

## EXCEL Program

**2011 EXCEL gets late start, but will begin in May 2011**

Past participants praise the program for the quality of its curriculum and the positive experience of working with fellow participants on realistic neighborhood issues.

Uncertainty about funding delayed the normal January launch of NNI's EXCEL Neighborhood Leadership Program. Fortunately, Commerce Bancshares Foundation came through and the program will begin its fourth year in May (the NNI News had previously reported

February as the start date). There is plenty of time for interested persons to complete an application. The 6-month training program includes sessions on Leadership skills, State and Local Government, Community Infrastructure, Economic Development, Public Safety and much more. Persons interested in enrolling should contact Jim Rice at 816-454-2000 or [jim\\_rice@nni.org](mailto:jim_rice@nni.org). Cost to participants for the entire program (includes training, materials, meals) is \$100. Scholarships are available.



2010 EXCEL Graduates

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816.454.2000

## New Neighborhood Open Forum Series begins February 22.

Beginning February 22, 6 p.m., NNI will sponsor a new regular meeting every fourth Tuesday of the even numbered months. Called the Neighborhood Open Forum, the meeting will give participants an opportunity to brainstorm solutions in small groups and then share the solutions with the larger group. Topics

for future sessions will be selected by participants with a likely focus on topics noted in the neighborhood leader interviews conducted by NNI's Neighborhood Relations Committee during 2010. The topic for February will be "community involvement."

## Keep KC Beautiful! gearing up for the 11th annual litter index

The Litter Index is an opportunity for Kansas City residents to view their community through new lenses as they help *Bridging the Gap* show the impact litter has on Kansas City. Following a group training, volunteers work in car-based teams using neighborhood maps to observe the level of litter in a neighborhood. The volunteer teams give each area a score based on the amount of litter present. These scores are used to produce an annual report of litter trends. On Saturday, March 19, the 11th Annual Litter Index will happen in the Northland beginning with breakfast and training at 10 a.m. and concluding by 2 p.m. Meet at Northland Neighborhoods, Inc., 3015 NE Vivion Road. Contact Kate Becker at 816.561.1061, ext 113 or [kate.becker@bridgingthegap.org](mailto:kate.becker@bridgingthegap.org) to join in on this important event or to schedule your own Litter Index Survey date. *Keep Kansas City Beautiful* is an affiliate of *Bridging The Gap*, a Kansas City-based environmental education and action organization.

## 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.

## 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, Cop Talk meetings, 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, dangerous building officer
- CAN (Community Action Network) Center
- Monthly "Meet Your Councilpersons" meetings
- Monthly "Roundtable" and communications workshops
- Clearinghouse for economic development projects that impact neighborhoods
- Neighborhood newsletter printing

# Neighborhood Clips

Some brief-but important-announcements and information that might be helpful to neighborhoods in the Northland.

## February senior workshop focuses on heart health

A few seniors braved the snowy morning to claim an early Valentine. The speaker was Shirley Verbenec, ANP-BC, BC-CVN. Shirley is a Nurse Practitioner at the Saint Luke's Center for Women's Health. No matter what age you are, it is never too late to make better health choices. The seniors learned more about the risks of heart disease and simple ways to help keep their hearts healthy.

## Upcoming Neighborhood Roundtable:

*March 22:* John Wood, new Assistant City Manager for housing and neighborhoods, will talk about his new job and his perspective on ways the City can focus more attention on neighborhoods.



## 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.

## Healthy Homes program can help fight allergies

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.

## Board of Directors

**Events in February 2011: Dates and times are subject to change. Please check our website for latest information\***

### Officers

Dick Davis, President  
Dan Fowler, Vice President  
Tom Schweitzer, Treasurer  
Angela Betts, Secretary

### Board Members

Charles Chamberlin  
ElizaBeth Clayton  
Dave Dunlop  
Richard King  
Trish Martin  
Anita McWilliams  
David Mecklenburg  
Keith Nelson  
Elaine Olvera  
Marty Schuettpelz  
Beth Sullivan  
Dennis Tedford

### Tuesday, 2/15

1st District Problem-Solving  
**8:30 a.m.**

### Tuesday, 2/15

Greenhaven Neighborhood  
**7:00 p.m.**

### Wednesday, 2/16

Cop Talk  
**6:30 p.m.**

### Monday, 2/21

Office closed for Presidents' Day  
NNI Board Meeting  
**6:00 p.m.**

### Tuesday, 2/22

Neighborhood Open Forum  
**6:00 p.m.**

### Monday, 2/28

Meet Your Councilpersons  
**6:00 p.m.**

\*NNI provides meeting space for any organization that provides a legitimate civic or public purpose. An organization's use of NNI meeting space does not imply any approval or endorsement of that organization's positions on any public issues.