtesy of NNI.

**NNI website can help you "go green"**

Visit nni.org for the latest in what's happening at NNI and in the community. Check out links to other neighborhoods' websites and see what they are doing. Or just check back to look at the electronic version of this newsletter when you've misplaced your paper copy. To sign up now to be notified via e-mail as soon as the newsletter is available on the NNI website instead of waiting for the U.S. mail to bring it to you, call Janet 454-2000 or email jshaffer@nni.org. Help NNI in its goal to "go green!"

**Handyman Needed**

Do you have the gift of building and repairing? Would you like to donate your efforts to a good cause? Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. is in

need of handy individuals to assist financially disadvantaged homeowners with minor repairs in the Northland. If you would like to give an hour or two to help someone in need, please contact NNI at 816-454-2000.

**NNI FOCUS Center: Pet Licensing**

Did you know you can get your pet license at NNI? You must bring paperwork from your vet showing that the animal has been vaccinated. The cost is \$12 if the pet has been neutered or spayed and \$35 if they have not. Three-year licenses are available. Paperwork is the same (your pet will need to have had a three-year vaccination) and the cost is \$29 neutered and spayed pets and \$101 if they are not. Other FOCUS Center services include City service referrals, Code Enforcement, conferences with representatives from North Patrol and Shoal Creek police divisions, notary public, voter registration, and access to the KCPD Office of Community Complaints Satellite.

**Homebuyer education classes to begin in January**

If you would like to be a homeowner, but just don't know where to begin, NNI's Homebuyer Education program may have some answers. Dates for the first series of classes are January 16, 23 and 30. All classes will be from 6 to 9 p.m. at NNI and class size will be limited. For general information on the program, call Jennifer Presberry at 454-2000. Watch for more detailed information in the January issue of *Northland Neighborhood News*.

*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 Administration*

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*Manager, Community Development*

Janet Shaffer  
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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

### *Why Santa Comes to Penguin Park*

Once upon a Christmas Eve, Santa Claus got lost.

The details are sketchy, but the story goes that Rudolph had come down with a nasty cold. He was croupy and achy, and his famous nose was redder than ever. Over his objections, Mrs. Claus rubbed the poor deer with Vicks ointment, plugged in the vaporizer, and covered him up with wool blankets. That meant that Santa and the other eight Reindeer must fly off into the night without Rudolph's trusty nose to light the way.

At first, the flight went well. There were no collisions with stars and no toys fell out of the sleigh. So far, deliveries to sleeping children were on time.

But the night began to blacken and the stars disappeared. A fog

thicker than cottage cheese filled the sky. Soon Santa could not make out a single landmark below. Even the white tips of the Reindeer tails had vanished.

Searching frantically for something to give him his bearings, Santa put the sleigh into a sharp left bank and peered down. Nothing! The earth had been swallowed up.

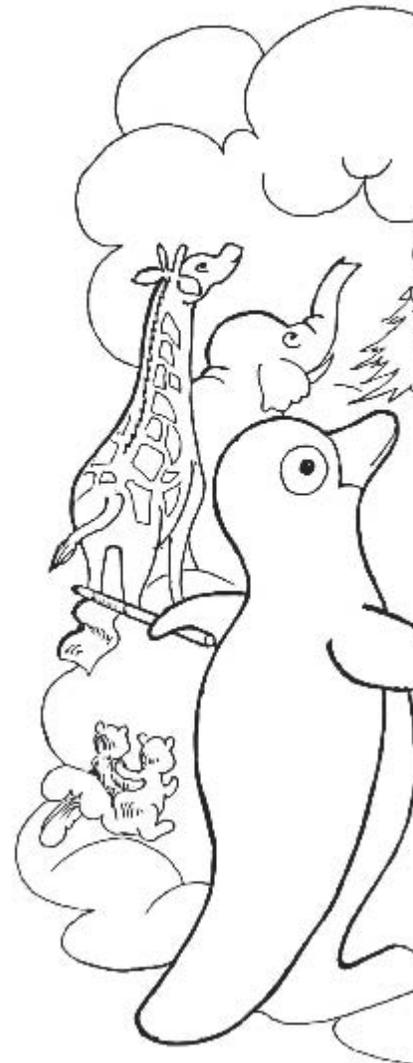
Suddenly, lead Reindeer Dasher shouted: "Santa—down to the right—I can just make out a mountain peak!" Quick as a wink, Santa threw the sleigh into a sharp dive. At first, there appeared several large, shadowy shapes, then there it was. Not a mountain peak, but a giant Penguin with its bright yellow nose pointed toward the sky!

Late night drivers along Vivion Road would have been amazed to see a sleigh full of toys, eight flying Reindeer, and the world's most famous pilot making a three-point landing in a shower of snow.

"Well jingle my bells!" roared Santa. "I've come down in a zoo!" Sure enough, this mysterious place not only had a huge penguin, but also an elephant with a tower on its back, a skinny Giraffe, and a lady kangaroo with a baby in her pouch.

Suddenly lights started flashing and music filled the air. As if by magic, animals appeared and began hopping to the tunes. A raccoon was seen lifting two little skunks up to the Running Rail. A red fox was taking a spin on the Merry-Go-Round with several chickens and two

crows. A gray cat came zipping down the Spotted Frog Slide with three giggling field mice riding on her tail.



## Spotlight on Volunteerism

(Continued from page 4)

Santa was delighted. “Well jingle my bells,” he chuckled. “I’ll have to get down here again.” Then as the fog began to lift, Santa released the sleigh’s brakes. “Up, up and away!” he shouted to the Reindeer, and off they flew into the night.

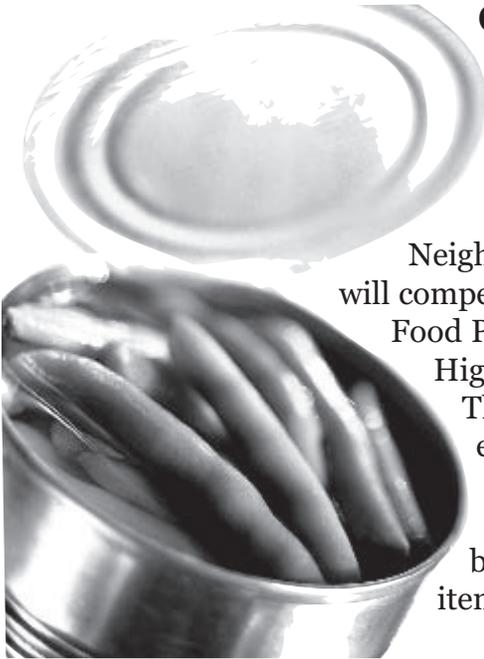
And that is the story of the time Santa Claus got lost, except for one thing. Each year he stops by the place he found—or that found him. Maybe he wants to share in the lights and the music and see the animals. Or visit with the children dropping by. Or just to feel the warm glow of Christmas that is always there in Penguin Park.



### **NNI seeks women, minority, and low-income home repair contractors**

**N**NNI needs qualified contractors to do home repair for low and moderate income Northlanders. Qualification proposals are especially needed for Section 3 eligible and (women and minority) contractors to perform work in these categories: heating and cooling (HVAC) systems, roofing, windows and doors, gutters, plumbing and water heaters, code violation remediation, siding, removing barriers to access, weatherization, lead testing and abatement, flatwork/concrete, and general contracting. Please contact Christy Harris at 816-454-2000 if you are, or know, a contractor interested in making money while helping improve the quality of life for individuals and the community.

Santa will visit  
Penguin Park  
Saturday,  
December 8  
at 5:30 p.m.



## Get ready, get set, go! 4th annual food drive competition is underway

**N**NI's fourth annual food drive contest is underway.

Neighborhoods and individuals will compete to help the St. Benedict Food Pantry at 6600 NE 69 Highway in Pleasant Valley.

The pantry is locally operated and serves all persons in need regardless of geographic area. The neighborhood donating the most items will receive \$100 and

the top individual will receive \$30. Collection of non-perishable food items (canned and boxed goods) began November 19 at the new NNI offices (3015 NE Vivion Road) and will continue through January 31, 2008. Hygiene and baby items are welcome and needed. This year's goal is to gather 3,000 items. Contest winners will be recognized at the February 4 Neighborhood Relations meeting. For more information, contact Janet Shaffer at 454-2000.

## Renovated KC North Community Center a haven for fitness

**A**bout 150 persons attended the October 27 open house at the Kansas City North Community Center, 3930 N. Antioch Road. The completely renovated center emphasizes health and wellness, with a 2,200 square-foot addition that contains a new weight room, toilets, showers and locker room facilities. The weight room has three new televisions and all new commercial/club grade equipment. Community Center operating hours have been extended to

Sunday, 8am-5pm, Monday through Friday, 5am-9pm, and Saturday, 7am-5pm. The center staff is working on new programs targeting youth, adults and seniors. These programs will supplement the strong core of martial arts classes that will continue to be offered. Fees for services are modest. More information can be obtained by calling 784-6100 or on the web at: <http://www.kcmo.org/parks.nsf/web/ckcn>.

## NNI recognizes its volunteer army at special dinner



**N**orthland Neighborhoods honored more than 100 volunteers at a recognition dinner November 16. NNI depends heavily on volunteers for public service and fundraising events, clean-ups, newsletters mailings, and even some minor home repair activities.

## Perspectives

By Jim Rice, Executive Director

### *Northland Neighborhoods, Inc: Balancing the “neighborhoods” with the “inc.”*

**W**hat’s in a name? Quite a bit, it turns out. Take Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. Each of the three words is significant. Like any good name, it tells where we are, what we do, and how we do it.

#### **Northland.**

NNI is chartered to serve neighborhoods and people in Clay and Platte Counties, including Northland Kansas City and all the smaller municipalities.

#### **Neighborhoods.**

NNI is all about helping new neighborhoods get started, rescuing troubled neighborhoods, and keeping healthy neighborhoods healthy.

#### **Inc.**

Here is where things get complicated. NNI is a non-profit, tax-exempt community development corporation chartered by the State of Missouri to deliver public goods and services, primarily

on behalf of, or in collaboration with, governmental entities (municipalities, counties, and state and federal agencies).

Governmental grants and appropriations almost always stipulate how and where the funds will be spent. Foundation grants very often carry the same restrictions. That forces NNI to focus on several strategic—sometimes geographically targeted—programs that use up much of NNI’s capacity (dollars for staff and other expenses such as home repair contractors and materials). That reduces NNI’s ability to respond to the needs of individual neighborhoods.

Make no mistake about it, NNI is proud of those strategic programs. We’ve completed more than 1,000 home repairs since 1998, more than any other community development corpora-

tion in the metro area. This year, we launched the EXCEL leadership program which I believe will soon become a model for building sustainable neighborhood leaders. We have an array of educational, health and recreation programs for seniors. Partnerships with organizations like North Kansas City Schools and the Kansas City Police Department extend our limited resources even further.

Yet, we need to do more. We consistently hear—from neighbor-

hoods, our Board, and our own staff—that we need to better understand—and respond to—the everyday needs of neighborhood organizations. That’s why we have launched an intensive effort to identify those needs and, if necessary, realign our resources to respond to them. If you’d like to get in the act, mail or e-mail your ideas. And please identify yourself so we can report back to you. Help us find the right balance between “neighborhoods” and “inc.”



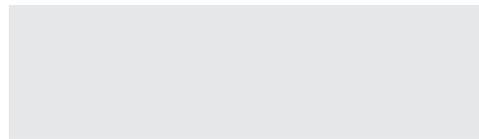


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**WE WILL LEAVE NO  
NEIGHBORHOOD BEHIND.**



# Public Meetings

**December 2007**

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>12/12</b>	<b>Senior Holiday Party</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>12/17</b>	<b>NNI Board Meeting</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12/18</b>	<b>Greenhaven Neighborhood</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>12/21</b>	<b>NNI Holiday Luncheon</b>	<b>noon</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12/25</b>	<b>NNI Office closed for Holiday</b>	<b>all day</b>

**Note: Meet Your Councilpersons cancelled for December; next meeting will be January 28, 2008.**