

NORTHERN HEIGHTS NEWS

Your Community Association Newsletter

2003 Board Members Elected, Re-Elected

Pete Griffin (McLeod Rd), Terri Matson (Marie Ct) and Mike Cook (Patrick Ct) were elected to the Board of Directors at the November 14 annual meeting.

The new members replace Meredith McEachern and Rick Stroebel, whose terms were up, and Karen Keske who moved last summer. Julie Jiminez (Roma Rd) was re-elected for her second term. Daphne Rasmusson (Sara Ct) and Jennifer Rick (Sara Ct) are in the second year of their first term.

The 2003 board members met two weeks after the annual meeting (in accordance to the by-laws) where officers were named. The board meets on the third Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise posted. Locations TBA.

2003 Board Members

Mike Cook, *Quality Assurance*
671-0341

Pete Griffin, *President*
647-2031

Julie Jiminez
752-9517

Terri Matson
715-2104

Daphne Rasmusson, *Secretary*
715-9622

Jennifer Rick, *Treasurer*
647-2374



Annual Meeting Has Good Turn Out, Many Issues Covered

On November 14, 2002 61 lots were represented at the Annual Meeting, held at 6:30 p.m. at Squalicum High School. Agenda items included a "state of the association" report from President Meredith McEachern, the 2002 Treasurer's report, and the 2003 Association Budget. Additionally, the Proposed Amendments to the Covenants, Conditions, Restrictions and Reservations (CC&Rs) were explained and discussed. (See related CC&R Vote Article on reverse side.)

The 2003 budget was unanimously approved as follows:

Bookkeeping	\$3,300
Insurance	\$2,500
Landscaping	\$7,000
Legal	\$1,000
Office Expense	\$300
Postage	\$400
Street Lights	\$1,200
Light Maintenance	\$300
Park & Events	\$500
Detention Pond/Fence	\$10,000
Miscellaneous	\$500
Total	\$27,000

FYI... Insurance Budget Alert!

Our Association liability insurance has nearly tripled from last year's price (\$455 to \$1208.) The Board will keep homeowners informed regarding budget issues that come up throughout the year, especially as they significantly affect the approved line items.

Congratulations are "Due" to the Moultons

To encourage a larger turn out at the Annual Meeting last November, a raffle was held. The winner received their 2003 Association dues marked as "paid in full." Congratulations to Ethan Court neighbors **Robert and Becky Moulton** for having the winning ticket, worth \$105!!

However, Association Dues *Are Due* for the Rest of Us...

Association dues are collected annually, and this year the due-date is **March 1**. Association dues cover expenses for the 2003 calendar year, January through December. Last year, 90% of our neighbors paid their dues on time, and avoided late fees. Let's shoot for 100% this year, and avoid the extra time and money it takes to collect for delinquent properties. If you have any questions regarding your dues, please call Jennifer at 647-2374.

Featured "Newsletter Neighbors"

"Thank You" doesn't seem adequate to show our gratitude to **Rick Stroebel** and **Meredith McEachern** for their dedication and hard work on behalf our neighborhood. They both served two terms (yes, that's four years!) on our Homeowner's Board of Directors.

The current board thanks them, as well, for their willingness to help us during the transition.

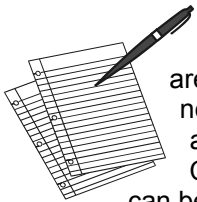


Proposed CC&R Amendment Project -- Doorbelling for Ballots and Input

Volunteers are canvassing the neighborhood in the coming weeks to collect ballots from homeowners who have not yet cast their vote on the Proposed Amendments to the CC&Rs (Covenants, Conditions, Reservations and Restrictions.)

75% (or 129) of the homeowners need to vote "yes" in order for the document to pass. We would like to have each lot represented in the final tally.

Passing these amendments is just one step in the months of work already put in to refining our community covenants. We are aware of some typos in the proposed document, and they will be dealt with in the continuing steps. If the amended document is passed, refinements will be made in the next stage.



By voting yes, you are helping our neighborhood keep its appeal and creating a CCR document that can be more easily amended -- *as homeowners deem it necessary* -- to accommodate neighborhood changes (i.e. City annexation issues, demographic changes)

The vote for the Proposed Amendments will stay open until **February 28, 2003.**

If you have any questions regarding the voting process, or the proposed amendments, please contact Pete Griffin or Jennifer Rick.

Common Areas Are Getting Improvements

In November, the board members walked the entire common area (from McLeod Rd to the elementary school property line) and made detailed notes regarding safety concerns, maintenance issues, and improvements. Many projects must wait for weather to cooperate; however bids and budget priorities are being set.



Our goal is to have our projects done by the end of June, when a mid-year neighborhood BBQ and meeting will be held in the park to show off our improvements. If you have any ideas or would like to get involved, please call a board member. Some projects that are already underway:

Pathway to the Elementary School off Roma Rd

- Crushed rock on path
- Fence on east side of path
- Gates, safety concerns

Detention Pond

Since the annexation project is on hold until the courts make a decision, we are responsible for bringing our detention pond up to code. (As you may recall, the City was going to take on this project if we were annexed.) The board is in the process of sending bid proposals to companies to clear and maintain the pond.

Park Areas

- Fix equipment, safety issues
- Re-gravel pathways
- Clear branches, debris

Other Stuff...

- Trees that were blocking streetlights were trimmed in October
- Wooden sign was moved to the west end of McLeod Rd for better visibility.

Event Calendar At-a-Glance

February 18

Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
3979 Patrick Ct

March 18

Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Location TBA

April 19

Easter Egg Hunt

May 3

Community Garage Sale

June 28 (tentative)

Mid-Year Community BBQ and Meeting.

November 13, 2003

Annual Meeting, Location TBA

Looking for something to do?

Attend a Squalicum High School sporting event. Near-by, spur-of-the-moment entertainment for all ages! Support your neighborhood school teams!

Boys Basketball (JV & Varsity)

Feb 4 vs. Ferndale 5:45 & 7:30

Feb 7 vs. Sehome 4:30 & 8:00

Feb 14 vs. Lynden 5:45 & 7:30

Girls Basketball (JV & Varsity)

Feb 7 vs. Sehome 3:00 & 6:00

Feb 12 vs. Anacortes 5:45 & 7:30

Boys Swimming & Diving

Feb 8 NW League

Dive - 9:00 a.m. Swim- 11:00 a.m.

Arne Hanna Aquatic Center

Wrestling

Feb 15 NW Regionals 10:00 a.m.

Bellingham High School, Cornwall Ave

Have an article idea or an event to announce that has a connection to our neighborhood? E-mail www.northernheights.org (Subject line: Newsletter Idea) The next newsletter is scheduled for mid-March.

NORTHERN HEIGHTS NEWS

Your Community Association Newsletter



The Northern Heights web site is undergoing a renovation to become a dynamic site. If you would

like to receive the newsletter and other information electronically, please register your name at www.northernheights.org. (This list is confidential & not sold.)

Detention Pond: Clean-Up Is Here!!

It's time for spring cleaning around the neighborhood! The first major project on the "to do" list is the detention pond. Our board president, Pete Griffin, is working diligently with County officials to get to the bottom of the pond issue (literally as well as figuratively) and bring it up to code.

A Little Background

As many homeowners may recall, Whatcom County officials sent a letter to our association many years ago citing us for a malfunctioning detention pond. When it appeared that annexation was about to happen, the Board negotiated with the City to take over the pond problems, for a price, and we would have this burden off our back. Then, when annexation hit a roadblock in Olympia, we went back to square one, and now have to bring the pond up to code ourselves.

What's Next

All the neighbors that border the pond or the trail were invited to meet on Saturday, March 22 to learn first-hand what to expect in the coming months "in their back yard." It was a good meeting and those who attended were very enthusiastic and liked the plans.



(Detention Pond, Con't)

Here is an overview of what the contracted company have will do:

1. Cut down and remove all trees and shrubs from the pond berms. (Just those that grow on the inward slope of the berm; others can stay)
2. Mow the pond berms, including the access road to the control manhole.
3. Mow and remove all dead vegetation from the pond bottom. (Late summer, if dry enough.)
4. Drain the stagnant water from the former bioswale area.
5. Remove all trash, debris, and waste from the pond, berms, and former bioswale area.
6. Vactor out the control structure and clean the trash rack.
7. Sewer jet the conveyance system from the control structure and the entire 165-foot exfiltration line.

We are pleased to report that many trees will be saved and that the natural wildlife and ecology is a top priority. Everyone agrees that the area will be, in the end, better than ever and will become a beautiful and vital addition to our community.

For safety reasons, please refrain from using the access trail during the clean-up phase.

Roma Road Trail Gets Some "TLG" (Truck Loads of Gravel)

On February 15 at 9:30 a.m., several neighbors showed up to help spread the first layer of gravel on the Roma Road trail that leads to the back of the elementary school. Despite the rain, folks seemed to actually enjoy the project, grateful for the upgrade. The board thanks those who came out to help maintain and beautify their community:

Dave & Mia Rasmusson
Kevin, Andrea, Julia & Jessica DeVere
Bruce & Cathy Nicholl
Renee Showalter
Tom Johnson
Marc Hendrickson
Mike DiSpigno
Brian, Anya & Madeline Rick



Workers stand back to admire their work. It was a great morning!

Several homeowners are dumping their yard waste and garbage into the pond berm and trail area. Please stop. Littering and dumping is against our covenants, violates County litter laws and is disrespectful. It is also costly to remove. Is this how you want our dues spent?

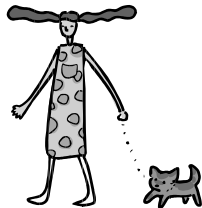
Homeowner Dues Coming in At Record Pace – Thank You!!

Homeowner Association dues were due on March 1, and the board thanks everyone who paid on time. By paying your dues in a timely fashion, you save the association money by cutting down on the expense of second and third notice mailings. This is a banner year, with 91% of homeowners paying their dues without penalty or late fees.



Alternative Humane Society Sponsors Annual PetWalk

Join the fun at the "Strut your Mutt" walk around Lake Padden on Saturday, May 10th. Meet at the south end of Lake Padden Park near the covered shelters. Registration starts 10:00 a.m. and the walk at 11:00 a.m. Slated activities including vendor tables, Canine Agility Club demonstrations, music, door prizes, and dog-owner competitions (like best dressed pet, pet-owner look-a-like contest, and treat catching.) This is a fundraiser to continue the Alternative Humane Society's county-wide spay and neutering programs. Anyone with questions can contact our neighbor Hector Valediez at hvaljr@hotmail.com.



And speaking of dogs...

Scoop the Poop



The dog poop problem is on-going. The worst areas are the McLeod Rd median and the north end of Magrath.

Please do not let your pets run loose to "do their business." Good "pet-iquette" is to bring along clean-up bags when out on walks with your four-legged friend.

Hippity-Hoppity! The Annual Easter Egg Hunt is Almost Here!

For two years, this event has been a highlight for the Northern Heights



Community. This year's hunt is **Saturday, April 19 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 at 752-9517 if you have any questions or have prizes you wish to donate.



Open Your Garage, Make Some Dough, & Help A Great Cause!

Be a part of the annual Northern Heights Community Garage Sale on **Saturday, May 3rd**.

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

If you don't have enough "junk" to have your own sale, try teaming up with one or two neighbors!

Last year our community supported the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society with a percentage of our sales. This was a huge success. This year we will support Whatcom County Hospice. Garage Salers are encouraged to donate 10% (or more) of their proceeds to this worthy organization. If you would like more information, contact Julie at 752-9517. She will get you signs so that customers know you are supporting this great cause.



Let's Hope for Sunshine!

Event Calendar At-a-Glance

April 19
Easter Egg Hunt

April 7 – 11
School District's Spring Break

April 15
Monthly NH Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. at 1331 Roma Rd

May 3
Community Garage Sale

May 20
Monthly NH Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. Location TBA

June 28 (tentative)
Mid-Year Community BBQ and Association Meeting

November 13, 2003
Annual Meeting, Location TBA

Reminder for McLeod Homeowners

The strip of property between the sidewalk and the street belongs to property owners; it is not part of the association's common area. (The median is part of our common grounds.) Please maintain this strip and help keep our neighborhood looking as great.

Common Area & Park Updates

Upcoming park improvements:

- More gravel on all park trails
- New latches on fences
- Signage & Equipment repair

ALERT! Used condoms and beer cans have been found in the toddler park area. Please report inappropriate activity immediately to a board member or call the police. Help Keep Our Neighborhood Safe & Clean.

Street Plum Trees Diseased, Dying... and Dead?

Haines Tree Service came to our neighborhood to assess the diseased and dying ornamental plum trees that were planted by the developer along each street and in the McLeod Road median.



Originally, the board thought that it would be a nice idea to have the trees treated. We soon learned that it would cost more than the association could

handle this year. However, we did receive some very good advice from the folks at Haines and would like to pass it along to homeowners.

It seems that many trees have mildew, pear slugs, and aphids. As you walk around the neighborhood, it is not difficult to detect a healthy plum tree from a dying plum tree. The real problem is that the dying (or already dead) trees will soon pass along their disease to the healthy plants.

Haines recommended that homeowners who have an unhealthy tree treat it with dormant oil & lime sulfur, insecticide, fungicide and/or miticide. Or, if the tree is in bad shape, to cut it down completely (all the way to the ground.) Keep in mind that the developer planted the street plum trees more than 12 years ago, but they are not maintained by the association; these trees (especially on the parking strip of McLeod Rd) are the responsibility of the lot owner.

The association will take care of the trees in the median and in the common area. If you have any questions regarding what to use on your tree, you need to contact a professional. Additionally, cutting a dead or dying tree is the homeowners' choice – this is a purely recommendation for the health and aesthetics of the trees in our neighborhood.

To assist folks who decide to cut down their failing plum trees, a "pick up" day will be scheduled to haul your tree away. If you are interested in this



service, or have a truck and would like to volunteer, please call **Julie Jiminez at 752-9517**. She will coordinate the effort.

Reminders: 1) This is for the street plum trees only. 2) Please do not cut down your tree and leave it out without contacting Julie first.

Detention Pond is Done! (...almost)

"Do Construction" won the bid in April to bring the Northern Heights Association detention pond up to Whatcom County code and did a magnificent job. The berm, bioswale, spillway and access road was cleared and much debris was removed. The company will return in late summer to mow down the cattails (once the birds are done nesting and the ground is dry) and the pond should be "good to go" with regular maintenance.



Next, Bayside Services came to vactor out the control structure and exfiltration line. Then, just last week, Northwest Fence installed a fence and gate to keep the pond area safe.



Our association's contracted landscaper, Hamilton Lawn & Landscape, is going to maintain the vegetation around the pond, as well as the trail from Roma to the school. The board is very proud of this project and invites you to take a stroll and see the fine work.

Friendly Reminders & Recent Concerns:

➤ Vehicles have been parking on the sidewalk along Roma Rd and other streets. Cars or motorcycles should never be on the sidewalk. Please use your driveway to the fullest capacity. Parking on the street creates congestion problems and makes it hard to see children playing and crossing the street.

➤ Trees on homeowners' property need to be trimmed so that the sidewalks are clear for pedestrians. Six feet is the recommended clearance. Please do your part to keep our sidewalks clear and enjoyable.

➤ Two huskies were seen killing a neighborhood cat a few weeks ago in the Roma/Darcy area. The dogs were eventually captured by the authorities. If you are a dog owner, keep your pet in your yard or on leash at all times.

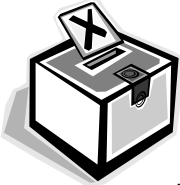
➤ Please put your garbage and recycling out the morning of pick-up, not the night before. Many homeowners have complained that bins left overnight are littering the streets. If you must put out your trash the night before, please cover and secure the bins from wind & birds.

➤ If you would like to stop the Bellingham Herald "Sampler" from being delivered, it is just a phone call away! Just make the request by calling 676-2600 and you will be removed from the delivery route.

➤ Dumping yard waste or debris onto the association's common area, the detention pond property, or undeveloped property (i.e. the corner of Magrath & Treefarm) is city and county codes. Please report this activity to a board member.

CC&R Amendment Project – Revisions on the they way

March, 2003 the Board of Directors tallied the votes and passed the motion that the amendment failed by 10 votes.



However, we were encouraged with the positive response from the homeowners. While a vast majority of the voters said “yes” to the amended document (87%) only 80% of the entire association voted. The measure needed a count of 129 “yes” votes to pass, under our current CC&Rs.

The full count was as follows:
Yes – 119 (70%); No – 18 (10%);
Abstain – 35 (20%)

The CC&R Amendment committee is working to correct the typos and unclear items that were identified. As clearly affirmed by the vote, the amended document is a better tool for our association. We do not want to throw in the towel over what has turned out to be minor details. Several folks who voted “no” remarked that only a few items kept them from waging a “yes” vote.

A revised version of the CC&R amendments is being drafted and will be available in late summer for review. If you are interested in helping with the process, call **Jennifer at 647-2374.**

The committee and the board would like to thank everyone for their vote, input, patience and help in this process. We are confident that a document will be created that works for everyone, and helps to keep the Northern Heights Community the real estate jewel that it is.

Annexation Law Changed by Supreme Court

Changes in annexation laws were passed in May by the Supreme Court. The new law replaces current law based on property values. Under the new law, annexation petitions will require the support of half of the property owners and half of the voters in a proposed annexation area. (To read the entire case, log on to <http://www.awcnet.org> at click on Annexation.)

What does this mean for Northern Heights?

Basically, those who are pro-annexation are back to square one.

Since city annexation is not an association concern per se, and is a political issue, the board of directors decided not to pursue this project any further. The board is elected to represent the entire community. To facilitate the annexation project is biased.

However, any citizen can begin the annexation petition process. If you are interested organizing an “Annexation Committee” please contact Jennifer at 647-2374. A file from the last effort is available.

Park Getting New Gates, Swing to Come

Northwest Fence is installing “self-closing” latches on the gates to the park/common area.

The large swing set at the south end of the park has had a broken swing for quite some time. The swing has been removed, as it was a safety concern, and will be replaced soon.



Notes from the School to our Community:

Northern Heights Elementary School Principal Wendy Barrett requested that the following announcements be posted in our community newsletter:



From City of Bellingham Transportation Planner:

Two school zones are being installed. Signs will read “20 mph when lights flashing.” In addition, a curb ramp and crosswalk are being installed at the McLeod-Magrath intersection, near the median.

From the Elementary School:

The “no trespassing” signs that are posted on the fields at the elementary school are there so that the field has time to fully establish. No one – not even the schoolchildren – is authorized to use the field until landscapers give the “green light.” Apparently, some homeowners thought the signs targeted non-school users, and seemed unfriendly. Rest assured, when the field is strong enough, the community will be able to use it.



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Jennifer Rick, *Treasurer*

647-2374

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, July 15, 7:30 p.m. 1331 Roma

NORTHERN HEIGHTS NEIGHBOR NEWS

Your Community Association Newsletter

New Web Site, Same Address—Log On for Updates!

Northernheights.org, our association web site, is being completely overhauled and will become *the* place for information regarding your neighborhood.

The site is designed to be community friendly with many new features. Within the next few weeks, the site will become fully functional and have all the planned information available to residents and potential buyers.

The interactive calendar will show events such as the monthly board meeting, your garage sales, local school activities and many other items. Every one in our community will be able to submit pertinent events for inclusion!

Community members can also use the message board to post items they have for sale such as a boat or car. Or maybe you will want to advertise a service – like baby-sitting or lawn mowing. It is also a great way to post general announcement for your neighbors.

When complete, the site will allow you to view association bylaws and covenants on-line, peruse meeting minutes, budget information, and homes for sale. There is even a special section for neighborhood event photos.

Internet links to government agencies, local utilities, schools and other sites of interest, as well as maps of the plat of Northern Heights are also included.

The Northern Heights Community Association Board of Directors is hopeful that this site will become your destination for neighborhood information, event planning and as a means to bring us all closer together. Enjoy!



Attend Annual Meeting – Enter to Win 2004 Dues & More!

Each year the Northern Heights Community Association holds an annual meeting. This year, the meeting is slated for **6:30 p.m. Thursday, November 13** at Northern Heights Elementary School.

Agenda items include:

- State of the Association
- Treasurers Report
- 2004 budget adoption
- New Board Member Election
- Open Discussion / Q&A

Attendance at the annual meetings continues to grow each year. However, just 25% of the membership usually attends. Last year's raffle was a big incentive. So, we're holding it again! The winner of the drawing receives their 2004 association dues -- that's a **\$105** value! You must be present to win, one ticket per lot. We also procured 2nd and 3rd place prizes! Remember, even if there is 100% attendance, you still have a 1 in 172 chance to win! [See you there!](#)

2003 Board of Directors

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671-0341
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715-9622
Jennifer Rick, *Treasurer*
647-2374

Common Area and Park Upgrades

Here are few upgrades and updates on the common spaces of our community:

- The second swing in the big-kids' park is fixed and working!
- The spray paint that marred the little-kids' park has been removed, thanks to Daphne Rasmusson and Audrey Mortensen.
- The detention pond will be cleared of cattails and debris in the coming weeks. As a reminder, please keep out of this area. The pond is once again in working condition and up to code; garbage and lawn waste should never be dumped behind the boarding fences, as debris of any kind affects the bioswale and pond system. Thank You.
- The new McLeod Road crosswalk and school-zone signs are up and seem to be working well.

A FEW REMINDERS:

▶ All boats, trailers, and RVs that were used during this glorious summer must be stored out of view, per section 3.2 of our covenants.

▶ All construction (roofing, siding, remodeling) must be completed and cleared within 12 months of the start date. Many homes are undergoing construction – please have your contractors keep your lot orderly and roadways and sidewalks clear.

▶ Please tell your children not to bother the dogs in the yards that border our common area trails. This is a problem before and after school.

A Note from Northern Heights Elementary School

Last spring Northern Heights Elementary playfield was “off limits” in order to establish the grass. While rule still holds for sports teams, neighbors who want to use the playground and field may do so, as long as dog waste is properly disposed of, and play does not tear up the grass. –Thank you for your Patience!

Fall Chores for Gardeners

- Clean garden tools for winter storage. Clean soil from tools and oil tools with movable parts.
- Sharpen lawn mower blades and pruners - or take them to a professional for sharpening.
- Clean fallen leaves and debris from gutters and downspouts.
- Store garden chemicals in a secure, dry place - away from kids and pets.
- Drain garden hoses so water won't freeze causing cracks and holes.
- Trim tall grass away from trees and corners of your home to discourage small rodents from nesting there.
- Get rid of weeds. By pulling weeds in fall before they go to seed, you can help reduce the number of seedlings next year.
- Finally, remember to enjoy one of nature's most beautiful seasons while performing your fall chores.



How Does Your Garden Grow? – With Love, Care and Julie Hope!

Congratulations to our neighbor Julie Hope for her exceptional finish in the 18th annual "Whatcom County in Bloom". If you're not familiar with her yard, just drive by **3933 Magrath** and see for yourself.

Julie placed 2nd in the Residential Garden Open to View and the Private Garden categories. She also took home the Bellingham Beauty School **Best Backyard** award. Way to go – and thank you for sharing the blooms!



Julie's Award-Winning Front Yard

Event Calendar At-a-Glance

October 21

Regular NHCA Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
1331 Roma Rd.

November 13

Annual Association Meeting
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Northern Heights Elem. School

December 17

Christmas Caroling Party
6:30 p.m.
Meet at Sara Court
Cocoa provided - bring a cup!

What is A Neighbor?

by Mary Galley

Some say,
"Neighbor means, no fences!
What ever is yours is mine."
Some say,
"Neighbor means respect boundaries,
or we'll put up a fence!"
Some say,
"Neighbor means my child is never left
out! All kids are included in play!"
Some say,
"Neighbor means joining together for
barbecues, yard sales, or meetings."
Some say,
"Neighbor means a little innocent
coffee, a little innocent cookie, and a
little innocent gossip."
Some say,
"Neighbor means everyone has to
have the same roof."
Some say,
"Neighbor means everyone has to
have the same values."
Some say,
"Neighbor means you file legal, formal
complaints so you don't have to talk to
your neighbor."
Some say,
"Neighbor means not wanting to know
about next door's sorrow,
the financial burdens, the divorce,
the cancer ."
Some say,
"Neighbor means caring just enough to
rightly demand
the grass is green, the house is
painted and the weeds are pulled."
Some say,
"Neighbor is a political term:
A requirement that we all live by one
set of standards, governed by
neighborhood covenants and laws and
codes -- A kind of government."
Some say,
"Neighbor means a neighborhood that
at least looks neighborly."
Some say,
"Neighbor means watering your own
yard and planting your own fancy
flowers."
Some say,
"Neighbor means watering your
neighbor's yard and gifting them some
flowers from your garden."



2001 Northern Heights Carolers

All association members are welcome to submit articles, ideas, or editorial letters to the news-letter. Send items via e-mail to www.northernheights.org, subject line "newsletter", Include your full name and phone number for verification.

Projects & Budgets Fill Agenda at Annual Meeting

On November 13, 2003, 47 lots were represented at the Annual Meeting, held at 6:30 p.m. at Northern Heights Elementary School. Agenda items included a "state of the association" report from President Pete Griffin, the 2003 Treasurer's report, and the 2004 Association Budget. Additionally, a proposal was made to increase annual dues, which was unanimously passed when put to a vote. (See related article, next column.)

The 2004 budget was unanimously approved as follows:

Bookkeeping	\$3,300
Insurance	\$3,500
Landscaping	\$8,700
Legal	\$1,000
Office Expense	\$450
Postage	\$250
Web Site	\$250
Street Lights	\$925
Light Maintenance	\$500
Common Space & Events	\$400
Miscellaneous	\$500

Total \$19,775

Reserve Fund Needs Boost

Currently, the reserve fund is just over \$8,300. The association agreed that at least \$15,000 should be held in reserve to fund unexpected projects or liabilities.

All Association Members Welcome to Monthly Board Meetings

The board meets the second Tuesday of each month. Next Meeting: January 13, 7:15 p.m. 3901 Timothy Ct.



2004 Board Members Elected, Re-Elected

Tammy LaPlante and Jennifer Rick were elected to serve on the board of directors at the Annual Homeowners Meeting. Tammy fills the position vacated by Daphne Rasmussen and Jennifer was re-elected to her position.

The 2004 board members met two weeks after the annual meeting (in accordance to the by-laws) where officers were named. The board meets on the second Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise posted. Check the website calendar each month for meeting locations at times.

★BIG NEWS★ Association Dues Raised for 2004

Increased association insurance premiums, added landscaping areas, and general inflation were the basis for the association membership to unanimously vote to increase annual homeowner dues to **\$125 per year**. (Dues have not been raised for eight years, but most line items in our budget have gone up.)

Additionally, a motion was passed for the 2004 board to investigate a system to increase dues in order to keep up with inflation and to fund major projects and common area upkeep (i.e. park gravel, equipment, new street trees, etc.)

Raffle Winners Glad They Attended The Annual Meeting!

To encourage a larger turn out at the Annual Meeting, and add a little spice to the agenda, the "dues raffle" was held again this year. Three prizes were awarded. First prize went to Gail DeVere, who will receive her 2004 Association dues marked as "paid in full." Second prize, a gift certificate donated by **Sheehan's Restaurant**, went to Judy and Dupont. Carol Bryant took home the third prize -- tickets for four to a WWU Basketball game. Congratulations to all! Thanks to all homeowners who attended the annual meeting or sent in their proxy vote.

Association Dues Notice Coming Soon

Association dues are collected annually, and this year the due-date is **March 1**. The dues notice will be mailed on February 1. Association dues pay for common expenses, covering the calendar year, January through December. Last year, 93% of our neighbors paid their dues on time, and avoided late fees. Let's shoot for 100% this year, and avoid the extra time and money it takes to collect for delinquent properties. If you have any questions regarding your dues, please call Jennifer at 647-2374.



Christmas Caroling December 17th

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

All neighbors and friends welcome. Meet on Sara Court Lyrics and Cocoa Provided. Non-Singers are welcome, too!