

# NORTHERN HEIGHTS NEWS

## Northern Heights Elementary School: Meet the Principal



Wendy Barrett

"I am thrilled to be principal at Northern Heights Elementary School.

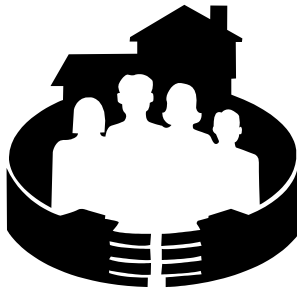
Opening a new school is a rare and exciting opportunity in the life of a school administrator. I look forward to working with staff, parents, and students to develop our school community and vision for learning. But most of all, I look forward to the first day of school and the smiling faces of children and parents as they enter."

Mrs. Barrett is the first principal of Northern Heights Elementary School. She was the District's Director of Curriculum for four and a half years before becoming principal. She also has experience as an assistant principal, plus 17 years of experience as an elementary teacher and reading specialist.

Printed courtesy of [www.bham.wednet.edu](http://www.bham.wednet.edu)

## New Student Registration

If your child is new to the Bellingham School District, and will attend Northern Heights Elementary, you can register at either Silver Beach or Roosevelt **March 25 thru April 5**. Bring your child's birth certificate, immunization records, and social security number. Call the Bellingham School District if you have further questions.



## Annexation Update

Our petition for annexation was submitted to the City. We needed signatures from homeowners representing 75% of the property valuation, as determined by the Assessor. Unfortunately, we were slightly under the mark. Letters were mailed to homeowners that



did not get a chance to sign the petition. If all goes as planned, those signatures will be turned in and we'll meet the 75% criterion.

The next step: City departments (fire, police, public works) review the impact of annexation and make their recommendations and budget requests. We'll keep you posted as the process moves forward.

**If you received a petition letter, please return it before March 31. Thank You.**

## Featured "Newsletter Neighbor"

Serving for 3 years on the Northern Heights Association Board is none other than **Fred Keske** on Patrick Court. Fred and his wife Karen currently share the duties as treasurer. His leadership on the **annexation project** is unparalleled. Thank You, Fred, for working so diligently on our behalf!

## Composite Roofing, Street Parking, House Color... And What about Yard Gnomes?

### YOU HAVE A SAY!

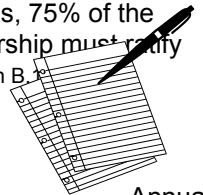
In response to the lively discussion at last November's Annual Meeting, and the frequent calls the board receives regarding the CC&Rs, a forum has been established for concerned neighbors.

**You are invited to the April 15 board meeting at 7:00 p.m. at 1322 Sara Court to learn how you can strengthen (or loosen) the CC&Rs to suit our association now and in the future.**

Additionally, many homeowners feel that the CC&Rs are not specific enough regarding the aesthetics of our neighborhood. Association members will form a "Quality and Standards" committee that will establish guidelines for such items as: house color, fencing, roofing and landscaping standards.

This committee will craft amendments to the CC&Rs. For the amendments to pass, 75% of the association membership must ratify the changes. (Section B.1)

There were several homeowners who spoke up at the Annual Meeting voicing a desire to maintain our top-quality community. (And many more were nodding in agreement!) By attending the April 15 meeting, you can have an impact and bring about meaningful change.



**How Much You Care can be Measured by How Much You Act**

## Clean Up Your Act! Annual Community Garage Sale



Get out those old baby toys... clean out the closets... And be a part of the

annual Northern Heights Community Garage Sale on **Saturday, April 27!**

The association will take care of advertisements and signage. All you have to do is open your garage and sell, sell, sell.



To add a twist this year, we've decided to support a charitable

organization, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training. Garage Salers are encouraged to donate 10% (or more) of their proceeds to this great organization.

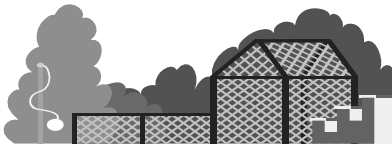
If you would like to support Team in Training with your garage sale, **contact Jennifer at 647-2374.** She will get you information and signs so that customers know you're supporting the cause.

*Let's set our Community Garage Sale apart from the others' and make it a fun – and prosperous --day for everyone.*



## Doggie Issues

There have been several complaints regarding barking dogs and doggie doo-doo. Please be a responsible pet owner and neighbor by keeping your dog quiet (for his sake and ours) and by cleaning up after Fido does his "business." Sidewalks, neighbors' lawns, and the McLeod Road median are not pet-potties. Be mindful of others.



## Children's Park Needs TLC, Elbow Grease

Join your neighbors for a day of community service at the **Children's Park Workday, Saturday, March 23, 9:00 a.m.**

General repairs, clean up, and spreading rubber are on the agenda. Also, we will prepare for the Easter Egg Hunt for the following weekend.

**Reminder:** The children's park is for kids under age 7. This rule will be monitored more closely, so please advise older children to use the playground at the southern end of the greenbelt. Thank you for your help in implementing this rule.



## Easter Egg Hunt

Last year's inaugural event was a great success! This year's event is **Saturday, March 30 at 10:00 a.m.** There are three age groups: Under age four, four to six year olds, and seven to 12 year olds. Lots of goodies, prizes and fun for the whole family. Contact Julie Jiminez if you have any questions or have prizes you wish to donate.

## 2002 Board Members

**Meredith McEachern, President**  
(360) 676-9565

**Fred Keske, Treasurer**  
(360) 738-6680

**Daphne Rasmusson, Secretary**  
(360) 715-9622

**Rick Stroebel, Quality Assurance**  
(360) 650-9008

**Jennifer Rick, Public Relations**  
(360) 647-2374

**Julie Jiminez, Community Affairs**  
(360) 752-9517

## Event Calendar At-a-Glance

### March 23

Children's Park Workday  
9:00 a.m.

Contact: Meredith McEachern

### March 30

Easter Egg Hunt  
10:00 a.m.

Contact: Julie Jiminez

### March 31

Associate Dues Deadline  
Late Fees apply as of 4/1/02

### April 15

CC&R Meeting  
1322 Sara Court  
7:00 p.m.

Everyone Welcome!!

### April 27

Community Garage Sale  
Contact: Julie Jiminez

Team in Training Info & Signs  
Contact: Jennifer Rick

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## The State Supreme Court Invalidates Petition Method of Annexation

In a surprise split (6-3) decision, the Washington Supreme Court on March 14 held that the use of the petition method of annexation is unconstitutional because it gives "impermissible privilege to owners of highly valued land, and therefore violates article 1, section 12 of the Washington State Constitution."



This decision is in response to two challenges, one of a Moses Lake and the

other of a Yakima annexation. In both cases the principal appellants were the impacted fire districts. The decision is being evaluated by city attorneys and AWC. At this point, it is unclear whether any previous annexations are at risk, other than those involved in the litigation.

This is a monumental decision by our Supreme Court. Without modification, it leaves the election method as the only form of annexation. During the past 20 years, only a small number of annexations have been by the election method. The latter is a far more costly and uncertain means for cities to annex adjacent urbanizing areas.

(Excerpt from AWC website)

### What Does This Mean for Northern Heights?

We have been advised by City Planner Pat Carmen to "hold tight" until the case has been sorted out, and the details of a voting process are determined.



The entire process may take a year or more.

The City of Bellingham is doing everything it can to expedite the annexation process. Our petition was the only one of its kind in Bellingham when the Court made the ruling.

The AWC website will post updates, and the Board will keep Association members informed as news develops.

For more information:  
[www.awcnet.org/annexation.htm](http://www.awcnet.org/annexation.htm)

## Advisory Committee Reviewing Covenants

In March, the Board of Directors invited all homeowners to attend the April 15 meeting to discuss the CC&Rs. From those in attendance, an advisory committee was formed to review the existing Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, Reservations and Restrictions document that governs our neighborhood.

The advisory committee has met several times and is working diligently to ensure our CC&Rs are clear, fair, and maintain the quality and standards we all appreciate.

The committee will submit their recommendations to the Board for approval and due process.

## Community Garage Sale is Huge Success!

More than 70 neighbors opened their garage doors on April 27 for the annual Northern Heights Community Garage Sale. The sun peeked out and many "shoppers" commented on the beauty and camaraderie of our neighborhood.

In addition, most of us took part in the "My Junk Fights Cancer" campaign, benefiting the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team in Training.

More than \$200 was donated by Northern Heights homeowners who took a Saturday to clean out their closets and support a great cause! The Board received the following letter:

Dear Northern Heights Neighbors:

Thank you for contributing over \$200 to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society from the proceeds of the Northern Heights neighborhood garage sale.

Your support of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society will help us in our goal of continuing to increase the survival rate of those diagnosed with blood-related cancers, while helping to improve the quality of life for those affected by these diseases.

On behalf of the patients and families who will benefit from the research made possible by donations such as yours, thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Donna LeBlonde, Coach,  
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society,  
Team in Training, Bellingham

## **Covenant Violation Process Reviewed & Enforced**

Recently, the Board reviewed the enforcement procedures for covenant violations. The Board adopted a "flow chart" of actions. Should you have questions regarding these procedures, please contact a board member.

### Violation Enforcement Procedure

1. Board member receives a complaint
2. Complaint is verified by the board member
3. After 3 days pass, another board member confirms the violation
4. A violation letter is sent outlining the violation and giving notice to comply with CC&Rs
5. After 30 days pass, a second notice is sent giving a strict 30-day notice for full compliance.
6. After 30 days pass, a notice of hearing is sent (certified mail)
7. Hearing takes place
8. Decision is made
9. Fines and/or liens, if applicable, are assessed.

Note: If at any time the issue is resolved the process ends immediately.

If you see a violation, please contact a board member as soon as possible. Often, a polite call or letter from a board member clears up the situation. Thank you for your cooperation and dedication to maintaining our neighborhood.

## **General Reminders**

Please keep your dogs quiet at night. Many folks have their windows open in the evening now that the weather is warmer, and it is difficult to sleep when Fido is barking.



### ***And speaking of warm weather...***



Plants, trees and lawns grow rapidly this time of year. Please do all you can to maintain your yard and landscaping. (Refer to CC&R 3.6 regarding "keeping lots neat and orderly.")

### ***And speaking of landscaping...***

As homeowners plan large landscaping projects, be aware of underground utilities. Call 1-800-424-5555 for more information about excavation and utility markings.

### ***Other areas of concern...***



If you have room in your driveway, please refrain from using the street for permanent or overnight parking. This is especially important for cul-de-sacs, which have limited room for emergency vehicles. Thank you for your cooperation.



## **Event Calendar At-a-Glance**

### **July 15**

Regular Board Meeting  
7:00 p.m. 1322 Sara Ct.

### **August 17**

Northern Heights Elementary  
School Open House.

### **August 23**

Northern Heights Elementary  
School & Neighborhood BBQ  
(school will not be open)

### **August 27**

First Day of School

## **Did Someone Say Brownies?**

Julie Jiminez is forming a Girls Scouts Brownie troop for girls in kindergarten through Grade 2 at the new school. Please call Julie at 752-9517 for more information.

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