



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The bright sunshine and warmer temperatures over Presidents' Day weekend served as a reminder that spring is not too far away. Soon we will see the lovely flowering plum and cherry trees burst into bloom, brightening up the neighborhood after the dull gray of winter.

Take a walk through the area and notice the crocuses and daffodils poking their noses up out of the ground. Spring brings us renewal and hope for the lovely days, and long, soft evenings, of summer in the Northwest.

As we look forward to longer and warmer days, we can take pride in the wonderful appearance of this community, thanks to the efforts all of you commit to keeping Northern Heights one of the most desirable neighborhoods in Bellingham.

Thank you for all you do to maintain this community.

Warmest Regards,

The Northern Heights
Community Association Board
of Directors

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

The Board has set Saturday, May 3, as the date for the annual Northern Heights garage sale. The Board will place an ad in the Herald and put up signs. Those participating can place items for sale at the front of their individual houses, together with someone to work with buyers.

BOARD MEMBERS SOUGHT

The board is saddened to report that Mike Jiminez, longtime neighborhood resident and newly-elected Northern Heights board president, has moved out of the neighborhood and can no longer serve on your board.

The board began the year with one position unfilled, so it is now down to four members. Effective March 1, 2008, the board members and their new positions are:

Roberta Walker, President
Linn Harrar, Vice President
Reena Rughani, Secretary
Sharon King, Treasurer

Our by-laws permit the filling

of a vacated board position mid-term. If you are willing to serve on the board, please contact robertawalker@northernheights.org to discuss your availability. We would really appreciate your help.

EASTER EGG HUNT

The Board has set Saturday, March 15, at 10:00 am for our annual Easter egg hunt in the Northern Heights park. Three areas of the park are set aside in order to group the children by ages (up to 4; 5 – 8; 9 – 12).

Help is needed to hide the eggs in the park and assist in handing out prizes.

If you can help, please e-mail Reena Rughani at reenarughani@northernheights.org or call her at 733-9442.

2008 DUES REMINDER

Association dues notices have been mailed to all homeowners and payments should be made by February 29. If you did not receive a dues notice, please e-mail Sharon King at sharonking@northernheights.org or call her at 756-5157.

Please remember that the \$150 annual amount is due in full. If you need to make special arrangements, please contact Sharon.

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR PETS' WASTE!

Our neighborhood is a lovely place to walk our dogs. However, encountering dog waste is unsightly and unhealthful. Please be a responsible pet owner and clean up any messes your dog may deposit.

VIRTUAL GARAGE SALE

Remember that our webmaster, Pete Griffin, has created space on the Association's web site for Northern Heights homeowners to display anything they may wish to sell.

You may list items there and even show pictures.

Northern Heights Community
Association
2950 Newmarket St #101 PMB 180
Bellingham, WA 98226

SUMMER'S COMING! SERIOUSLY!

Although it may seem a long time from now, summer will be here before we know it.

Many of us have mobile homes or travel trailers. Our covenants require that all "boats, utility trailers, trucks of more than one-ton rating, campers, recreational vehicles, travel trailers, motor homes and similar items" be enclosed within a garage or behind the front wall line of the residence and reasonably screened from view from the street.

If you have guests visiting, your guests may park a recreational vehicle on your property.

ON-STREET PARKING

Please make every effort to park in your driveway and not on the street. This is especially important in cul de sacs. It is difficult for emergency vehicles to get through.

WHAT'S UNDERGROUND?

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

SIGNS ON MAILBOXES

If you put 'em up, please remember to take 'em down.



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

We are taking the unusual step of sending an August newsletter to ask you to give strong consideration to joining the board when we hold our annual meeting in November.

There are six board positions available. For the past several years, we've had only five members. **This year, we've had only three board members**, after the unexpected resignation of two members shortly after the year began. This has been a real hardship.

Serving on the board is not difficult. We generally meet only once a month (although not in July or December). But it does take a willingness to consider what is best for our community, and to behave in a fiscally responsible manner.

The terms are two years long and are staggered, with three expiring each year. That way, there is always someone on the board who knows the ropes and can help new board members learn what needs to be done.

Please help your community!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

Why don't we get rid of the Association and save ourselves \$150 a year?

We could. Tweed Twenty immediately south of us did just that some years back. If you drive through Tweed Twenty and look around, do you like what you see?

If we got rid of the Association, nobody would take care of the grassy median on McLeod Road, nobody would mow the grass in the Children's Park, and nobody would tend the grounds around the detention pond.

Nobody would replace burned-out street lights.

There would be no common liability insurance for such things as potential injuries to visitors in the Children's Park.

The detention pond must be cleaned periodically. There would have to be special assessments to accomplish that, as it is a duty we cannot refuse to perform.

Why don't we just get a professional property management company?

We could, although we would still need a board to supervise their actions. Right now, the board serves without pay (except for the treasurer/book-keeper, which is paid). A property management company would need to be paid, thereby increasing our annual dues.

Why don't we petition the city to take us over?

That has been tried and we didn't get enough signatures. The legal requirements for such a petition are staggering. Moreover, the city does not like to leave "pockets" of unincorporated areas. That means Tweed Twenty, Kramer's Addition, the Britton Loop development, and perhaps other surrounding areas would need to be taken at the same time.

But even if the city did take us, they still will not take care of the grounds or the street lights.

Right now, we are not part of the City's five-year plan for expansion. They're going north, not east.

What are the board positions?

The two-year positions are:
President (now Roberta Walker)
Vice President (now unfilled)
Secretary (now Reena Rughani)
Treasurer (now Linn Harrar)
At Large (now unfilled)
At Large (now unfilled)

What terms will be available in November?

Position 1 now held by Roberta Walker expires in 2008. When filled this November, it will expire next in 2010.

Position 2 now held by Reena Rughani expires in 2009.

Position 3 will expire next in 2010.

Position 4 now held by Linn Harrar expires in 2009.

Position 5 will expire next in 2010.

Position 6 will expire next in 2009.

As you can see, Roberta Walker's term is up at the end of this year; Reena Rughani's and Linn Harrar's terms will continue through 2009.

What is needed?

The job most in need of filling is that of treasurer/bookkeeper. Last November, Linn Harrar generously said she would serve again, but that she really needed someone to step forward and be willing to become the treasurer by mid-year. The person elected found she could not continue, so Linn re-assumed the treasurer's duties. However, the demands of her real-world job are such that she needs to find someone else to take it over. She will continue on the board through 2009 and be available to train whoever takes that position. Please consider becoming the Association's treasurer/bookkeeper.

The position pays \$275 a month (\$3300 a year). The person who holds it must be able to use

Excel, have an e-mail account and be available, periodically, during the day for phone calls from service providers and escrow companies.

If no one takes that job, we will need to spend Association money to hire a bookkeeper, an additional expense.

How do people volunteer?

At the annual Association meeting in November, there will be a point on the agenda that calls for the election of new board members. We will ask for volunteers. Please raise your hand! At the first meeting of the new board, the board will elect members to specific board positions.

This is clearly a neighborhood that people are proud to live in and maintain well. But none of this just happens, and we all need to take our turns at helping it run smoothly.

Your association needs you!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Fall arrived all too quickly this year, but I hope you've found time to enjoy the bright, crisp days and the lovely autumn foliage throughout the neighborhood. Northern Heights is a beautiful community regardless of the time of year.

I am now completing my two-year term on your board, with this last year as your president. It has been my honor and privilege to serve the community during this time, and it has been my good fortune to get to know many more of you as a result. As I walk my dog through the neighborhood, I look forward to continuing to have the opportunity to share greetings and good wishes with you.

Please join me in thanking Linn Harrar, who has served as treasurer, and Reena Rughani, who has served as secretary. I would also like to thank our webmaster, Peter Griffin, and the other wise heads of our community, such as Jennifer Rick and Ted Girgus, who have provided invaluable counsel to the board throughout the year.

I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting.

Roberta Walker



ANNUAL MEETING and FREE ANNUAL DUES

The date of the annual meeting has been set for Thursday, November 13, 6:00 pm, at Northern Heights Elementary. Contained in this packet is the official notice of that meeting, together with the proposed budget for 2009. Your attendance makes you eligible to enter our drawing for free dues for a year, but you must be present to win. If you are unable to attend, please complete and return the proxy contained in this packet.

OUT-OF-CONTROL VEGETATION

Trees and shrubs growing next to our sidewalks need to be trimmed. Think of a person six feet tall walking under your flowering plum and cherry trees, especially when the branches of those trees are heavy with rain water. Can that six-foot tall person walk without having to duck or get wet? Does shrubbery growing near the sidewalk crawl out over that sidewalk?

We are responsible to see to it that our sidewalks are clear.

PARKING

On-street parking can get tight at times, especially in the cul-de-sac streets. The best place to park your car is, of course, in your garage. That is also the safest place for it, given that we do occasionally have car prowls. The second-best place for your car is in your driveway. The place of last resort is on the street in front of your house.

Think of the potential need for an emergency vehicle to get to a house near you. Please try to keep your cars parked such that others are not inconvenienced or put into jeopardy.

SIGNS

In this busy election season, questions have arisen regarding what kinds of signs are permitted in our front yards and what kinds are not allowed.

Our community covenants and restrictions permit three types of signs: signs showing the homeowners' names and addresses, for-sale signs, and political signs. Commercial and other signs are not permitted, except signs for day-long yard sales are generally allowed.

If you put signs up in common areas, such as on the mailboxes or in the median, please remember to take them down again.

GARBAGE CANS and RECYCLE BINS

Refuse bins should be stored either inside the garage, behind a screen, or alongside the house behind the front wall line of the house.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES and BOATS

Our community covenants and restrictions require that boats and RVs are reasonably screened from view. Please do not park them in, or next to, your driveway, unless that area is screened.

PET POO (again)

This is a wonderful neighborhood for walking our dogs. However, the delight of the walk is greatly reduced when one encounters dog waste. Not only is it unhealthful, it is rude. Please pick up after your pet.

FOR THOSE LIVING NEXT TO THE CHILDREN'S PARK

Every year our landscape maintenance company contacts a board member to state that vegetation growing through the chain link fence from properties next to the park is out of control, and hampers their ability to get through the area with a lawnmower. Please check the park side of your yards once or twice a year and make sure your trees and shrubs have not grown into the park area.

OUR WEBSITE

Remember that our website, which is maintained and updated by Peter Griffin, is located at:
www.northernheights.org

The website contains copies of our minutes, our newsletters, our community covenants and restrictions, links to other important and useful sites, and the opportunity to have a "virtual garage sale" via advertising on that site.

WINTER IS ON THE WAY

Each year some of our winter storms cause some blow-down of tree limbs or, in some cases, sections of fences. This might be a good time to inspect trees and shrubs for needed pruning, and fences for weak spots.

OUR YARDS

One of the points of pride in this community is that yards are landscaped and maintained well. Occasionally a yard is not, and it is a real sore thumb. Not only is it unsightly, but weeds, such as dandelions, blow their seeds onto a neighbor's well-cared-for property. Please remember that our covenants state, in pertinent part, "Each owner shall keep such owner's lot neat and orderly in appearance..." which includes regular lawn mowing during the growing season.

ELECTIONS FOR BOARD POSITIONS

Thanks to those of you who have contacted the board following our August newsletter who have expressed interest in serving on the board. One such contact has been from a homeowner who is willing to serve as our treasurer/book-keeper, the position we most desperately needed to fill.

Assuming the homeowner who is willing to serve as treasurer is elected, there will still be four open positions to be filled, as Linn Harrar intends to go off the board following the November annual meeting.

The positions are for two years, with three of them expiring each year. Because we're down to so few board members, this year two of the available positions will be for one year only and the other two will be for two years.

Please help your community by volunteering for a board position at the annual meeting.

MAILBOXES

Please refrain from parking your cars next to the neighborhood mailboxes. There have been complaints that people can't pull up to pick up their mail, or that the postal service can't deliver it.