



BIGELOW HIGHLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
**Friendly Neighbor**  
APRIL 2010 VOL. 17, #2 [www.bigelowhighlands.org](http://www.bigelowhighlands.org)  
your neighborhood, your newsletter

## Mark your calendar...

...and come to the next **association meeting**:

**Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 7pm**  
**Metro Church Café, at Bigelow & Puget**

### **Agenda:**

1. **What's going on in the neighborhood?** We're thinking of taking an informal, house-to-house survey next time we deliver the *Friendly Neighbor*. We'd like to know what's on your mind, and what issues need attention. Help us come up with questions for the survey, and enough volunteers to carry it out.
2. **Let's plan the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Art & Garden Walkabout**, which was a great success last summer.
3. **Do we want to apply for a grant from the City?** If so, what would we use it for? How about signs that identify the Bigelow Highlands neighborhood?
4. **Fun-raising ideas:** What if we publish a book of pictures, poetry, essays, and stories written by neighborhood children and adults?
5. **Neighborhood job club:** should we start one?
6. **Let's eat! This meeting is also a potluck dinner, so bring a dish or beverage to share if you can.**

...next **Neighborhood Women's Potluck:**

**Wednesday, May 19 at 6 pm**

hosted by Frances Davis, at **612 NE Central** (between Bigelow & Glass)

All neighborhood women are invited to attend.

...future **Association Meetings:**

**July 13 and October 12, Tuesdays, 7pm, place TBA**

Check out the updated website: [www.bigelowhighlands.org](http://www.bigelowhighlands.org) (Thanks, Byron!)  
Add your name to the neighborhood listserv by registering your e-mail onsite.

**W h o ' s W h o**

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*contact him to join the association or  
get a Thriftway Community Rebate  
Card (show the card when you shop  
and 1% of your grocery bill goes to  
our association account)*

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*contact her with your Raves & Rants*

*Chair, Events & Poetry Committees*

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*contact her with event ideas*

## *Rants and raves*

**New feature! Submit your rant or rave about life in our neighborhood to Jill Severn ([jillsevern@comcast.net](mailto:jillsevern@comcast.net) or 753-2095) for the next issue.**

### **A Rant About Sidewalks**

Several years ago, Olympians voted to add a tax to our utility bills to finance new sidewalks and parks. Our neighborhood has benefited from both. But while we are taxing ourselves to build new sidewalks, far too many of our old ones are not maintained, and overgrown by every variety of shrub, weed and tree. In many places, there is scarcely enough space left for people to walk single file. A parent pushing a stroller and walking a dog is forced to use the street.

Some old sidewalks have been heaved out of the ground by tree roots, but more often the problem is landscape plans gone awry. A new shrub in a small pot might look harmless, but give it ten years and it may grow five feet wide. If it's planted near the sidewalk, it will get in people's way and be annoying, no matter how beautiful it is. It's understandable that its owner might not want to prune it out of the way, because that may ruin its shape.

So, as both a plant lover and a pedestrian, I'm conflicted . . . but only slightly. My vote is to keep our sidewalks clear of all vegetation (and garbage/recycle bins and parked cars, while we're at it) so that we can fully use them. The neighborly thing to do, in my opinion, is to prune those plants back – all the way back – so that the full width of the sidewalk is clear and usable. (If you need help pruning, or want to participate in a pruning party, call me at 753-2095. It could be fun!)

## ***Help your neighbors: deliver the newsletter***

Like to walk? Contribute to your neighborhood and distribute the newsletter. If you've got a couple of hours every other month or so, we'd love your help. Contact Elizabeth to sign up:

[elizabethshe@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethshe@hotmail.com) or call 570-2236

Bigelow Highlands Neighborhood Association Membership Form (open to renters & homeowners)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

How I'd like to participate: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form, along with the suggested contribution of \$10 to BHNA Treasurer Kelly Smith, at 419 Lybarger NE, Olympia 98506 or e-mail him at [treasurer@bigelowhighlands.org](mailto:treasurer@bigelowhighlands.org)