

Northland Neighborhoods News



APPLY NOW FOR 2011 EXCEL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

NNI's EXCEL Neighborhood Leadership Program will begin its fourth year in January 2011. The 6-month training program includes sessions on Leadership skills, State and Local Government, Community Infrastructure, Economic

Development, Public Safety and much more. Past participants praise the program for the quality of its curriculum and the positive experience of working with fellow participants on realistic neighborhood issues. Persons interested in enrolling

should contact Jim Rice at 816-454-2000 or jim_rice@nni.org. Cost to participants for the entire program (includes training, materials, meals) is \$100. Scholarships are available.

THE END OF THE YEAR—AND TAX TIME—APPROACHES; PLEASE REMEMBER NORTHLAND NEIGHBORHOODS

Your tax-deductible contribution can be a win-win: a tax deduction for you and support for Northland Neighborhoods in its efforts to build strong, healthy neighborhoods. Be as generous as possible. Many Northland families, senior citizens and neighborhoods rely on NNI to keep their houses and their lives going strong.



Make checks payable to:
Northland Neighborhoods
3015 NE Vivion Road
Kansas City, MO 64119

816-454-2000

VISA and MasterCard also accepted.

NNI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community development corporation serving Clay and Platte Counties.

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.

REGISTER TO VOTE AT NNI!

Elections for the Kansas City Mayor and Council are February 22, 2011 (primary) and March 22, 2011 (general). Northland voters need to be heard. You can register to vote at NNI. It's quick and easy, so do it today and add to the Northland's voice.

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VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Sherri Hays



The nearly 7,400 persons who attended NNI's 2010 Safe Trick or Treat event benefited from the volunteer artistry of Sherri Hays. Sherri was lead decorator of the haunted house, always a big attraction at the popular Halloween event. (See story on page 4.) A three-year veteran of Safe Trick or Treat, Sherri devoted nearly 100 volunteer hours. The surge of attendance at this year's event stretched every volunteer to the limit. Sherri's contribution of time, experience and talent not only created a memorable haunted house, but spared precious time for the other volunteers.

Raised in Gladstone, Sherri graduated from Oak Park Senior High School and met her husband Rick the same year. They launched their life together in St. Louis after Rick graduated from Electronics Institute. They returned to Kansas City two years later and started a family. Sons Derek and Dylan attended North Kansas City High School. Dylan will graduate in 2011. Sherri and Rick have lived in the Golden Oaks Neighborhood since 1998 and recently celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary.

Sherri's eclectic interests fuel her creativity. They range from studying the German language to practicing the Tribal Fusion dance form. "My favorite time period is the Middle Ages, so I really enjoy attending as many annual Renaissance Festivals as possible," she says. Her favorite holiday is—surprise, surprise—Halloween. "It gives me an opportunity to put my creative energy into a project that will be enjoyed by so many kids," Sherri beams. "It's a real treat for me." It was also a real treat for the 7,400 young and young-at-heart who thrilled at her fun and scary haunted house.

Directory of services available at NNI

- Neighborhood organization, by-law and board development, neighborhood cleanups, including a tool library
- EXCEL neighborhood leadership program
- Space for neighborhood meetings
- Monthly senior citizen health, education and recreation workshops
- Crime prevention training programs and Night Out Against Crime Kick-Off
- Comprehensive code enforcement (4 KCMO code officers are based at NNI)
- Neighborhood Computer Center
- Comprehensive home repair programs
- FOCUS Center: voter registration, pet licensing, code enforcement, animal control satellite, notary public, KCPD Office of Community Complaints, CAN (Community Action Network) Center
- Monthly "Meet Your Councilperson" meetings
- Monthly "Roundtable" and communications workshops
- Clearing house on economic development projects that impact neighborhoods
- Neighborhood newsletter printing



NNI'S HALLOWEEN EVENT BREAKS ATTENDANCE RECORD

NNI's October 31, 2010 Safe Trick or Treat event had a new venue this year: Metro North Mall at Highway 169 and Barry Road. The young and young at heart, along with your favorite ghosts and goblins, converged on the temporarily haunted Metro North Mall for this

ever popular kid-safe Halloween event. Attendance spiked to 7,377, up nearly 3,000 from the 2009 event. Co-sponsors with NNI were Kansas City's Neighborhood Tourism Development Fund, the Kansas City Neighborhood and Community Services Department, KCPD's North

Patrol and Shoal Creek stations and Metro North Mall. Eighty-two stalwart volunteers braved the onslaught of families and the menacing Halloween goblins. Major contributors of food and beverage items included Belfonte and Sam's Club. The event was free for ages 12 and under.



NEIGHBORHOOD CLIPS

December senior workshop will be all play and no work

Each December, NNI dispenses with the normal workshop to give Northland seniors a chance to kick loose and enjoy the holiday season with good food and good cheer. The fun will begin at 10:00 am with Bingo and end at 11:30 with lunch to follow.

Healthy Homes program wins praise from grateful mom

Sherrie King is the grateful mother of Sierra King. Sierra is one of Children's Mercy Hospital's Healthy Homes program recipients. Sherrie recently called to express her appreciation that NNI's concern for her family went beyond the Healthy Homes grant. NNI's Healthy Homes Coordinator had called Sherrie to check on how Sierra was doing after her house received the Healthy Homes allergen treatment. Sierra's childhood history was marred by at least two bouts with death, hair and weight loss, and long periods of being confined to bed. Sherrie let NNI know that Sierra is doing much better. Sherrie attributes Sierra's progress to NNI and Children's Mercy Hospital's Healthy Homes program and was more than pleased with NNI's follow-up.

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 Larry Washington at NNI, 454-2000 to see if you qualify.

Other home repair programs available from NNI include the ENCORE program for qualified residents in the North Oak Corridor, the Custom Solutions program for qualified residents in the Kansas City, Missouri portions of Clay and Platte Counties, and the Clay County Senior Services small home repair program. Contact Larry Washington or Cheryl Ray at 454-2000 for more information.

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.

Would you like a **FREE** checkup of your child's health and your home?

To qualify, all you need is to:

- Live in the Kansas City Metro area.
- Have a child between 2 and 17 years of age, with asthma, allergies, sinus problems, constant cough, or other constant health problems.
- Your child stays at your home at least 4 nights per week.
- Own your home, or have lived in the same rental unit the last 6 months and plan to be there the next 12 months.
- Meet the HHP Median Family Income Guidelines

The **FREE** home checkup 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. **All families will receive a Healthy Home Cleaning Kit that includes a HEPA Vacuum, high quality furnace filters, and a set of healthy home cleaning supplies.**

The Kansas City Safe & Healthy Home Partnership presents

The Healthy Home Program

Call the Healthy Home Program at:

816-855-1895

Enroll Now!
Children's Mercy
HOSPITALS & CLINICS
www.childrensmercy.org



PERSPECTIVES

Keeping e-tax crucial to Kansas City's future

by Jim Rice, NNI Chief Executive Officer

Imagine walking down a dimly-lit street. Half the street lamps are out, the remaining ones provide just enough light to see trash strewn along the street's crumbling gutters. An unleashed dog menaces amid the shadows. As you nervously proceed, you wish a cop would cruise by to make you feel more secure. But you know you aren't likely to see one. Your mind flashes back to a more pleasant time. You remember an afternoon at the zoo just a few years ago. It's a nice momentary distraction. Then you shudder as you pass a vacant house, the lawn overgrown with weeds and the widows broken out by vandals. The lot next door is occupied by what may have been a nice home, before it burned. And as you hurry along, the question nags: "Why, oh why, didn't we retain the e-tax!"

Okay, so maybe that scene is a bit dramatic. But when you know the facts about Kansas City's earnings tax (e-tax), that scenario isn't far off the mark. The e-tax is paid on earnings from work or profits. Retired seniors and unemployed people don't pay it. If you live in Kansas City and have a job, or if you live outside of Kansas City and have a job in Kansas City, you pay 1% of your earnings. It's simple and fair.

The e-tax provides over \$200 million dollars (about 45%) of the general fund. It's the single biggest source for the fund that provides most of what we call basic services. The biggest portion of it goes to police and fire. It also pays for such basic services as code enforcement and trash collection. Some of it goes toward keep

communities livable, by taking care of dangerous buildings, weed control, animal control, and neighborhood cleanups. Some of the money goes to the Parks department for mowing, community centers, the zoo and other things.

If you think Kansas City and St. Louis are the only cities with an e-tax, think again. Twenty-five percent of large urban cities (in 17 states) have an earnings tax, although it may be called something else or work a bit differently than ours. Philadelphia has the highest one at over 4 ½%, the only one lower than Kansas City's is Indianapolis, at .7%.

The Mayor and Council asked the City Manager to report what cuts the city would need to consider if the e-tax is not renewed by voters. Here's what he came up with: the loss of 700 jobs within the police department, nearly 500 fire department positions.

Also impacted would be public works, parks, code enforcement, dangerous buildings, and animal control. A total of over 1,400 jobs. Half the street lights in Kansas City would be dark.

On Dec. 17, 1963, Kansas Citizens approved a half cent earnings tax. Sixty-three percent of voters endorsed it. In 1970, another vote increased it to its current 1% rate. Now, because of the passage of Proposition A last month, you will be asked to vote to renew it in April 2011 and it will be up for renewal again every 5 years.

Please support the renewal of the e-tax, and please talk to your friends and neighbors about it.

The earnings tax is an essential part of Kansas City life. It allows citizens to enjoy weekly trash pickup, police and fire protection, and many other services we too often take for granted.

Remember . . .

- It is NOT a new tax; it is the renewal of an existing tax.
- It is a fair tax, it is based on earnings: those who can afford the most, pay the most; those who earn less, pay less; people who don't work, don't pay it.
- The e-tax allows the city to collect money from people in the suburbs who choose to work in Kansas City. That's as it should be, after all, they use our streets and have the benefit of police and fire protection at work.

NNI COMMITTEES KEEP NNI IN THE LOOP WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND PROJECTS

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. has an effective Board of Directors. Meetings are civil, orderly, and rarely last more than one hour, even with a crowded agenda. Six active Board committees help the full Board achieve its efficiency: Executive, Administration and Finance, Governmental Affairs, Neighborhood Relations, Planning and Development, and Resource Development. Two examples reflect the energy and information base the committees bring to NNI's governance structure.

Under the leadership of Planning and Development Chair Dave Mecklenburg, the committee keeps itself well informed on NNI housing programs and major Northland development projects. Mecklenburg has expanded the committee's role to include trouble-shooting and advocacy for key Northland public improvements (Chouteau Parkway and the North Oak Streetscape) and major

economic development projects (Antioch Mall). "These projects have enormous impact on neighborhoods, and NNI needs to represent the neighborhoods' interest in their design and execution," says Mecklenburg.

The Governmental Affairs Committee complements the work of Planning and Development. Dick Davis, NNI Board President and Chair of Governmental Affairs, launched a regular series of conversations with area elected and appointed officials. "I had dual objectives," Davis says. "I wanted area leaders to have first-hand knowledge about NNI's contribution to the Northland and I wanted to expand NNI's access to these leaders so that neighborhoods could have more impact on important public decisions."

Since the program started in May 2009, Davis' committee has

amassed a solid track record of building relationships with: Former Clay County Presiding Commissioner Ed Quick, NKC Mayor Bill Biggerstaff, Gladstone City Manager Kirk Davis, State Representative Ryan Silvey, Parkville Alderman Nan McManus, Riverside Mayor Kathy Rose, Councilwoman Jan Marcason, Mid-America Regional Council Executive Director David Warm, KC Parks and Recreation Commissioner Meg Conger and Director Mark McHenry, MODOT District Engineer Beth Wright, Councilwoman Deb Hermann, City Manager Troy Schulte, Kansas City Economic Development Corporation President Jeff Kaczmarek, NKC School Superintendent Todd White, Attorney and former TIF Commission Chair Tim Kristl, former KC Port Authority Executive Director Vincent Gauthier, KCMO Finance Director Randy Landes, and City Planner Jade Liska on the Kansas City redistricting plan.

NNI Upcoming Public Meetings and Events

Wednesday, 12/8	Senior Workshop	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, 12/8	Forward Kansas City Board Meeting CANCELLED	
Wednesday, 12/15	Cop Talk CANCELLED	
Monday, 12/20	NNI Board Meeting CANCELLED	
Tuesday, 12/21	1st District Problem-Solving CANCELLED	
Tuesday, 12/21	Greenhaven Neighborhood	7:00 p.m.
Friday, 12/24	NNI Offices closed for Christmas holiday	
Friday, 12/31	NNI Offices closed for New Year's holiday	