

# NORTHERN HEIGHTS NEWS

Your Community Association Newsletter

## Supreme Court Reconsiders, Allows Petition Annexation

The state Supreme Court has ruled that cities can use the petition method to expand their borders, reversing a ruling the court made just two years ago.

The case grew out of disputed annexations in Yakima, Moses Lake and Snoqualmie, but affects many cities around the state.

The Supreme Court in 2002 struck down the petition method, ruling that the process violated the state constitution by creating two classes of citizens. That meant the only legally acceptable method of annexation was by election, which many local leaders complained was impractical, time-consuming and costly.

The decision stalled annexations across the state. A group of cities, counties, builders, realtors and Gov. Gary Locke asked the Supreme Court to reconsider the decision.

The court reversed itself, concluding that the ability to petition a city for annexation is not a fundamental right granted by the constitution. In fact, Justice Bobbe Bridge wrote, the Legislature has the power to adjust city boundaries without the consent of residents, or even over their protests.

"Thus, the citizens of the state have no fundamental right of citizenship to seek annexation. Nor do they have any such right to prevent annexation. The power is entirely that of the Legislature, which may delegate to the cities," Bridge wrote, reversing the 2002 decision, which she had also written.

The unanimous ruling represents a major victory for cities and a blow to fire districts that have seen cities swallow up their tax base by annexing unincorporated property. (Associated Press article at [www.courts.wa.gov](http://www.courts.wa.gov))

To read the full statute, follow the links that are available on the Northern Heights website.



## NHCA Message Board Is Open – Start Posting!

The Northern Heights website has a message board that is open to all homeowners. This forum is a great way to keep up to date on neighborhood activities and issues. Forums listed include: Announcements, Community Issues & Events, Items for Sale, Casual Work, Free, and Homes for Sale. Check it out and start posting!

## Hippity-Hoppity! The Annual Easter Egg Hunt Was Fabulous!



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

Community. This year's hunt was held on Saturday, April 11 and was a great success. More than 50 children participated on a warm and beautiful day.

There were lots of goodies, prizes and fun for the whole family. Check out the website and see all the photos of this annual event. Happy Spring to Everyone!

## Featured Neighbors

...And speaking of the Easter Egg hunt, we can't thank the Jiminez family enough for putting on such a great neighborhood event. Mike, Julie and their children put this event together each year and they do a fantastic job. Three Cheers for the Jiminezes – **HIP HOP HOORAY!**

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

Be a part of the annual Northern Heights Community Garage Sale on **Saturday, May 15th.**

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! Or get the whole cul-de-sac together!

Each year our community chooses a non-profit organization to support with a percentage of our proceeds. Neighbors who host a sale are encouraged to donate 10% (or more) of their proceeds to this organization. This year, the charity we are supporting is the **Opportunity Council**. Watch the mailboxes for more information as the date approaches.



**Let's Hope for  
Sunshine!**

## Keep The Strip Neat – A 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. Please maintain this strip as part of your front yard and help keep our neighborhood looking great. Many of the street trees have "shooters" that need to be removed completely.

*But Wait! There's more! →→→*

## Homeowner Dues Coming In Strong



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. Even with the increase in dues this year, the rate of timely payments is very good – with 142 of the 172 properties (82%) paying by the deadline. Thank you for being such supportive neighbors!

There is one property owner who is three years in arrears and a lien has been placed on the home. To date, this owner owes the association more than \$1,000 in dues, fees, fines and legal fees. The board is working to conclude this matter as quickly as possible.

## Covenant Corner

With the warm weather approaching, boats and trailers are coming out of storage. Keep in mind that our covenants clearly state that all boats, RVs, trailers, campers and such vehicles are to be screened from view. (CC&R Sec 3.1)

There have been many complaints about barking dogs that live in Northern Heights. Under our current CC&R document, there is not a specific covenant against this behavior. However, there are county and city ordinances regarding annoying pet behavior. If you live near a problem pet, call **Preferred Animal Care at 647-2441**.

Read the CC&Rs and  
Bylaws on-line at  
[www.northernheights.org](http://www.northernheights.org)

## Another Area 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.



## Scoop the Poop!



The dog poop problem is on going. 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.

Neighbors have reported that some of the offenders are actually folks who live on near-by streets (TreeFarm Lane, Kramer’s Addition, Chandler, etc.) If you see violators, please ask them to bring a bag when they walk their dog.

## OOPS – What was That?



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

## Event Calendar At-a-Glance

**May 15**

**Community Garage Sale**

**May 18**

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

**November 16, 2004**

Association’s Annual  
Meeting  
Time and Location TBA

## Park and Common Area Upgrades

Now that the annual dues are mostly in, the board will be able to order the long-awaited gravel for the common areas. Watch for more information about work parties for park improvements.



The board is developing a plan for on-going maintenance and common space improvements. If you would like to contribute your ideas for the overall maintenance and beautification of our neighborhood, please call or e-mail any board member. **Your input is valuable.**

## Stop The Presses!

To save time and money, subsequent newsletters will be e-mailed to homeowners. We already have about 50% of the e-mail addresses for current homeowners. **If you would like the newsletter e-mailed to you, please contact Pete Griffin at [pgriffin@northernheights.org](mailto:pgriffin@northernheights.org).** He needs your full name, street address and e-mail address. (This list is confidential, for NHCA use only.)

For those who do not have e-mail access, the newsletter will be posted on the mailboxes. Additionally, all newsletters are on the NHCA website.