



## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

We've just been through a few weeks of storms that left some cul-de-sacs, streets, and roads impassable and the rest tricky to drive at best. Garbage collection, mail delivery, and the ability of some of our residents to get to work were disrupted as well as having serious water issues on McLeod Road and elsewhere that still linger.

I witnessed some myself and heard of many instances of neighbor helping neighbor in Northern Heights during this time and for that a hearty thanks to all those who shoveled snow, took neighbors shopping, provided warmth, pushed stuck vehicles, and many other labors and generosity.

With the beginning of 2009 we look forward to a fresh start though winter has really just begun. As you travel the roads in our neighborhood either by car or on foot you'll see remnants of the wind the storm brought forth. Or did the wind bring the storm? I've never figured that one out.

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If you have the time and would like to contribute to the cleanup of our beautiful neighborhood, take a walk and if you see some man-made material or nature's leftovers (broken branches, etc.) please pick up one, two, or more items and put them in your trash or recycle bins. If we all do this we can have this trash cleared before the next storm. If we all remember to cover our recycle bins during the winter months that will really cut down on trash that invariably gets blown into our neighbors' yards too.

To end my first letter to you as the 2009 President of our Association on an up-note, my wish and that of the full board is to tackle some major issues this year. We will focus on the detention pond, the park and a resolution to the water problem between Northern Heights and Tweed Twenty properties. We can't guarantee a quick resolution or what might be the final outcome on the water issue but our best efforts will be put forth.

*Happy New Year,*

Pete Griffin  
President, Northern Heights

## **EASTER EGG HUNT**

The Board has selected Saturday, April 4 at 10:00 am for the Easter Egg Hunt in the Children's Park. As always, a coordinator for this event is needed. If you are willing to lead this effort, please contact Roberta Walker at 733-9070.

## **WEBSITE ROUNDUP**

Many of you know that Northern Heights has its own website. On the home page you'll find links and changing information that should be helpful to all. The Homeowner links and Useful links will take you to sites that we all may need at one time or another – government, utilities, whatever. There are also two links for you weather buffs that take you to the actual local weather report for the day and coming days, not a Seattle area report.

Elsewhere you'll find contact emails for all board members, our legal documents, maps of our neighborhood and much more. If you haven't visited before, take a minute and see what it has to offer.

<http://www.northernheights.org>

## NEIGHBORHOOD TREES

At the request of some residents for a solution to the dying tree problem Roberta went to the master tree specialist at the Bakerview Nursery to see what can be done. Here is her report:

*"I told him about our flowering plum trees (the fungus was totally predictable, he said, and impossible to get rid of) and our desire to recommend replacement trees for those who want to do that. He made the following recommendations, noting their good points and not-so-good points. All are "street trees" that won't harm sidewalks and streets with their roots, and all are deciduous trees (they shed their leaves in the fall)."*

As a board we studied the list of trees and selected this for our recommendation.

Capitol Aristocrat Flowering Pear -- Has white flowers and the leaves have a red fall color. There is no fruit. They are disease resistant. They grow to a height of 20 to 30 feet, and 10 to 15 feet wide. They handle clay soil well. Examples can be seen on Holly Street near WECU.

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### HERE IS AN INTERNET DESCRIPTION:

The Aristocrat Flowering Pear tree, *Pyrus 'Aristocrat'*, is a beautiful tree that is attractive in all four seasons. It produces masses of white flowers in early spring, followed by bright, glossy green, disease resistant foliage. Leaves turn a deep to reddish-purple in mid to late fall to provide spectacular fall color. The clean winter outline is upright to pyramidal when young and becomes broadly oval at maturity.

Aristocrat Flowering Pear trees have a more dominant trunk and open form that helps this deciduous, flowering species to be less susceptible to wind damage. Home owners and landscapers place this tree in prominent locations because of the year around beauty it provides.

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Northern Heights is NOT responsible for the trees on your property. We will however look into replacing the trees on the common area grounds and parking strips, the area between the sidewalk and street.

### GARAGE SALE

Because of the rain and cold at the last few garage sales we have decided to move the community sale to June. The date is Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

With this change even if we get rain it will at least be warm enough to stroll the neighborhood with an umbrella.

### BOARD MEMBERS

Pete Griffin, President  
Sean Check, Vice President  
Reena Rughani, Secretary  
Diane Pollard, Treasurer  
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Roberta Walker, At Large