

This Week at NNI



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

At NNI we use the term "revitalization" often. The word means imbuing with new life and vitality. If you were looking to bring these qualities to neighborhood life, where might you turn first? To young people, of course. Several neighborhoods are doing just that.

In the Chaumiere neighborhood, Erin Kinghorn, an International Baccalaureate student at North Kansas City High School, has held the position of Apprentice Secretary since 2010. By all accounts, she has been one of the best secretaries ever. She also pitched in with her trademark enthusiasm as a neighborhood newsletter carrier, treat maker for meetings, fund raising events and cleanup of Chaumiere Lake. As Erin moves on to college, Chaumiere is recruiting other young adults for neighborhood responsibilities.

In the Maple Park Gardens neighborhood, nine year-old Kaitlyn Elliott told Santa she would forfeit Christmas so a friend could have a doll house. Her act of kindness sent a ripple through the neighborhood that yielded a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings for her friend's family and gifts for the children (including the doll house). The ripple touched other neighbors who did the same for Kaitlyn's family. Now Maple Park Gardens is starting a food pantry to help neighbors suffering from the prolonged depression.

In Gladstone, officials want university students to conduct neighborhood planning and analyze the impact of rental versus ownership in single-family neighborhoods.

NNI believes these stories point to an exciting trend in neighborhood life. If you know of similar stories, let us know so we can spread the good news.

News Bites

- The proposed senior apartment project at Antioch Crossing is already a hit. Twenty-seven seniors have asked to be on the waiting list for the 98-unit project. If you would like to add your name to the list, call Jim Rice at NNI, 454-2000.
- The right-of-way along Chouteau Trafficway resembles the site of an archaeological dig. The finds don't quite rival ancient Egypt, but they do reveal a 1950s era galoline alley. So far, 18 storage tanks have been found (engineers only expected 12.) It's all part of federal and state mandates for environmental cleanup to make way for the new Chouteau Parkway.

NNI Calendar for January 16-31

1/17/12	7:00 p.m.	Greenhaven Neighborhood
1/18/12	6:30 p.m.	Cop Talk (focus on crimes against property)
1/23/12	6:00 p.m.	Meet Your Councilpersons
1/24/12	6:00 p.m.	Neighborhood Roundtable (Neighborhood and Community Services Department)