



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

# BRUSH CREEK CORRIDOR CHRONICLE

May 2011

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## Dear Kathy,

As I looked through those items that appear in this month's edition of the *Brush Creek Corridor Chronicle*, I teased out the theme of what BCCP's members and organizations in the Corridor are doing to build the community's intellectual capacity. Another theme is what some are doing to support other cities after disaster.

Our public library system wants more Kansas Citians to be readers, a learning center has moved into larger space, and a valuable theatre offering comes back from the brink to stage another play. All of these things are geared to making Kansas City more literate, educated and cultured.

Why is this important?

In announcing the Kansas City Public Library's "Building a Community of Readers" campaign, Library Director Crosby Kemper III says it all in his statement, "Readers tend to complete high school and graduate from college, to be more involved in civic affairs, and to support the arts and humanities in their communities. Highly literate cities also tend to be safer, more walk-able and healthier."

This is what we want for Kansas City.

Also, we must applaud this community's efforts to help tornado-ravaged Joplin and for providing continuing support for Greensburg, Kansas, which, four years ago, was in the position Joplin is now.

Everyone, keep up the good work!

Carol A. Grimaldi  
Executive Director

## **LIBRARY BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF READERS**



Kansas City stands 17<sup>th</sup> in the 2010 "America's Most Literate Cities" survey. The Kansas City Public Library wants that ranking to be higher!

The Library has embarked on a five-year campaign, "Building a Community of Readers," to achieve a 50 percent increase in the number of people involved in its reading programs-especially children and teens-by 2015. That's 30,000 people each year! Indicators will include annual increases in youth participation in the Summer Reading Program and growth in the Library circulation. It also involves new reading initiatives such as story times in 400 Head Start and other child care sites and more training to help families raise readers. One popular program is the Baby Bounce Storytime at the Plaza Branch Library (left). For more information about the Library and its programs, click on the image.

## **DUBOIS LEARNING CENTER CELEBRATES NEW FACILITY**

The W.E.B. DuBois Learning Center (DLC) celebrated its move to a new location this month. Kansas City Superintendent of Schools John Covington (left) listened as DLC Executive Director William Grace made a few remarks prior to cutting the ribbon on the learning center's new home at 6409 Agnes. For the past 38 years, DLC has focused on youth leadership and development by providing supplemental educational tutorial services to second through twelfth grade youth in the core areas of math, communication arts, science, and computer technology. Last year 264 students were served in its tutoring program. The center also provides access to free information systems technology via the DLC Telehub. For more information about the W.E.B. DuBois Learning Center, click on the image.



## BLOOD DONATIONS OVERWHELMING

### Prospective Donors Asked to Postpone Visit Until At Least Next Month



Hundreds of blood donors visited Community Blood Center (CBC) Neighborhood Donation Centers and Mobile Blood Drives in the 48 hours following the tornado in Joplin, relieving the need for donations in the near term. As the immediate needs of the CBC's area hospital partners and the Joplin community have been met, area citizens are asked to postpone donating blood until June, July or August. Immediately following the tornado, CBC shipped blood to the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks, the local blood banking organization serving the Joplin area, to support the rescue and relief effort. Blood donation appointments can be scheduled weeks or months in advance by visiting [www.savealifenow.org](http://www.savealifenow.org) or calling 816-647-

4040.

## CONTRIBUTION HONORS BNIM/ OBSERVES GREENSBURG DISASTER

BNIM has made a \$10,000 donation to Greensburg, Kansas to coincide with the fourth anniversary of the EF-5 tornado that destroyed almost the entire town. The donation was presented to BNIM by Kansas City companies, Burns & McDonnell and Polsinelli Shughart PC, in recognition of BNIM receiving the 2011 American Institute of Architects' National Firm Award, the industry's highest honor.



*Russ Welsh (left), chairman, Polsinelli Shugart, and Greg Graves (right) chairman and chief executive officer, Burns & McDonnell, present the contribution for Greensburg, Kansas to BNIM principals Bob Berkebile and Steve McDowell. (Photo by Burns & McDonnell)*

Following the devastation on May 4, 2007, BNIM was among the first organizations called to the scene. Since then BNIM has helped Greensburg achieve its goal of becoming one of the greenest cities in America through projects such as the Sustainable Comprehensive Master Plan and Greensburg City Hall, as well as support of the city's LEED Platinum building standard. The donation has been given to the Friends of Education Charitable Trust, Inc., an organization committed to supporting the Kiowa County K-12 Schools in Greensburg. The schools now operate in a single school building designed by BNIM, that is focused on sustainable principles such as increased natural light, fresh air and supportive academic environments.

## NEIGHBORHOOD/CITY TEAM UP TO FIGHT THE BLIGHT



Kansas City's Neighborhood and Community Services Department (NCS) collaborated with the Oak Park Neighborhood Association to Fight the Blight, an accelerated nuisance removal process in the neighborhood. Using the Fight the Blight approach, the NCS notified more than 450 property owners of violations on their property between East 31st and East 39th Streets, Prospect Avenue to Benton Boulevard.

Violations that were not corrected, such as abandoned and unlicensed vehicles, were removed by a team of contractors earlier this month, with property owners assessed the removal costs. The city's Solid Waste Division of the Public Works Department provided a special curbside pickup of bulky items, trash and brush that weekend. Here, volunteers trim trees to improve visibility and safety.

## MACBETH WILL GO ON!

An outpouring of support has made it possible for the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival to present its 2011 production in its 19<sup>th</sup> season. The festival's free professional production of *MacBeth* will be staged in Southmoreland Park at sunset June 14 through July 3, every evening except Mondays. We reported last month the festival needed to raise \$100,000 for the show to go on. For more information about the Shakespeare Festival, including Camp Shakespeare, click on the image.



## COMING UP IN THE CORRIDOR

### Plaza Library Exhibit Celebrates KC'S Architectural Icons

**When:** Through March 31, 2012  
**Where:** Plaza Library, 4801 Main, Kansas City, MO  
**Time:** Monday thru Friday - 9:00 am to 9:00 pm;  
Saturday - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm;  
Sunday - 1:00 to 6:00 pm  
**Fee:** Free

The *Century of Legendary Places* exhibit celebrates the 100-year legacy of Hare & Hare. The firm is responsible for many of Kansas City's most iconic and highly visible architectural landscapes, such as the Country Club Plaza, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Loose Park, Ward Parkway and Mission Hills.



*Dan Moser residence*

Click on the image for more information.

## *Crowned In Glory Celebrates An African American Tradition*

**When:** Through June 30  
**Where:** Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center,  
3700 Blue Parkway, Kansas City, MO  
**Time:** Tuesday thru Saturday - 10:00a to 6:00p  
**Fee:** Free



African American women often mix faith with fashion when dressing in their best clothing and placing a "crown" on their head for Sunday church service. This exhibition celebrates this tradition with photographs of women from the Kansas City area wearing their church hats. The exhibit is based on the bestselling book *Crowns: Portraits of African American Women in Church Hats*.

For more information, click on the image or call 816-513-0700.

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## Nelson-Atkins Exhibit Explores Space

**When:** June 14 to November 13  
**Where:** Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Gallery L11,  
4525 Oak St., Kansas City, MO  
**Time:** Wednesday - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.;  
Thursday & Friday - 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.;  
Saturday - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.;  
Sunday - 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.  
**Fee:** Free



*Heavens: Photographs of the Sky & Cosmos* provides a look at many of the beautiful phenomena in space that are unseen by the naked eye. Telescopes open up a new realm of possibility and a new way of looking at the sun, moon, and planets in our own solar system, not to mention being able to view things further out into space.

Mark Klett, American, b. 1952.  
*Six Quarter Moons*, 3/12/05,  
2005. Split-toned gelatin silver  
print, ed. 12/20. Sheet: 7 1/4 x  
9 inches (18.42 x 22.86 cm).  
Gift of the Hall Family  
Foundation, 2010.18.14.

Click on the image for more information.

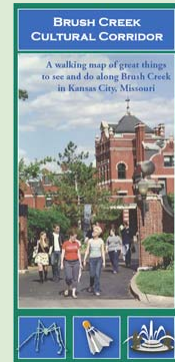
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**For a complete listing of events and  
activities in the Corridor, visit**

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

## BRUSH CREEK CULTURAL CORRIDOR WALKING MAPS AVAILABLE

Brush Creek Cultural Corridor maps identify and connect our community's cultural assets along Kansas City's Brush Creek Corridor. Copies of this map are available by contacting Brush Creek Community Partners at 816-523-2991 or email [kathy@bccp.org](mailto:kathy@bccp.org).



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Brush Creek Community Partners,  
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