

# This Week at NNI



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

### **NNI participates in meeting with HUD Secretary**

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan met with area community development organizations April 23 at the Mid America Regional Council in downtown Kansas City. Thanks to an invitation from Congressman Emanuel Cleaver (whose district will soon include a significant portion of the Northland), I was privileged to represent NNI at the meeting.

The Secretary opened the discussion by reporting that billions of dollars in penalties banks paid by the nation's banks for poor foreclosure practices had been distributed to the states. Missouri received \$40 million. The expectation was that the states would use their windfalls to begin correcting the foreclosure epidemic. But Missouri chose to use all but \$2 million of its windfall to restore education funding, which had been hit by budget cuts. Mr. Donovan also expressed concern over the future of block grant funding (which pays for much of NNI's home repair and purchase-rehab programs).

While we all wanted to hear what the Secretary had to say, Mr. Donovan clearly preferred to listen to us. And he did. He is in sync with NNI's commitment to sustainable community development. (In NNI-speak, that means a

strategic, comprehensive approach to neighborhood renewal. That's the way we manage our housing programs, LeaderWorks and other education programs, and neighborhood planning. Mr. Donovan summed it up by saying he wants to put the "UD" back into "HUD." The Secretary's spirit of cooperation and partnership was mirrored by the KCMO housing officials present at the meeting. It is definitely a new day in the City's Housing and Community Development Department. For NNI, it has meant faster turn-around on reimbursements, help with complex rules and grant applications, and a new culture of problem solving. The refreshing philosophy and style of Mayor Sly James and City Manager Troy Schulte is spreading into the City departments. That's good news for all of us.

## **News Bites**

### **Deadline approaching for NNI membership renewal!**

Member neighborhood associations will vote to elect NNI board members and approve bylaw changes at NNI's June 25 Annual Meeting, 6 p.m. at NNI. To vote, your neighborhood organization must submit its membership application by 5 p.m. May 18. Go to:

<http://www.nni.org/associations/association-application.html> to renew on-line.

Or call Jim Rice at 454-2000 for more information.

### **Candidate forum set for May 21**

Persons interested in running for the NNI Board of Directors must submit a Board application by May 14, 2012. You will be asked to attend a candidate forum on May 21, 7 p.m. Following the forum, NNI will adopt a slate of candidates for presentation to NNI member organizations at the Annual Meeting.

## **Calendar for April 25 – May 21**

4/25/12	7:00 p.m.	LeaderWorks
5/8/12	8:30 a.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> District Problem-Solving Meeting
5/9/12	9:00 a.m.	Senior Workshop
5/21/12	6:00 p.m.	NNI Board Meeting
5/21/12	7:00 p.m.	Candidate Forum for NNI Board Candidates