

THE POINTE

Nelson Home Will Host Next TGIF Social on Jan. 10

Sandy and Ken Nelson (468-6670) will host the next TGIF Social Hour at 1813 NE 83rd St. on Friday, Jan. 10, 5:30-7:30pm.

Since June 3, 2005, adults have been socializing monthly at different homes.

Contact **John Azodi** (436-1114, jazodi@kc.rr.com) to volunteer to take a turn.

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BridgePointe Homes Association
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*"To have good neighbors,
be a good neighbor . . ."*

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Happy Holidays!



Danny Ray, Dennis Jaeger, Bob Hiatt, Matt Ryan, Irv Becker and Justin Cofer carry junk on the fourth annual Dumpster Day on October 26. Dozens of neighbors helped to fill the

dumpster by noon. They also responsibly disposed of hundreds of pounds of electronic waste with the Surplus Exchange, and donated old paint to Oak Park High School's theater group.

First Raise in 10 Years . . .

Annual Dues Are \$280 This Year

Invoices are going to neighbors now, showing \$280 payable for 2014 by December 31. Interest at 1% monthly applies to payments which are received after January 31.

For the first time since 2003, dues rose slightly higher to meet increased costs and for reserves to pay for big-ticket repairs.

The Association's board voted on March 3 to increase the annual assessment by \$30 to \$280.

A recent survey of 19 Northland neighborhoods with swim-

ming pools showed a range of \$200 to \$925 for annual assessments. Only one (at \$925) has lifeguards.

Besides the pool, dues pay for common area landscaping, insurance, utilities, and a few social activities.

Neighbors have helped to keep costs low by volunteering for many landscaping chores.

For dues information, contact Treasurer **Linda Spotts Michael** (436-0339, Linda.Spotts-Michael@mcckc.edu).



Photo by Bob Siedler

Maple Woods Park Preserves Natural History

BridgePointe's neighbor to the east, Maple Woods Natural Area, appears in the "Places to Go" column of *Missouri Conservationist* magazine's December edition.

It describes the 39 acres of forest and woodlands as "a fond reminder of the wild lands that dominated this region only 200 years ago."

On the 1.4-mile nature trail visitors can see a variety of trees: Black maple, sugar maple, northern red oak, white oak, bur oak, bitternut, shagbark hickory, red elm, basswood, black walnut and white ash.

Bird watchers will see northern flickers and downy, hairy and red-bellied woodpeckers.

Wildflowers include Solomon's seal, bellwort, and bloodroot.



Rock On!

Firefighters, police and utility workers respond on Sept. 14 after a car collided with one of the four decorative posts by the neighborhood's main entrance. The car was damaged severely, but the driver was able to walk away. Her insurance paid for repairs.

On Oct. 24, **Kenny Sharp**, of Sharp Masonry, works on rebuilding the post. Repairs moved slowly because mortar on each level of stones had to dry before assembling another level.



Piling Up . . .

Once again your neighborhood news source has been recognized as the Northland's best newsletter by Northland Neighborhoods Inc. at its awards breakfast on Oct. 25. It was the fourth

time in five years. *The Pointe* did not enter in 2012. Dozens of neighbors gather information, assemble pages, and distribute the paper several times a year to 201 homes.



Steve Langley shows how a pharmacist can croon tunes at the Oktoberfest.

Oktoberfest Draws Many to Final Fling at Pool Lot

Families enjoyed the last bit of good weather at the pool parking lot on Oct. 20 at the third annual Oktoberfest. They dined on brats, sauerkraut, and other German-style food, and sampled home-brewed beer. While parents chatted, kids frolicked with hopscotch and chalked artwork on the pavement. Thank **Vicki and Danny Ray** for organizing another fun event.



Peyton Cofer and his sister, **Claire**, chase **Tacy Curtis** at hopscotch at the Oktoberfest on Oct. 20. Proud parents are **Kristy and Justin Cofer** and **Kim and Tony Curtis**.

Food Gifts for Needy are Welcome At Annual Meeting on January 13

Neighbors can reflect on 2013 look forward to 2014, and share their bounty at the annual all-neighbors meeting, at 7pm, Monday, Jan. 13 at Clardy Elementary School.

For the seventh year, donations will be accepted for **Harvesters Community Food**



Network, which has extraordinary needs after the holidays. Canned goods (vegetables, fruits, meats, and soups) and boxed meals, peanut butter, and cereal are needed. Soap, deodorant, shampoo and toilet paper also are welcome.

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Annual Meeting: 7pm, Monday Jan. 13, 2014 at Clardy School

Azodi, Brady Collect for Safe Haven Again

As they have for several years, **Christina Azodi, Rose Brady and John Azodi** are working to bring Christmas cheer to the women, children, and staff at the Gladstone Safe Haven House.

The family is collecting gifts for the women and children, and much-needed items on the shelter's wish list. In past years, the shelter received basic hygiene and food donations from groups such as Harvesters Community Food Network. But those donations decreased drastically this year.

Basic needs include diapers, baby wipes, bottles, hygiene supplies, and bedding for twin beds. Good ideas

for children's gift donations include Legos, dolls, craft supplies, and sports equipment. Women would love to receive pajamas, make-up, slippers and gift cards to places such as Target, QuikTrip, and HyVee. Of course, cash and checks always are welcome.

Donations can be taken to 1621 NE 83rd Terr. Make checks payable to "**Rose Brady**." For information, contact her at rosebrady57@gmail.com or 436-1114.

The Safe Haven facility provides shelter from domestic violence with support from Synergy Services. Learn more at its website, www.synergyservices.org.



Home at Last . . .

The **Holder** family is all smiles on Sept. 29 when **Bret**, a gunnery sergeant, returns to his wife, **Sara**, and son, **Jet**, 10, and daughter, **Kate**, 8, after more than seven months in Afghanistan. The 21-year Marine veteran was an Advisor for

Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force—Afghanistan. He also had served four months in Iraq in 2003. The neighborhood greeted him with a WELCOME HOME banner on NE 83rd St., and yellow ribbons on lamp posts.