

# This Week at NNI



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

It's a new year and a new weekly NNI News. *This Week with NNI* is designed to give you a quick read on what's happening at NNI and updates on key Northland developments. So, here goes. First, 2011: a year of transition, accomplishment and renewed commitment to neighborhoods. Seventy-one households benefitted from our home repair programs. The eleven participants in our 4<sup>th</sup> EXCEL neighborhood leadership class will graduate in February. Rounding out our regular educational/informational programs were the 1<sup>st</sup> District Problem Solving meeting, the Meet Your Councilpersons series, and Cop Talk. FOCUS Center operations expanded to include the entire Northeast/Northland team (6 officers and 1 supervisor). Crime prevention remains a major focus with numerous community actions on neighborhood disorder, regular communication with both Northland patrol divisions. In this new year, we'll build on the 2011 foundation and add some surprises.

Maintaining current services and launching new initiatives will challenge the ingenuity and creativity of the NNI staff, but they are up to the task IF we have the continuing support of the neighborhoods, the businesses and our fellow non-profits. Together, we'll get it done!

## News Bites

- Work on **Antioch Mall**, some not visible on the exterior, is moving fast. Utility relocations are nearly complete. Inside, environmental abatement is done. Exterior demolition—all but Burlington and Sears buildings will go—should begin soon. When demolition begins, watch for this: masonry material from the old buildings will be ground up into aggregate and used to fill the giant cavities underneath the old mall. The developers deserve high marks for this innovative and environmentally sensitive recycling feat. Makes good business sense, too.
- Demolition crews have transformed the old landscape along **Chouteau Trafficway** between Parvin Road and I-35 to make way for the new Chouteau Parkway, which is slated for a construction start this spring. There will be some inconvenience, especially when the Parvin-Chouteau intersection closes for several months, but the results will be worth the trouble.

## What we're looking forward to in 2012:

- An exciting new partnership with the City of Gladstone that will harness the energy of area university students to help with neighborhood strategic planning
- A pilot project in 3 strategic blocks of the Winnwood-Sunnybrook neighborhood

## Calendar for January 2-14

1/10/12	8:30 a.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> District Problem Solving Meeting
1/11/12	9:00 a.m.	Senior Workshop (Beating the Winter Blues) Emily Roper-Parsons, Tri-County Mental Health Center