

This Week at NNI



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Deb's Desk (a weekly update from CEO Deb Hermann)

Quality public schools key to neighborhood stability

When posed with the question, What condition of man most deserves pity? Benjamin Franklin replied, "A lonesome man on a rainy day who does not know how to read."

It was no accident that Franklin and other founding fathers advocated for strong public schools. They knew the fledgling democracy they had established would not thrive unless its citizens were equipped with the knowledge and skills to support their families, start businesses, make informed votes, capably represent their fellow citizens in the halls of government...and enjoy a good book on a rainy day.

It would take a full century after Franklin's death to fully develop the system of public schools we enjoy today. But over the years our public schools have met the challenges envisioned by our founders...and some they could not have envisioned. Like sustaining a common language amid the rich diversity brought on by continuous waves of immigration, *or* keeping our young people tuned to the advances in science and technology, *or* helping new generations adjust to the economic and cultural changes of an increasingly global society.

Finally, strong public schools are a critical ingredient of healthy neighborhoods. They attract young families with parents who often graduate from parent-teacher organizations to leadership roles in their neighborhoods. School buildings provide convenient, centralized locations for neighborhood meetings and other civic activities. The schools provide opportunities for school-neighborhood partnerships on community-building projects. The Northland is blessed with award-winning school districts and citizens who consistently support the funding it requires to sustain this vital component of our democracy...and our neighborhoods. Way to go, Northland!

News Bites

Chouteau Parkway is moving toward reality. The construction contract has been awarded. While the contractor begins staging for start of construction later this month, look for utility relocations to begin very soon.

Save the date: NNI Annual Meeting is June 25. If your neighborhood has not renewed its membership, call Jim Rice at 454-2000. Renewal will ensure your neighborhood a vote at the annual meeting. Renewal or new membership is easy. A simple one-page form gets the job done.

NNI Calendar for March 11 – March 21

3/11/12	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS	
3/13/12	8:30 a.m.	1 st District Problem Solving Meeting
3/14/12	9:00 a.m.	Senior Workshop
3/19/12	6:00 p.m.	NNI Board Meeting
3/20/12	7:00 p.m.	Greenhaven Neighborhood
3/21/12	6:30 p.m.	Cop Talk