



BRUSH CREEK **K**COMMUNITY PARTNERS  
*growing kansas city*

# BRUSH CREEK CORRIDOR CHRONICLE

April 2010

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## Dear Kathy,

The process of putting the *Brush Creek Chronicle* together goes something like this...as information about milestones and activities in the Brush Creek Corridor is received throughout each month, it is filed. The last week of the month, we devote a little more than a day to compile and edit this electronic newsletter, spending some of that time tracking down details, updates and visuals to put with the news we find "fit to print." That's one thing I particularly like about this format: it's flexible, that and the fact we can give you links where all you have to do is click them to get to more information.

We don't set out to establish a theme for each month's *Chronicle*, but themes do emerge. For this April edition those themes are "growth" and "sustainability." "Growth" in terms of new businesses coming into the Corridor and the planting-both literally and figuratively-of things that mature and produce benefits. "Sustainability" in terms of what we do to live and work in a healthier community that contributes to environmental quality, social equity and economic vitality.

For each story we tell about growth and sustainability in the Brush Creek Corridor, there are dozens more. We will do our best to keep up with them in order to bring them to you.

Carol Grimaldi

## BRUSH CREEK CORRIDOR/GREEN IMPACT ZONE NOW HOME TO THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT MOTOR, GENERATOR AND ACTUATOR TECHNOLOGY

The company producing a breakthrough technology that could decrease household energy costs by 30 percent was welcomed this month as the newest tenant of Kansas City's Green Impact Zone. QM Power Inc.'s Clean Technology & Innovation Labs at 4747 Troost, in the University of Missouri-Kansas City Innovation Center, fosters collaboration on research and development of energy efficient technology between the company and UMKC's School of Computing and Engineering (SCE).

QM Power was founded in 2006 to commercialize proprietary and patented advances in low cost, high performance electric motor, generator and actuator technologies ([www.qmpower.com](http://www.qmpower.com)). By collaborating to develop energy-efficient technology, SCE and QM Power hope to enrich the Green Impact Zone, create jobs, improve national security, dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save consumers more than \$10 billion in annual energy costs.

Currently, Q.M. Power is a six-person company employing three SCE alumni with plans to hire an additional 20 employees by the beginning of 2011. QM Power's Co-Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer P. J. Piper says that by 2013 the company will likely grow to 100 employees. Along with creating several highly-skilled, high-salaried jobs, QM Power plans to boost the Green Impact Zone by collaborating with the University of Missouri, corporate development partners, government agencies, national research labs, suppliers and customers.

For more than a year, UMKC's SCE ([www.sce.umkc.edu](http://www.sce.umkc.edu)) has been collaborating with QM Power in the development of lightweight, efficient motor design. QM Power has acquired several million dollars of research funds from many federal agencies and provided SCE faculty and students with research experience.



*University of Missouri-Kansas City Chancellor Leo Morton; U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II; QM Power Chief Executive Officer and President P.J. Piper; and U.S. Senator Kit Bond's District Director Sam Panettiere, welcome QM Power to Kansas City.*

## MORE FEDERAL FUNDS TO BENEFIT GREEN IMPACT ZONE

Since its inception a year ago, the Green Impact Zone initiative has attracted \$50 million in federal funding to support energy efficiency, transportation and infrastructure improvements. The Green Impact Zone was created by U.S. representative Emanuel Cleaver, II, to target resources in 150 square blocks of the

Brush Creek Corridor east of Troost Avenue in order to catalyze job training, employment opportunities and environmental sustainability including energy efficiency. In the last month, announcements have been made about additional federal funding received by the city with the Green Impact Zone among the beneficiaries.

#### **EnergyWorks KC**

A \$20 million grant for the Green Impact Zone and several area neighborhoods will help many home and business owners manage energy costs through EnergyWorks KC. The grant is from the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, which is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Building on the Green Impact Zone and Kansas City Power & Light's Smart Grid demonstration project, EnergyWorks KC will focus on enhancing energy efficiency in homes and businesses over the next two years. By conducting energy audits and retrofitting existing buildings - for example, with energy-efficient furnaces, heat pumps, doors and windows - EnergyWorks KC can help building owners substantially reduce energy use and utility costs. The project is also designed to create jobs, by hiring and training people to do the audit and retrofit work.

#### **Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant**

Kansas City was also selected to receive a \$1 million Brownfields Assessment Coalition grant targeting local initiatives including the Green Impact Zone. The area contains about 185 brownfield sites, including filling stations, salvage yards, and commercial and light manufacturing facilities. About 25 percent of the properties are vacant lots, and others contain vacant structures. Brownfield assessments will help the city prepare for cleanups and leverage resources for eventual site redevelopment.

## SAINT LUKE'S TO HONOR ROBERT WEST FOR LIFETIME OF SUPPORT

Robert H. West is the 2010 Saint Luke's Hospital Foundation Fellow award recipient for more than 40 years of support to Saint Luke's Hospital. The award recognizes individuals who have given time, expertise, and charitable support to advance research, education, and medical programs at Saint Luke's.

West's service to Saint Luke's began in 1968, when he was elected to the Saint Luke's Hospital Board of Directors. He served as the hospital board's Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair for eight years before becoming President of the hospital and Chairman of the Foundation in 1995. He retired from these roles in 2008, yet remains an active member of the hospital and the Saint Luke's Health System boards.



*Robert West*

Under West's leadership, Saint Luke's Hospital Foundation coordinated three successful campaigns to secure support for capital improvements, equipment, medical programs, education, and research initiatives. The recent "Campaign for the New Saint Luke's" exceeded its goal by \$10 million with \$85 million raised, the largest amount in the hospital's history.

West also joined Butler Manufacturing in 1968. He retired in 1999 as its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

## BNIM CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRM AND EARTH DAY WITH SUSTAINABLE DESIGN RECOGNITION

Forty years ago, as America celebrated its first Earth Day, local architecture firm BNIM opened its doors for business. This year BNIM is a 2010 recipient of an American Institute of Architects Committee on the Environment Top Ten Green Projects Award -the industry's best-known award for sustainable design excellence given annually on Earth Day - for The Omega Center for Sustainable Living in Rhinebeck, New York. The record-breaking net zero energy and water utilization project is expecting to receive both Living Building and LEED™ Platinum status in 2010. BNIM, a member of Brush Creek Community Partners, is leading work on the feasibility study for a proposed Climate Sustainability Center along Troost Avenue adjacent to Brush Creek.



*Kansas City's BNIM Architects is receiving a top honor for its design of the Omega Center for Sustainable Living in Rhinebeck, New York.*



The Shops on Blue Parkway welcomed Burger King as its newest tenant in in April. Charles Fallon, president of Burger King/North America cuts the ribbon at the 4301 E. Blue Parkway restaurant. He is joined by (from left), Mukesh Dharod, president of Genesh, Inc., Robert Phillips, multi-unit Manager for Genesh, Inc., E. Frank Ellis, chairman of Swope Community Enterprises and Bill Jones, president of Swope Community Builders

## STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM TO REPLANT BRUSH CREEK ISLAND

Behind the Brush Creek Community Center at 3801 Brush Creek Boulevard is Lake of the Enshriners in which a small island is situated. The island is currently covered with turf grass and weeds. This spring students in the Green Works in Kansas City program will replant the island with native grasses and flowers, beautifying the island and discouraging Canada geese from nesting there. And at the same time trash will be cleaned up from the banks of the lake, reinforcing the fact that the trash on our streets ends up as trash in our water. The planting and cleanup are being conducted with assistance from the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Kansas City Parks & Recreation Department, and Burns and McDonnell.



*Lake of the Enshriners*

Green Works in Kansas City engages urban youth in sustainable environmental stewardship and the green economy. The year-long science-based experiential program teaches young adults to care for the environment, experience meaningful career ladders, gain skills that assist them in becoming productive employees, and provide direct community benefits by improving the urban environment. The curriculum focuses on Kansas City's most pressing environmental problems including the combined sewer system, the declining urban

forest, ozone levels, and solid waste and recycling. For more information visit [www.greenworkskc.org](http://www.greenworkskc.org).

## CORRIDOR GARDEN NEWS

The Green Impact Zone, Keep Kansas City Beautiful, Bridging the Gap and the Troostwood Neighborhood Association will be planting a very visible rain garden at Troostwood Commons, 4801 Volker Boulevard, Saturday, May 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This planting is also a workshop to teach rain garden sowing and maintenance. The workshop is free and volunteers are needed, but participants must register at [www.greenimpactzone.org](http://www.greenimpactzone.org).



*Community garden boxes at 51st and Main*

Just a few blocks west of the rain garden the Visitation and St. Francis Xavier parishes are collaborating to plant several community garden boxes at 51st and Main Streets. The produce grown will go to the St. James Place Food Pantry & Community Kitchen at 39th and Troost Avenue.

## COMING UP IN THE CORRIDOR

### **New Nelson Egyptian Galleries Offer Stunning Objects from Ancient Tomb**

This spectacular 2,300-year-old seven-foot inner coffin of Noblewoman Meretites is the centerpiece of New Ancient Art Galleries opening Saturday, May 8 at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 4525 Oak Street. The new galleries give viewers a panoramic look at works created by artists and craftsmen in the ancient civilizations of the Near East, Egypt, Greece and Rome. The Meretites collection, acquired by the Museum in 2007, will be featured at the entrance of the new galleries. For more information visit [www.nelson-atkins.org](http://www.nelson-atkins.org).



*Egyptian Inner Coffin of Meretites*

### **Discovery Center's Native Greens Brings All Ages Back to Nature**

Want to attract birds, butterflies, and toads to your yard? Landscaping with native plants creates a low maintenance garden with season long interest that will attract wildlife to your home or business. Bring friends and family to the Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center, 4750 Troost Avenue, Saturday, May 15, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., for a garden tour, build a planter, transplant seedlings, pick up a free tree sapling, learn about rain gardens, make a seed ball, or help transplant 2,000 native grass seedlings in the



*Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center*

prairie.

Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/kcmetro/discovery](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/kcmetro/discovery) for more information about this and other free Discovery Center programs. The Discovery Center now offers programs on the first and third Tuesday evening and Saturday of each month.

**For a complete listing of events and activities in the Corridor, visit**

[www.kcartswalk.com](http://www.kcartswalk.com)

## THE ROLE OF TREES INSIDE THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM

By Bill Grotts, program manager, Bridging the Gap's Heartland Tree Alliance

Her toned brown arms reach upward, her hands held high with fingers the shapes of leaves. Another figure, a male, watches close by, transfixed at the transformation. The female figure's torso is part tree trunk and her feet, although recognizable, are unmistakably also tree roots. The latest horror movie? No, just a beautiful, wonderfully carved boxwood sculpture of Daphne and Apollo, two figures from Greek mythology, on display at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and one of the many treasures you can see on the Trees Into Art tour.



The tour, which was created especially for Bridging the Gap's Heartland Tree Alliance (HTA), was the brainchild of two of the museum's highly trained docents, who also happen to have training in living things - Pat Knefel and Aletha Simon. Pat is a graduate of HTA's Tree Keeper's class and Aletha is a Master Gardener. Pat and I were chatting while pruning at a park in Gladstone last fall when I learned she was a docent. I mentioned that I thought it would be fun to have some sort of tour at the museum that could help visitors see trees within the artworks. Pat and Aletha took this extremely raw idea, recut it, polished it to a high sheen and came up with the tour.

The tour is designed to be interactive. Both Pat and Aletha realized that just lecturing can quickly become rather monotonous and are adept at drawing participants into conversations about what they are seeing in the various pieces. The tour covers a wide range of artworks, from the sculpture of Daphne and Apollo (carved several hundred years ago by an unknown German artist), to jaw-dropping furniture pieces, thought-provoking modern assemblages and many examples of the ways Native Americans used their carving skills to decorate useful items such as bowls and baskets.

The most intriguing aspect of the tour is how every piece selected is linked in some way to trees. Some are obvious - a massive scene of Jerusalem features olive trees in the foreground. Others are not - a basket woven by Native Americans from the southwest is actually made of willow. Another appears obvious but turns out to

have hidden connections - an idyllic view of a massive natural bridge in Virginia has many trees included in the scene but is also painted on boards.

The tour is free but is not one of the usual offerings of the Nelson. Its scheduling is subject to the availability of the docents. Nonetheless, it has already been given twice to rave reviews. If you are interested in taking this free tour, please contact me at [treemail@bridgingthegap.org](mailto:treemail@bridgingthegap.org) or at 816-561-1061, ext. 110. It's a wonderful way to explore the amazing artworks at the Nelson-Atkins Museum and to gain an even deeper appreciation for the important role played by trees.

*Reprinted by permission from Bridging the Gap E-News, March 2010.*

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