

NORTHERN HEIGHTS NEIGHBOR NEWS

Your Community Association Newsletter

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Northern Heights Community Association will be on **Thursday, November 5, 2015, at the Northern Heights Elementary Cafeteria**. The doors will open at 6:00 pm and the meeting will start at 6:30 pm. We hope you can attend but, if you cannot, please mail back the yellow proxy designating either the Board or a neighbor to act on your behalf. Every year it's a struggle to get a quorum present, and we cannot conduct business without one. Your participation is appreciated.

YOU NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN THE DRAWING FOR ONE YEAR OF FREE DUES!

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

We've accomplished a number of things for the community this year. They include:

- *Repaired a pot hole on Tamarack;
- *Repaired three dangerous areas on sidewalks;
- *Replaced burned out street lights and had defective lights repaired;
- *Worked with the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office and the Bellingham Police Department to address speeding, especially on McLeod, Magrath, and Roma Roads;
- *Got vegetation cleaned up on the path leading from the McLeod Road park entrance into the park;
- *Advertised and coordinated our annual garage sale;
- *Maintained a liaison with Northern Heights Elementary School;
...and the big one...
- *Had the detention pond cleaned.

In addition, we made 28 personal visits to neighbors' homes regarding CCR violations. When no one was home, a personal note was left at the front door with a description of the problem, the CCR it violated, and a note on what needed to be done to correct the problem.

We also had the Olivia Court flooding on the trail into the park evaluated by A&D Drainage and found the possibility of a fix beyond our budget.

Further, we cooperated with Sanitary Services Corporation by asking homeowners to trim tree branches

DUES

The clean-up of the detention pond cost almost \$30,000 (\$29,022.90). The County estimates it should be done every five years. To save up for it, we need to put away \$6000 every year. Dividing that by the 171 dues-paying homeowners (one homeowner each year wins the drawing and doesn't need to pay) means we must save an additional \$35 per year per homeowner. That would increase our dues from the current \$135 per year to \$170 per year. This is the minimum we need to do.

That increase adds nothing to our general savings. We really ought to have some money put aside for other projects or, heaven forbid, emergencies. To do that, we really should add another \$20 per year, which would bring us up to \$190 per year. The board will present both options at the annual meeting for discussion and vote.

BOARD OFFICER ELECTIONS

Terms for Northern Heights Community Association Board members are for two years. The Board's makeup has Roberta Walker, Jordan Maddux, and Barbara Balfour in terms expiring at the end of 2016, and has Marty Sauvage and Diane Roy in terms expiring at the end of 2015. Sharon King will continue as our liaison with the school. Elections for the two concluding positions will take place at the annual meeting.

ANNUAL REMINDERS

Tree branches sag when they are wet with rain. Please trim them back so people can walk along the sidewalks. It's also time to see if other vegetation is growing across the sidewalks and, if so, trim it back.

Dogs must be either behind fences or leashed. Leaving dog waste behind is especially rude. Dogs left outside to bark are very annoying.

There seems to be a Law of Nature that holds that it will be windy on Wednesdays. Please make sure the bins you have set out for garbage and recycling pickup don't have contents flying around.

Northern Heights Elementary School would love some volunteers.