



Northland Neighborhoods News

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Quarterly Edition

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Mission Statement

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.

Get tickets now for NNI Annual Breakfast Gorman, Mecklenburg and Lamb to be honored October 17

Northland Neighborhoods' 3rd Annual Breakfast is set for October 17, 7:30 a.m. at the Intrigue Park Place Hotel in the "Near Northland" at 1601 N. Universal Avenue (off Front Street). For the third year in a row, individual seating remains at \$25, table of 10 is \$250. Sponsorships range from \$300 to \$2,500. This year, sponsorships are also available for each award category. Call NNI at 454-2000 for details on sponsorships.

As in past years, the highlight of the breakfast is recognition of four Northlanders

who have made extraordinary contributions to the community. The Larry Mc Manus Good Neighbor Award recipient is Charles Lamb, longtime Habitat for Humanity team leader and community volunteer; the Outstanding Public Service Awardee is Dave Mecklenburg, insurance executive and civic leader; the Jay Dillingham Lifetime Achievement honoree is Anita Gorman,

one of the Northland's most accomplished civic leaders, known regionally for her many years of distinguished work on numerous community organizations and initiatives.



Kudos to KC Parks and Recreation for Penguin Park diligence

Penguin Park holds a special place in the hearts of Northlanders young and old.

Mike Herron of the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department-North Region takes a similar view and backs up his sentiment with constant attention to the whimsical Northland icon. Each day, work crews tidy up after hundreds of visitors,

safety check the playground equipment, and do spot maintenance on the aging play surfaces.

Recently, the ever popular spring-mounted fire truck and bus were replaced, along with the big slide and the penguin slide, at considerable expense.

Still on the drawing board is a cost-effective way to repair

the rubberized play surface. Full replacement, Herron estimates, would cost from \$300,000 to \$500,000. Bottom line: it takes a lot of money and a lot of dedication to maintain one of the Northland's most popular parks. For Mike Herron and his hard-working crews, it's all worth it.

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Volunteers of the month Harold Foster and Vern Linscott

Harold Foster and Vern Linscott were very busy this summer supervising young volunteers from YouthWorks. Every week, from June 16 through August 8, Harold and Vern watched over a dozen young workers and their adult supervisors relentlessly sprucing up the Cooley Highlands Neighborhood. The energetic YouthWorks troop painted the homes of three senior citizens, cleaned yards and performed numerous minor home improvements for low-income and senior residents of Cooley Highlands. Braving sometimes searing temperatures, Harold and Vern, in partnership with their YouthWorks stalwarts, created a special summer for Cooley Highlands.

Harold Foster, age 70 and an



In a rare leisurely moment, Harold and Vern pose for a snapshot.

RSVP volunteer, has lived in the Cooley Highlands Neighborhood since 1985. He grew up on a farm in Western Kansas and moved to Kansas City in 1968, where he worked as an exterminator until retiring in 2003. For Harold, retirement didn't mean rest. He helped build seven houses for Habit for Humanity and volunteered for Up-Lift, a non-

profit organization that feeds the homeless. Today, Harold volunteers for his church, neighborhood and NNI. He enjoyed working with "a great group of kids" this summer. The kids no doubt felt the same way about Harold.

Vern Linscott, 75, is Harold's partner in good deeds and also an RSVP volunteer. He has lived in Cooley Highlands since 1967. Vern grew up in Sumner, Missouri (which he says is the goose capital of the world) and moved to Kansas City in 1955. Married for 53 years, he has two daughters, one son and 6 grandchildren. Vern retired from TWA after 35 years and spends his "leisure" time volunteering with his church and neighborhood, fishing, hunting and, as Vern puts it, "trying to stay out of trouble."



NNI Board President Mary Jo Burton traveled to Washington, D.C. in July, and found time to visit with Sixth District Congressman Sam Graves about a potential grant to NNI.

Perspectives

By Jim Rice

Communication fuels neighborhood vitality

Keith Nelson gets it. He understands, in his gut and in his head, that communication is the glue that binds a neighborhood together. Keith also knows the Rolls Royce of communication is the simple act of neighbors talking to neighbors. Over the backyard fence. On the front porch. In the kitchen. Over a beer on the deck. This kind of face-to-face communication binds people together, strengthening the web of community. Nelson, a vintage car collector, knows a Rolls Royce when he sees one.

But in the age of two-career households, backyard decks instead of front porches, air conditioning and television, face-to-face neighborliness isn't what it used to be. So, neighborhood newsletters pick up the slack. When Nelson became Chairman of NNI's Neighborhood Relations Committee, he placed neighborhood newsletters near the top of his committee's action plan. He then set about the laborious task of gathering every printed Northland neighborhood newsletter he could find. He found 18 and analyzed the collective content into announcements, general information articles, activities,

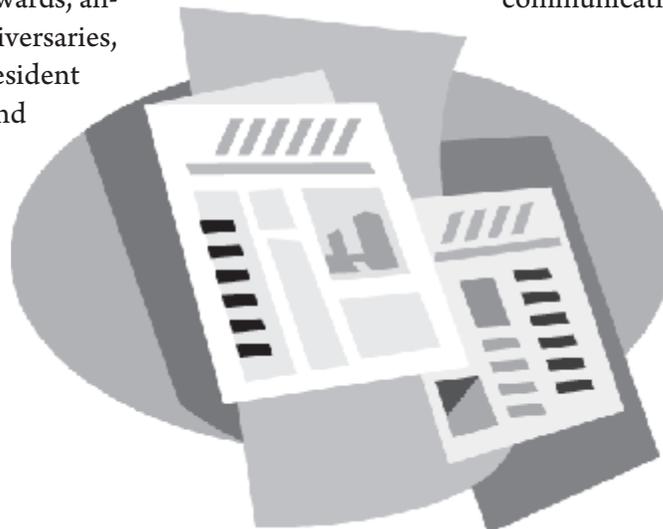
recognitions, advertising, and tool libraries. But the angels are in the details of Keith's remarkable analysis. It is chock full of useful and entertaining ideas to help editors of neighborhood newsletters cope with writers' block.

"Announcements" can run the gamut from meetings, block parties, garage sales to tips on free paint and the Gladstone Amphitheater schedule. "General information" articles range from ballot proposals to fireworks safety, gardening and cooking, an open letter to code violators... even crossword puzzles built around neighborhood issues. "Activities" cover clean-ups, parades, family bike rides, progressive dinners, movie and game nights, and food pantries. "Recognitions" include awards, anniversaries, resident and

volunteer profiles, and birthdays. Some newsletters use paid advertising; others simply acknowledge merchants for donations. And did you know that at least three neighborhoods maintain tool libraries: Misty Woods, Chaumiere and Greenhaven.

The importance of communication is not lost on NNI either. That's why we printed 233,112 pages of neighborhood newsletters last year, and will probably exceed that total this year. It is also why we provide a neighborhood computer center to aid in the composition of newsletters.

Thanks to Keith Nelson for the timeless gift of something neighborhood folks can use to help meet those pesky newsletter deadlines, and build community through communication.



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Spotlight on Volunteerism

By Reta Jo Mitchell

The Northland: More than Just a Place

I attended the first meeting for the Briarcliff-Winnwood Area Plan expecting to hear a litany of gripes: Don't change our Bulky Item Pickup, give us wheeled trash carts, return our free trash bags. Instead, I experienced an impressive discussion of our area's needs and aspirations. I shared thoughts with veteran volunteers like Anita Gorman and Jay Stock, and with newcomers who seem committed to our collective best interests.

I say "our area" because Bruce and I have lived in the Holiday Hills neighborhood, by choice, for almost 50 years. True, many young families have and always will "move on up" when finances permit—and why not? As the poet said: "Ah, that a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?" But I've talked with many new families who are devoted to this area now.

Such communal concern was evident when we first moved in because it was a time when neighborhoods were on their own with precious little attention from the city. I even won a Dispatch-Tribune contest for naming the Northland portion of Kansas City. My name was "Little Orphan Annex."

Holiday Hills, like many others, was held together by volunteers—like our Lessie Witcig and Liz Doolan and always faithful Park Lightfoot. Our association officers and block captains campaigned for Brighton Avenue's widening, for maintaining Searcy Creek Park, for installing street lights. They also assessed and collected dues to pay for tree spraying and trash collecting. And yes, we had our unforgettable moments.

Our trash man Marty was always reliable except in one regard. Although pickup time was to begin

at 7:00 a.m., we never knew when Marty would start. Until that chilly morning when the trucks sailed in at precisely seven, when garage doors flew up, and out dashed the nightgown and pajama clad with trash bags in hand.

We had our ice storms when some ran cords from their generators to neighbors in the dark. We shared worries when a firemen's strike occurred. Later, we stood at the curb watching our firemen try desperately to save two little children from a fire.

We all drew together when, in 1979, Winnetonka High School's band was chosen to appear at the Washington, D.C. Cherry Blossom Festival. Volunteers did everything to raise trip money, including shoveling snow off roofs at the Metro North Shopping Center. What a grand moment it was when hundreds of us welcomed OUR award-winning band

back home at two o'clock in the morning.

It once appeared as if city officials were indifferent to us Northlanders, perhaps because we lacked a volunteer umbrella organization. That changed in 1996 when Carolyn Vellar created NNI. One day, Carolyn and I sat in my kitchen sharing iced tea as she talked of her plans for our area. Many of which came true.

Now, the Briarcliff-Winnwood effort promises to illuminate even more of our hopes and needs. At that first meeting, the list included safety concerns like sidewalks for those who must walk in the streets to schools and grocery stores, and respect for our green spaces. We need a halt to unneeded strip malls. We need a strictly-enforced landlords' code and fewer metal plates adorning our streets. Hopes included more city bus routes, walking trails,



The Northland's Winnwood Beach area as it looked in the 1920s. It now houses the Chouteau Crossings Shopping Center and parts of the Winnwood and Chaumiere neighborhoods.

Photo provided by Wilborn & Associates Photographers

even an area swimming pool.

The faded Antioch Shopping Center is a heartache for all who remember when snowflakes drifted down before the roof went on, and choirs serenaded shoppers. When tiny kids did their Christmas shop-

ping at the Small Mall. Four-dollar-per-gallon gasoline only aggravates this loss.

At the meeting, I spoke with Chaumiere Neighborhood volunteers Anita McWilliams and Dan Hemry about the fate of

the little old Moscow Church on Chouteau, once home to a horseback ministry. They don't want to see such history die.

I expect future meetings for Briarcliff-Winnwood to grow in attendance and intensity. Haven't we Americans always come together

to confront shared problems and fulfill dreams? It's a seed planted long ago when volunteer militias won independence, when the world's first public schools were created by neighborhoods. A seed still growing in the Northland.

NNI's Night Out Kick-Off a cool event despite blistering August heat



The Night Out Against Crime Kick-off, NNI's salute to the annual National Night Out Against Crime event, drew nearly 900 residents despite blast furnace temperatures. The goal of the August 2 event—NNI's fourth—was to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness in a fun, upbeat atmosphere. It also nudges residents to participate in National Night Out Against Crime (which occurred August 5) and to promote positive relationships among the community, businesses and police.



As the late afternoon sun gradually set on Gladstone's spacious Oak Grove Park, families made their way through crime prevention displays and Ident-A-Kid booths, and enjoyed face painting, cash cube door prizes, and roving clowns provided by the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church

Clown Ministry. Music from Midnight Station wafted through the air along with the aroma of hot dogs and cotton candy. Story telling by Joyce Slayter captivated the young and the old.

Jennifer Hansen of Gladstone was exuberant about Night Out. "What a fabulous event! This was our first time attending and we will definitely be back next year!"

Kick-Off sponsors were Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.; Harley Davidson Motor Company; Pepsi; Sam's Club; Burns Printing; the KCMO Police Department – Shoal Creek Patrol Division; Kansas City Ice Cream; Sam's Club; Walmart; Gladstone Parks and Recreation; and Target, a National Night Out sponsor.

Participant/volunteers included the Kansas City, Liberty, Pleasant Valley Parkville, Claycomo and Riverside Police Departments, Gladstone Public Safety Department, Platte County Sheriff's Department, Clay County Sheriff's Department, Clay-Platte YMCA, Northland La Petite, Save-A-Child, Target, Pleasant Valley Baptist Church Clown Ministry, Humana, KCPD Spouses Association, Mary Kay, St. Patrick School, and North Kansas City Schools.



Resident Jean Hicks summed it all up: "It was an informative, relaxing and enjoyable time. The evening was very well organized and flowed well, and the music and story telling was a great way to tie it all together. It allowed you to visit with friends, absorb the information and relax all in one place."



Neighborhood Clips

September senior workshop: A Keeper? A Saver? A Hoarder?

As with many aspects of human behavior, the more we learn the more we realize we don't know! This is certainly true with the complicated behavior of hoarders.

Sandy Silva, executive director of the Foundation on Aging, will be at NNI September 10, 9:30 a.m., to talk about hoarding. She will share the research and anecdotal experiences of Dr. Randy Frost, co-author of *Buried in Treasures: Help for Compulsive Acquiring, Saving and Hoarding*. Hoarding affects about 5% of the U.S.

population—10 million people. Not only does the accumulation of “stuff” impact the life of the hoarder, but also the lives of family and friends, sometimes becoming so extreme as to create health and safety issues.

Sandy will also share copies of a Resource Guide that provides avenues for help and support for a person struggling with hoarding. Someone will also win a copy of *Buried in Treasures!*

Clay County Health Department will be on hand to do blood pressure checks following the meeting until 11:30.

Share your KC Zoo memories

The Kansas City Zoo will celebrate its Centennial in 2009. If you have special memories—and special snap shots—from the last 100 years, get them to NNI. We will copy the memories if you will just jot them down on paper AND we will scan your snapshots so you will not have to part with photo heirlooms for more than 24 hours. NNI will be responsible for forwarding your information and photo scans to the zoo staff.

Accurso Orchestra with vocalist Ann Atkin to encore at Hillside Christian Church

If you loved the era of Tommy Dorsey, Glen Miller and all the other Big Band greats, don't miss the free concert and dance presented once again by Hillside Christian Church, 900 NE Vivion Road. The Don Accurso Orchestra, which has played Kansas City venues for more than 50 years and regularly performs in the Macken Park summer series, will again appear on October 11, 2-4 p.m. The theme: “Music of the 40s—the Way It Used to Be.” Light refreshments will be served and reservations will be appreciated. Call 816-453-2623.

NNI looking for qualified home repair contractors

NNI seeks qualified contractors to work for home repair programs dedicated to low and moderate income Northlanders. We are requesting qualification proposals from Section 3-eligible contractors to conduct home repair services in the following categories: Heating and Cooling (HVAC) Systems; Roofing; Windows and Doors; Gutters; Plumbing and Water Heaters; Code Violation Remediation; Siding; Removing Barriers to Access; Weatherization Activities; Lead Testing and Abatement; Flatwork/Concrete; and General Contracting. Please contact Yvonne Herrick at 816-454-2000 if you are or know a contractor interested in earning money while helping improve the quality of life for individuals and the community.

Last workforce housing public input session scheduled for September 3

The Northland Workforce Housing project has scheduled a third public input session (the first two occurred August 20 and 21) to engage citizens in a discussion about how to best meet the workforce housing needs of the Northland Community. The third meeting is the September 3, Northern Clay County Discussion hosted by Clay County Public Health Center. Location: 800 Haines Drive, Liberty, MO 64068. (Directions: Located off Church Road on the west side of I-35 between Highways 152 on the south and 291 on the north. Turn west on Industrial, right onto Haines Drive.) The discussions will all begin at 6:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided. Persons may register online at www.onekcvoice.org. Or by calling Jennifer Presberry at 454-2000.

The Workforce Housing Project is a partnership of Northland Neighborhoods, Inc., Mid-America Regional Council (One KC Voice), the University of Kansas, and the Kansas City Design Center. The project is funded by the Northland Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. According to NNI Chief Executive Officer Jim Rice, the workforce project is critical to the future prosperity of the Northland. “Economic growth will not occur unless employers have ready access to skilled, reliable employees. We need the public's input on how best to achieve an adequate supply of workforce housing. I urge Northland residents to participate in the Public Input session,” Rice says.



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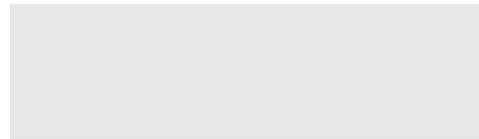
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infonni@nni.org
www.nni.org

**WE WILL LEAVE NO
NEIGHBORHOOD BEHIND.**



Public Meetings at NNI September 2008

Monday	9/1	Labor Day - NNI Office closed	
Wednesday	9/3	Workforce Housing Public Input	6:00 p.m.
Clay County Health Center, 800 Haines Drive, Liberty			
Monday	9/8	Northland Trails	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	9/19	Senior Workshop	9:00 a.m.
Monday	9/15	NNI Board Meeting	6:30 p.m..
Tuesday	9/16	1st District Roads Update	8:30 a.m.
Tuesday	9/16	Greenhaven Neighborhood	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	9/17	Cop Talk at Shoal Crrek Division	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	9/17	Homebuyer Education	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	9/24	Homebuyer Education	6:00 p.m.
Monday	9/29	Meet your Councilpersons	6:00 p.m.