

NORTHERN HEIGHTS NEIGHBOR NEWS

Your Community Association Newsletter

CC&R REVISIONS FALL SHORT OF NEEDED VOTES



We were 11 votes short of passing the new CC&R revisions. 78% of the 172 homes voted, but we needed a 75% yes vote for it to pass. So, in essence, if you didn't vote you said no. Here is a breakdown of the votes:

118 yes
16 no
38 did not vote

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT COMING!

For several years, this event has been a highlight for the Northern Heights Community. This year's hunt is **Saturday, April 15, at 10:00 a.m. in the Toddler Park.**

There are three age groups: Under age four, four to six year olds, and seven to 10 year olds. Lots of goodies, prizes and fun for the whole family. Rain or Shine. Contact [Julie](mailto:julie@nherheights.org) at 752-9517 if you have any questions or have prizes you wish to donate.



CLEAN OUT YOUR GARAGE *and* RAKE IN THE CASH!

Be a part of the annual Northern Heights Community Garage Sale on **Saturday, May 6th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

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 "stuff" to have your own sale, try teaming up with one or two neighbors!



For more information, contact [Tammy](mailto:tammy@nherheights.org) at 733-9294.



CHANGE IN BOARD POSITIONS

Jim Stenbeck resigned his position as board president following a work promotion and relocation. Congratulations Jim! We wish you all the best.

Thank you **Ted Girgus** for stepping up to fill that position and to **Linn Harrar** for taking over as treasurer. See roster for an updated list of board members and positions.

NEW BOOKKEEPER

Jennifer Rick has resigned as NHCA bookkeeper. She has held this position, as well as a board position, for many years. Her contribution to this neighborhood has been tremendous. Thanks Jennifer!

Linn Harrar has taken over that position. Please contact [Linn](mailto:linn@nherheights.org) at 733-9296 with all questions related to bookkeeping or to report a malfunctioning streetlight.

AREA OF CONCERN...

Please refrain from parking your cars next to the neighborhood mailboxes. This seems to be a problem mainly concerning the ones on McLeod Rd. There have been complaints that people can't pull up to pick up their mail and on one occasion the post office called to say that they were not able to deliver the mail because of the cars parked there. Not good if you're expecting a big check from the IRS! Thanks for your cooperation.



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.northerheights.org

KEEP THE STRIP NEAT – A Reminder For McLeod Homeowners

Sorry if it seems like we're picking on McLeod homeowners, but this is a good reminder for the new folks in the neighborhood. 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.



Let's Hope For
Sunshine!

YOUR DUES AT WORK

With spring weather coming, the NHCA will be putting time, effort, and money into some spring cleaning projects, such as new bark on the west end of the median and painting our sign posts. If you'd like to volunteer for a "spring cleaning work party," please call Linn Harrar at 733-9296.

We are also in the process of getting estimates to trim the trees that have grown up around the streetlights, and hope to have that job completed by late spring.



OH WHERE OH WHERE HAS OUR LITTLE SIGN GONE?

In case you haven't noticed, our Northern Heights sign is not in its usual place, welcoming people to the neighborhood. Though by the time you receive this newsletter it might be. Kudos to Joe Clark for volunteering to take on the job of repainting it. Joe has also volunteered to fix the Roma trail gate. Thanks Joe!

NHCA Event Calendar At-A-Glance

April 10
Monthly board meeting, 7:15 p.m.
1337 Roma

April 15
Easter egg hunt

May 6
Community Garage Sale

May 8
Monthly board meeting, 7:15 p.m.
Location TBA

2006 Board Members

Ted Girgus - President
756-6533
tednsherryg@northernheights.org

Michael Yeend - Vice President
733-0082
mikeyeend@northernheights.org

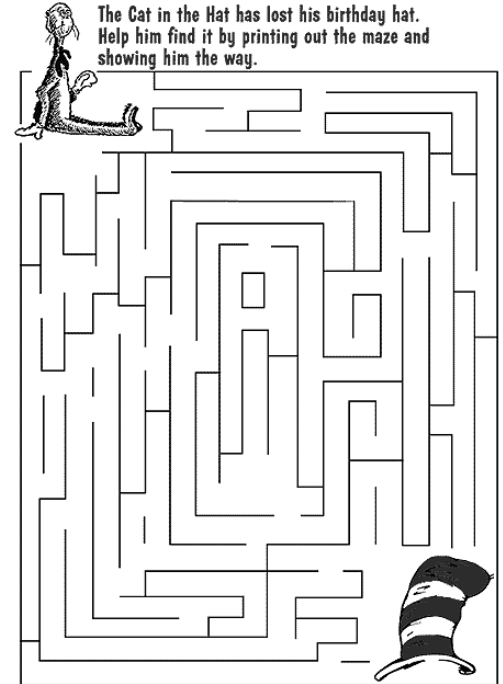
Vicki Pine - Secretary
647-3790
pinestra@northernheights.org

Linn Harrar - Treasurer
733-9296
richarharrar@northernheights.org

Tammy LaPlante
733-9294
dtlaplante@northernheights.org

KIDS CORNER

March 2nd was Dr. Seuss's birthday. Celebrate by helping the Cat in the Hat find his lost birthday hat.



What goes up the chimney down,
But can't go down the chimney up?

answer: an umbrella

What sits in the corner and travels
around the world?

answer: a postage stamp

Riddles from *Riddle Me This!*, by Hugh Lupton

Your Local Heating, Air Conditioning, and Radiant Heat Experts
2004 Whatcom County Small Business of the Year

BRING COMFORT TO YOUR HOME

By installing a TRANE air conditioner and receive

\$250.00 off

Conditions:

- Must be present coupon at time of estimate
- Coupons may not be sold, transferred or duplicated
- Purchase of equipment and installation must be done by May 31, 2006
- Limit one per customer



6920 Salashan Pkwy A-102
Ferndale WA 98248
Phone: 360-366-9900
Fax: 360-366-5800

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR NHCA PRESIDENT



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

The NHCA President's Comments will be an open letter to the homeowners of Northern Heights on an intermittent basis.

The first thing I want to share with everyone is what a privilege it is to serve as your President.

As a reminder, the entire NHCA Board is made up of busy people like yourselves, who have VOLUNTEERED their time to help keep our community beautiful and our home values at an all time high. We have been very busy this year, as you will read in this newsletter. You will notice that homeowners, who live close to our community, will advertise their homes as being close to the desirable Northern Heights area. That is no accident!!! That comes from people being well aware that we live a community that shows its pride in homeownership.

Congratulations to us all...well done!!!

There is however concerns, that must be addressed:

1. Please be responsible for trimming the trees in front of your homes that **are your property**, which obstruct the sidewalks. The clearance should be at least 6 feet high so most of our residents can walk by unobstructed. If your home borders McLeod Rd., the strip between the sidewalk and the street is also your property, not the association's common area, and must be maintained by the homeowner. *Renters and landlords, please understand*



that you are not exempt from this.

2. Barking dogs. I know many couples are away from their homes at work each day. We also have many people who are home during those hours. Please be considerate and know that the dogs you leave behind each day are on many occasions stressed or bored. Both of these scenarios lead to **INCESANT BARKING**. We find that the children are afraid to use the parks as well as the trails in our community. The quality of life that made us all want to live here is GONE!!! There are many ways for all who love dogs as I do, to correct this behavior, none of which would be harmful to our pets. Please take these matters seriously so the Board doesn't have to take any more drastic measures to insure compliance. I love living here and I am proud to have you as friends and neighbors. Enjoy this magnificent country, this beautiful state, this lovely city and the greatest home community in the world!!!

Warmest Regards,
Ted Girgus
President NHCA

DUES REMINDER

There are a few outstanding dues for 2006. In accordance with the CC&R's, dues must be paid to avoid further fees and legal action. Please call Linn Harrar at 733-9296 for questions or to make payment arrangements.



See an aerial view of your house! See *photos and maps* on our web site at www.northernheights.org

YOUR DUES AT WORK



We are happy to report that the trees have been trimmed, as needed, around all the light posts.

In the coming weeks, we have scheduled the painting of the signposts, and will be replacing the bark in part of the median. We will also be treating a tree in the toddler's park for infestation. *Please watch for and heed all signs that will be posted.*

It has also come to our attention that maintenance is required for the detention pond. Calls are being made to arrange for that work while it is still dry.

CARS PARKED ON THE STREET



There have been more complaints of congestion from cars parked on the street. We realize that summertime brings out of town guests and there are times when parking cars on the street simply can't be helped. But please park your cars in your driveway whenever possible, as congestion on the street makes it very hard for people to back out of their

driveways and makes it almost impossible for emergency vehicles to turn around. Most of the recent complaints have centered on Aaron Court.

KIDS CORNER

At-A-Glance

September

Monthly board meeting
Monday, September 11, 7:15 p.m.
1337 Roma

October

Monthly board meeting
Monday, October 9, 7:15 p.m.
1337 Roma

November

Annual Meeting-date to be announced in September newsletter.

2006 Board Members

Ted Girgus - President
756-6533
tednsherryg@northernheights.org

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR NHCA PRESIDENT



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I don't know about you, but I am going to miss this beautiful summer and all the glorious sunshine we have been having. My water bill however, is happy to see some of the rain!!!

Your Board has been busy getting a lot of the capital improvements we voted on last year accomplished. The newsletter will address some of those items.

One of the pleasures in life is making a left hand turn off McLeod and onto McGrath and into Northern Heights. The great majority of our homeowners show a powerful pride of ownership. The lawns and gardens make our community one to be admired.

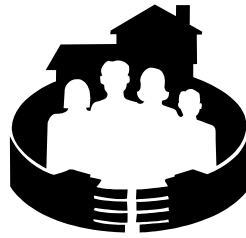
For those who do not have the time to put so much effort into their yards, the Board does ask that you at least keep the weeds and dandelions under control so they do not go into neighbors or anyone else's yards.

Autumn brings not only a changing in the leaves, but the start of school as well. Please watch out for the little ones, stop at the stop signs and slow down, even slower than posted when needed.

Remember, you live in one of the most sought after home communities in Bellingham. That is NO accident. **It comes from people like you, caring about your neighbors and your community.**

Warmest Regards,

Ted Girgus
President NHCA



YOUR DUES AT WORK



Have you noticed that you can see our sign when it's dark? Thank you to our NHCA President, Ted Girgus for installing solar flood lights to enhance our sign.

The tree in the toddler park has been sprayed for the carpenter ants. They will come back in the spring for a second application. The spray is not harmful to humans or pets.

We have located a company that can re-bark the median for us as well as clean out the canal leading to the detention pond. The work is scheduled to be done on Oct. 23rd and 24th.

HELP!

Northern Heights Elementary is struggling with a problem and has asked for our help. When you read the following quote, from Wendy Barrett, Principal, please keep in mind that they are aware that there are people outside of our neighborhood contributing to this problem and are not focusing entirely on us.

"...We are having a significant problem with dog poop being left all over the fields. The result is that our students are

stepping and/or slipping in it. It is obviously a health hazard and is just plain ugly to deal with in a school. It is getting tracked in on the carpet and we are wasting valuable time cleaning both shoes and the facility. We are pleased to be part of the NH neighborhood and encourage community use of school grounds during out of school hours. But we really need to ask that dog owners act responsibly when walking dogs on campus. We are hopeful that raising community awareness will improve the situation. Thanks, in advance, for any assistance your organization can give in the matter."

WIN FREE DUES!

The date of the annual meeting has been set for Thursday, November 16, 6:30 p.m., at Northern Heights Elementary. You will receive a packet of information, in the mail, before the meeting. Your attendance makes you eligible to enter our drawing for free dues for a year! (must be present to win)

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Fall gardening tips:

From Lowes.com

FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES

“Start planning your spring bulb garden now.... Remember to prepare your soil before planting bulbs. Work compost or other rich organic material into your soil to a depth of 12”.

“Dig up tender bulbs like elephant's ear, caladium, gladiolus, canna and dahlia before the first frost. When the foliage has turned yellow or brown on your bulbs, dig them up and store them for the winter. Replant bulbs in the spring after the danger of frost has passed.”

“Remember that roses require special care in the fall. In early fall, suspend fertilization.... After foliage drops, spray with fungicide, then cover plants with a minimum of 8" of loose, well-drained soil, mulch or compost. Prune canes back to 36" to prevent damage from winter winds.”

“Divide perennials. To keep plants from drying out, do the work on cool, cloudy day. Make sure each section you divide has at least one bud and some roots. Plant the divided perennials immediately. Not all perennials appreciate fall division, some prefer spring. Make sure your variety is suitable for fall division before digging.”

“Stop deadheading at the end of the season if you want your flowers to create seeds. Once the flowers are dead, cut them and allow them to dry. Remove the seeds by crumbling the dried flower head into a container. Separate the seeds from the debris and put them in

a labeled envelope for next spring. Another option — let them fall to the ground and re-seed naturally.”

TREES AND SHRUBS

(Note from your editor: Please remember that people are out walking on these beautiful fall days, so if you have trees spilling into the sidewalks, take a moment and trim them. Thanks!)

“Prune any dead or diseased branches from trees and shrubs. Now is a good time. The areas to be pruned are easily visible while foliage is still on the living, healthy parts.”

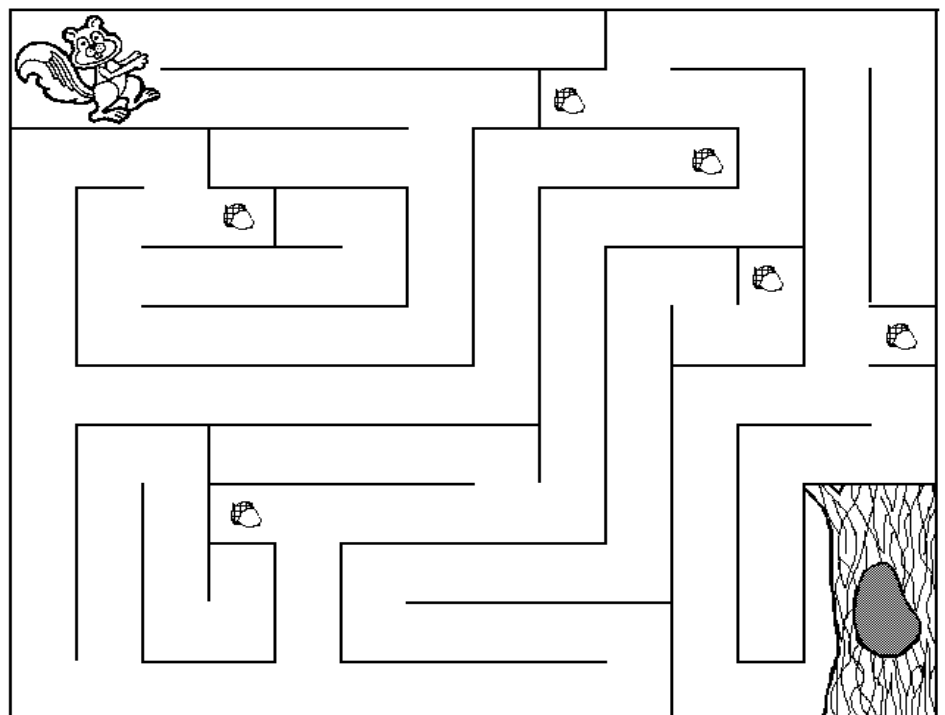
“Water trees and shrubs deeply one last time before the onset of winter. Newly planted ones especially need a good drink of water before cold weather arrives.”

LAWNS

“Aerate your lawn (cool-season grass varieties) for healthy grass next spring. Aeration

allows greater movement of water, fertilizer, and air which stimulates healthy turf. Aerating also increases the speed of decomposition of the grass clippings and enhances deep root growth. Compacted soil especially benefits from core aerating.....”

“Fertilize cool-season grasses for maximum growth next spring. Cool-season grasses can also benefit from re-seeding to produce a thicker stand. If your lawn is over 50% bare, re-seed now. If you have a warm-season grass, fertilize one last time in the fall. For continued green through the winter, consider overseeding your lawn with ryegrass. The optimal time to overseed warm-season grasses is two weeks before the first killing frost. Most lawns will benefit from a pre-emergent herbicide to control winter weeds or a winterizer lawn food.”



Collect the acorns and take them home

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