

# Northland Neighborhoods News



The *monthly* edition of Northland Neighborhoods News is distributed on the NNI Website ([www.nni.org](http://www.nni.org)). The Quarterly edition is published and distributed in print in addition to being available online. Please call (816) 454-2000 if you wish to have your name or e-mail address added to or removed from NNI's database.

## STATE FARM GRANT GIVES RELIEF TO NNI



### 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.

Some gentle rain fell on 2009's parched funding landscape when State Farm Insurance Companies presented a \$10,000 grant to NNI on December 17. The grant, to augment NNI's home repair program, is the first State Farm grant made to NNI. "This grant could not have come at a better time," said Jim Rice, NNI CEO. "The recession economy has all but dried up foundation grants on which NNI relies for a significant part of our budget. The slogan, 'State Farm is there' is especially meaningful for the many

families who desperately need the home repair grants," Rice said.

Presenting the check at a happy gathering of State Farm officials and agents, NNI Board members and staff, State Farm public affairs director Tamara O'Connor said State Farm shares NNI's desire for safe and healthy homes. "State Farm is constantly looking for ways to give back to the communities that support us," O'Connor said. "It makes sense for us to partner with an organization like Northland Neighborhoods."

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## FOCUS OF POPULAR 1ST DISTRICT MEETING EXPANDS

For the past year, KCMO Council members Deb Hermann and Bill Skaggs have conducted the monthly "1st District Roads Update" meetings at NNI. The popular early morning meetings bring together the Council representatives, key City staff and neighborhood residents to talk about roads and other 1st District public improvement concerns. The meetings have improved com-

munications between City staff and residents, brought about some useful adjustments to projects based on ideas from citizens, and engendered a more realistic understanding of how and why projects sometimes do not go as planned.

Building on the generally positive experience with the Roads meetings, Councilwoman Hermann and

Councilman Skaggs are expanding the scope of the meetings to include more complex challenges such as economic development, area planning, and the City budget. The first "Problem-Solving" meeting is January 19, 8:30 a.m. at NNI. The topic will be a vision for the Vivion Road corridor and how that vision can be implemented.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE BIDS AND BREWS BENEFIT

NNI is combining last year's very successful auction with something new: a beer tasting. It will all come together May 8, 2010, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Embassy Suites – KCI. That's all the news for now, but

count on plentiful auction bargains and a dazzling array of unusual and tasty beers. Watch upcoming editions of the NNI News for more details.

## EDITORS' RESOURCE EXCHANGE TO DEBUT IN FEBRUARY

A survey of participants in NNI's newsletter training classes suggested such training should be ongoing. In response, NNI will launch a new bimonthly conference for neighborhood newsletter editors. The "Editors' Resource Exchange" will be an opportunity for newsletter writers and editors to brainstorm newsletter topics and

exchange ideas on how to enhance their publications. Editors' Resource Exchange will be held on the 4th Tuesday of even numbered months from 6 to 7 p.m. The program will alternate with the Neighborhood Roundtable which is held on the 4th Tuesday of the odd numbered months. The program is being offered on a trial basis to determine ben-

efit and support from participants. Periodically, guest speakers will make short presentations to stimulate ideas and enhance the quality of publications. The first exchange is February 23, 2010, 6-7 p.m. at Northland Neighborhoods, Inc., 3015 NE Vivion Road.

## NEIGHBORHOOD CLIPS

### NNI's Neighborhood Roundtable has full schedule ahead

The Neighborhood Roundtable, held at NNI every other month on the fourth Tuesday at 6 p.m., features topical speakers, questions and answers, followed by a roundtable discussion of happenings in the neighborhoods. Here is the upcoming schedule:

January 26: Smokey Dyer, Director of the Kansas City Fire Department

March 23: Nathan Pare, KCMO Neighborhood Preservation Code Enforcement

**May 25:** David Warm, Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Executive Director

### The 2010 Census is coming

Every ten years, we all need to stand up and be counted. A complete and accurate census count is important for the entire nation and, this year, especially important for the Northland. The experts believe the Northland has significantly gained population over the last decade. Accurate population counts make for better planning for government agencies, schools, and businesses. Kansas City and the Northland could benefit through increased federal funding, which is often tied to census data. So, watch for the census information when it comes in your mailbox. It is a simple, 10-question form that will only take a few minutes to complete and mail back to the Census Bureau. The Census: it's in our hands.



### January senior workshop to feature prescription drug use and misuse

Prescription drugs can be a blessing or a curse. On January 13, at 9 a.m., Laura Bruce from Tri County Mental Health Services will help sort out prescription drug issues, offer suggestions on how to avoid abuse, and provide safe options for disposing of unused or outdated prescriptions.

### FREE health checks for your child and your home now available

The Kansas City Safe & Healthy Home Partnership will review your child's health, and the health of your home. The home environmental assessment includes checking indoor air quality and ventilation, dust and allergen levels, moisture and mold, a household chemical survey, a home maintenance survey, and a home safety check up. You can enroll today by calling 816-235-6331 or contact Yvonne Herrick at NNI, 454-2000 to see if you qualify.

### Platte storm water grants now available

Applications for Platte County's 2010 Stormwater Grant Program are available online at [http://www.co.platte.mo.us/county\\_offices\\_departments/planning\\_zoning.html](http://www.co.platte.mo.us/county_offices_departments/planning_zoning.html) or by calling Platte County Engineer Nate Baldwin at 816-858-3473. The program provides grants to assist established Platte County homeowners associations in making stormwater related improvements.

### NNI seeks qualified low-income home repair contractors

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. needs qualified low-income contractors to do home repair work including: 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 Larry Washington at 816-454-2000 for more information.

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## **NNI Public Meetings and Events**

### **January 2010 - February 2010**

Monday, 1/11	NNI Board Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 1/13	Senior Workshop	9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, 1/13	Forward Kansas City	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 1/19	1 <sup>st</sup> District Problem-Solving	8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, 1/19	Greenhaven Neighborhood	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 1/20	Cop Talk	6:30 p.m.
Monday, 1/25	Meet Your Councilpersons	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 1/26	Neighborhood Roundtable	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 2/10	Senior Workshop	9:00 a.m.
Monday, 2/15	NNI Board Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Monday, 2/22	Meet Your Councilpersons	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 2/23	Editors' Resource Exchange	6:00 p.m.