



Newport Hills

Community
Club
Newsletter



December 2008

Mission and Objectives

The Newport Hills Community Club is a volunteer neighborhood organization that serves its membership by publishing news and information, by acting as a forum for issues that pertain to our area, by supporting and taking positive action towards community improvements and promoting regular social events throughout the year for all residents who receive the Club's newsletter.

Since the Club was formed in 1969 we rely on volunteers to accomplish our Mission and Objectives. We are 100% volunteer. Come and join us at the General Membership Meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Newport Hills Community Church, 5833 119th Ave SE, Newport Hills, WA 98006. Membership dues are voluntary and cost \$10.00 per year. **(Dues are not tax deductible because the Club is not a tax-exempt organization)**

Mailing Address: NHCC 5806A 119th Ave SE, PMB #222, Bellevue WA 98006

Visit our website at: <http://www.newporthillscommunityclub.org>

Newport Hills Community Club Newsletter is published and funded by your voluntary yearly membership dues.



Welcome Your NHCC 2009 Elected Team!

Congratulations to your newly elected 2009
Board Officers and Area Trustees.

During the October 20, 2008 Membership Meeting, the members elected the 2009 Executive Board and Area Trustees for odd-numbered years.

This year we have some "Open" positions that we need members to step-up and volunteer. These openings offer opportunities to have fun and to give back to make our community special. If you would like to find out more information please feel free to contact any of the board members. Our election results are as follows:

Welcome & congratulations to our newly elected Officers and Trustees for 2009. Meet Cheryl Nygaard who was elected President. Previous positions include Newsletter Editor 2004—08 and VP 2008.



2009 Executive Board:

President—Cheryl Nygaard Past Pres—Gary Thramer
Vice President—**Open** Secretary- Debra Haraldson

Treasurer- **Open**

2009 Trustee Elections Odd-numbered Area Trustees:

- * Area 1— Sandi Tampa
- * Area 3— Steve Walker
- * Area 5— **Open**
- * Area 7— **Open**
- * Area 9— **Open**
- * Area 11— Steve Penner
- * Area 13— Michelle Hilhorst (Grossnickle)
- * Area 15— **Open**
- * Area 17— Jennie Peterson
- * Area 19— **Open**
- * Area 21— Chris & Vickie Thomas
- * Area 23— **Open**
- * Area 25— Debra Haraldson
- * Area 27— Lisa Viereck

We are in need of Trustees for areas: 5, 7, 9, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 28 & 29. Trustee positions offer a fun and easy way to be involved with your community. Please visit the Newport Hills Community Club's website and click on 'our neighborhood' for a complete area map. Please contact Sandi Tampa, Membership Chair, at (425) 445-8863 for more information.



Santa Claus is Coming!

We have received word that Santa is coming to Newport Hills on **Saturday December 20th!**

Led by a Bellevue Fire Engine, he will tour certain streets of Newport Hills and hand out treats to all boys and girls! We also will be collecting food for our neighbors in need. Check out the NHCC website events page for more details and a map of the tour route:

<http://newporthillscommunityclub.org/events.shtml>

*Locate the tour street nearest you
& listen for the siren!*

Saturday December 20th

9:00am to 1:00 pm — Fire truck tour.

1:30 to 2:30pm — Meet Santa, take photos and enjoy merriment at Cornerstone Dance Studio. *(more information on page 7)*



Holiday Lights Contest

Decorate your home for the holidays and your home may be awarded the **NHCC Holiday Lights Award.**

From December 8 through December 21, 2008 the NHCC judges will be driving around the community to select those homes that have been creatively decorated with outdoor lighting and yard displays. The awards are judged on creativity and presentation.

One winning home will be awarded a Grand Prize of a \$25.00 Red Apple Market gift certificate.

Newport Hills Holiday Lights Award!

Decorate your home for the holidays & win!

Visit the Newport Hills Community Club website at: <http://newporthillscommunityclub.org>

Newport Hills Community Club Current Volunteers & Club Activities

Position	Volunteer	Phone #	Current Projects
President	Cheryl Nygaard	401-5126	Newsletter
Vice President	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		
Secretary	Debra Haraldson		Minutes of Meetings
Assistant Secretary	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Historian
Treasurer	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		
Assistant Treasurer	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		
Past President	Gary Thramer	747-9351	Cool Car Show, 4th of July Picnic
NH Community Church	Pastor Paul Burnham Sr	746-8034	Monthly meeting place & 4th of July Picnic
Newsletter Chair	Pastor Paul Burnham Sr	746-8034	Publisher
Vice Chair	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Advertising
Vice Chair	Barbara Lee	614-3476	Club Reporter for Newsletter
Website Chair	Grace Whiteaker	562-3096	Updating and improving website
Assistant Website Chair	Ray Osburn, Mark Chenovick	401-1505	
Volunteer Appreciation Chair	Karen Yellman	746-2978	Volunteer Appreciation Night
Vice Chair	Regina Glenn	455-5997	Awards
Youth Activities Co-Chair	Michelle Hilhorst	430-1976	Santa Tour Coordinator
Youth Activities Co-Chair	Dianna Campbell	746-3804	Spring Egg Hunt
Community Outreach Chair	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED		Coordinates Social Events & High School Volunteers
Vice Chair	VOLUNTEER NEEDED		Welcome new neighbors
Vice Chair	Steve Kunkel	643-9095	4th of July Picnic Coordinator
Vice Chair	Lisa Viereck	852-2289	4th of July Picnic Assistant Coordinator
Vice Chair	Gary Thramer	747-9351	Cool Car Show
Vice Chair	Steve Walker	644-9601	Holiday Lights Awards
Land Use & Comm. Appearance	Steve Penner	643-9024	West Ravine, Entry signs, Art Project
Membership Chair	Sandi Tampa	445-8863	Data base for all addresses in NH and Finding Trustees for all Areas
Merchant Liaison Chair	Don Hunt		Newport Business Association President Newsletter Advertising Coordinator
Government Liaison Chair	Ray Osburn	401-1505	Coal Creek Park, Hospital District, Parks Levy
Public Safety Chair	Debra Haraldson		Emergency Preparedness
Bellevue Liaison	Rich Dolleman	452-2879	Represents City of Bellevue at meetings
Red Apple Receipt Coordinator	Shane Lux		Collects and turns in Red Apple receipts
Signage Coordinator	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED		Put up and take down signs and banners
Trustees	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED		Areas 2, 7, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 28, & 29
			See map of Newport Hills on Website

President's Message

Moving On

Three years ago, when Steve Kunkel asked me to be vice president of the community club, I must admit that I was a bit apprehensive about a commitment I felt might stretch the bounds of my already frantic schedule. Even though I had been serving as a Trustee and a member of the Public Safety Committee, I was comfortable with my involvement and I knew if circumstances took me elsewhere, I could easily slip away. Steve convinced me I should take on the challenge, and I am glad he did. I have enjoyed every minute of service since then.



Two years ago, when I became president I introduced my tenure slogan, "random acts of community service." My goal was to get more people to pay attention to the "little things" that add up to make our neighborhood better. I'm not just talking about volunteering for the community club, although that's always appreciated, but things like picking up litter, cleaning up common areas, helping a neighbor in need, stopping at a crosswalk, cleaning up graffiti, volunteering to help at a community event, are just a few examples. I later went out and talked with many of our neighbors and discovered there were lots of folks already quietly performing "random acts of community service" because it's the right thing to do and they enjoyed it. Many of these first class citizens I've written about in this newsletter over the past two years wanting to recognize their valuable contributions. Even though "random acts of community service" hasn't become a blockbuster slogan like "SayWA", I believe it was useful, and it didn't cost any taxpayers several hundred thousand dollars.

Since I moved here over 20 years ago, I've always believed that Newport Hills was a special place. Nothing has confirmed that belief more than serving in the community club. In the past 4 years, I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with some truly great people. All the volunteers in the community club do extraordinary work month after month: Pastor Paul and the Newport Hills Community Church; the merchant's and professionals in our retail core; as well as some terrific professionals from the city of Bellevue. It is a collective effort by many that help us improve our neighborhood, sponsor our community-wide events and provide a forum to discuss the issues that affect our community. We are so very fortunate to have this community club in our neighborhood and I am proud to say I am a part of it.

Next year, the Newport Hills Community Club will celebrate its 40th birthday, which I believe is a testament to all the outstanding people who have kept this club engaged in the community all those years. My hope is that we can serve Newport Hills for the next 40 years with the same drive and commitment. I know we have a good start for 2009 with our new president, Cheryl Nygaard. I have truly enjoyed working with Cheryl over this past year as our vice president and newsletter editor. She's a dedicated force for caring for this community and I will support her in any way I can. Thanks to all who continue to make Newport Hills a very special place.

All the best,

Gary Thramer

Newport Hills Community Club President 2008

Mini-Membership Drive Underway

In an effort to gain a few more members, we've launched a door-to-door mini-membership drive in a few targeted areas. So, you may receive membership information on your door step. As we mentioned in our last newsletter, our membership count continues to be almost half of our goal. We need some help! Our membership year runs from April to March, so there is still plenty of time to join if you haven't already! To join, simply download a form from our website on the Community Club page.

Visit the Newport Hills Community Club website at: <http://newporthillscommunityclub.org/>



Mark your calendar

The Newport Hills Community Club is a volunteer neighborhood organization that serves its membership by publishing news and information, by acting as a forum for issues that pertain to our area, by supporting and taking positive action towards community improvements and promoting regular social events throughout the year for all residents who receive the Club's newsletter. All Newport Hills Community residents are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings, hear guest speakers and help plan community events. It's a great and fun way to make your community better.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Santa Tour Dec 20th, 2008
 Holiday Lights Contest Dec 18th to 21st, 2008

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

3rd Tuesday monthly at 7:00 pm

Dec 16th, 2008 Jan 20th, 2009
 Feb 17th, 2009 March 17th, 2009

Meetings are held at the Newport Hills Community Church at 5833 119th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA, phone: 425.746.8034

WEB-UPDATE...

Redesigning the NHCC Website

In the coming months the Newport Hills Community Club website will undergo some dramatic changes in look and usability. The biggest change will be a move from a static website (content with occasional updates) to that of a blog format.

Weblogs originated as a form of online journaling or diary with frequent updates by an author or authors. Our use of this blogging format will allow comments and questions from community members to be made directly on the blog site content, with responses coming from the Board of Directors or other community members.

We will be investigating how to best set up the look of the NHCC blog and how best to accept and work with feedback from the community. Be assured that all the same information you find on the current site will make the move into the blog – but with the added ability for you to search it and for each member of the board to add page content to sections where they are the most appropriate person to provide updates.

For those of you wondering what a community club blog might look like, check-out the Newcastle 411 blog site: <http://www.newcastle411.com/>. If you have comments or questions about this process, simply contact webmaster@newporthillscommunityclub.org using your email program or fill out this form [<http://newporthillscommunityclub.org/contacts.shtml#Web>] to send a message directly from the current website.

If you are, or you know someone who is, adept at CSS and manipulating blog themes and would like to volunteer your talents to help refresh and update the Newport Hills site design, also contact the webmaster.

Happy Holidays! *Grace Whiteaker*, NHCC Webmaster



Call to Action on Park Improvements

Thanks to the overwhelming voter approval for the Bellevue Parks & Natural Areas Levy last November, the Newport Hills and Lake Heights communities will benefit with two key parks improvements:

Sports Field Improvements (\$3M)

Building on the expanded capacity of Robinswood Sports Fields, additional synthetic fields will be installed to improve safety and play at Wilburton Hill and Newport Hills Park.

Trail and Natural Area Improvements (\$2M)

Investments within the City's 1,800-acre open space system will improve forest conditions and stabilize slopes to reduce erosion in the Coal Creek Natural Area, and create hiking and walking trails throughout the City.

The Newport Hills Community Club invites all interested persons to submit ideas and suggestions for how these two community treasures should be improved. The Club will compile your ideas and present them to the Bellevue Parks Department to assist with their planning process. You can send your comments in an email to the NHCC by using the "Contact Us" link on the club website. Or you can mail your suggestions to the NHCC at 5806A 119th Ave SE, MB#222, Bellevue, WA 98006.

Holiday LIGHT SAFETY

Make sure any light set you purchase has been approved by Underwriters Laboratories. Make sure you get the right set -- for indoor use, outdoor use or both.

Do not overload electrical circuits. Before you decorate, check light sets for frayed wires, damaged sockets or cracked insulation. If you find defects, do not use them.

Avoid fire by keeping your natural tree well watered and keeping extension cords and light sets away from the water. Keep a fire extinguisher handy and your smoke detectors in good working order. Great time to check smoke detector batteries.

Unplug indoor tree lights before watering the tree, and turn off all electrical decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

For outdoor lighting, use a ground fault circuit interrupter on each circuit. If current leaks through frayed or damaged wires, the interrupter shuts it off.

Be careful with ladders! Don't stand higher than the top two steps, and keep them at least ten feet away from overhead power lines.

Contributed by *Debra Haraldson*



Bellevue Neighborhood Public Art Project

Did you know that Newport Hills, our special community, has been selected to be the next recipient of Public Art funds from the city of Bellevue?

Efforts are already underway by the City of Bellevue to select sites in our community to feature Public Art as well as a process for hiring artists to design the Project. The project budget is \$50,000 and will focus on the bus shelters on 119th Ave. in our retail core as well as the corners of 119th & SE 60th and/or 119th & SE 56th.

The deadline for artists submitting applications and work samples was October 20th. A five-member panel has been assembled of interested neighborhood residents to review applications and select two to five artists for an interview. The panel will be meeting twice in order to forward a recommendation to the Bellevue Arts Commission for its endorsement.

The Community Club may have a preliminary design available to preview at its December monthly meeting. Final design is expected to be approved in the spring, 2009. Construction will take place during the summer and a final dedication ceremony will be planned for the fall, 2009.

Gary L. Thraxer President 2008

Neighborhood Identification Project Progress Report



The city of Bellevue continues to work toward installing new neighborhood entrance signs for both Newport Hills and Lake Heights communities. Unfortunately, the construction schedule has been delayed because the construction drawings took several weeks longer than expected, so the call for bids has just begun. Bids must be awarded by the City Council, which could happen in early December, but most likely will happen in January 2009. After the bid is awarded, construction permits must be obtained for all entrance sites. So, best case scenario is that some of the signs could get done by year end. A more realistic expectation for the initial installation of signage is early 2009 with landscaping to follow when more favorable conditions prevail in the springtime.

Gary L. Thraxer President 2008

Treasurer's Report



As my 2 + years as your treasurer comes to an end this December, I would like to thank the community for making my job challenging but very rewarding. Life circumstances call for me to make changes in my schedule and reduce my workload so you will see me from time to time. Consequentially, I will be stepping down as your treasurer as of January 1, 2009.

April - October 2008 Statistics

- Income \$9,050.52
- Expenses \$8,231.17
- Balance as of 10/31/2008 is \$5,463.04
- Currently 518 paid members

Submitted by *Elinor Smith*
NHCC Treasurer 2008

2009 Information You Would Like?

Tells Us What Information & Who You Want as Guest Speakers in 2009. We are scheduling speakers now and would like to encourage you to contact us via the website or phone and share your ideas. Some past speakers included: Jack McLeod, Facilities Director, Bellevue School District; Grant Degginger, Mayor, City of Bellevue; Cheryl Kuhn, Neighborhood Outreach Manager, City of Bellevue and several others. We look forward to hearing your suggestions.

Vice President's Message

Happy Holiday's

Happy Holiday's and best wishes for a wonderful New Year to everyone in our Newport Hills Community. I'm very excited about the opportunity to serve as the community club's President for 2009. Our club has endured and thrived for 40 years, due to many dedicated and hard-working individuals and I am honored to be a part of this group.

My goal will be to continue and build on the great community programs this club sponsors. I would also like to encourage anyone in the neighborhood who would like to join our outstanding group of volunteer trustees, committee chairs and supportive members to give me a call or email. It's your time and talent that will make us a better community club.

My personal theme for 2009 is "Neighbor and Community". I believe it's the little things we all can do to assist *our neighbor and community* to enhance and make someone smile, being proud of our community, have a better day and add to the quality of life we all enjoy here in Newport Hills. Stay tuned for more good things to come.

Cheryl Nygaard

NHCC Vice President 2008



Lake Heights Family YMCA Active Older Adult Program

Open to ages 55 and older meets at the YMCA facility, 12635 SE 56th St. Newport Hills. *(the old Newport Hills Elementary School)*

On Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 am to 2 pm activities are community service projects, crafts, intergenerational activities, pinochle, field trips and fellowship. Sack lunches are provided by Senior Services (suggested \$3 donation). Exercise classes are available and ongoing. For a schedule and more information about any of these activities call 425-644-8417.

Also an active Bridge group plays on Tuesdays 9am-12 and Wednesdays 12-3pm. Info for Bridge contact call 425-255-0895.

Please join us for any of our programs.

Thanks, *Betty-May Coburn*



THANK YOU

The Newport Hills Community Club has been so fortunate these past years to have two wonderful volunteers give their positive attitudes, talents and time. Simply to say *Thank You* does not express the sincere appreciation from the club and the community.

First a huge thank you to **Elinor Smith** for the past two years as the club Treasurer. Your dedication and knowledge have been invaluable.

Also to **Barbara Lee** as articulate Secretary for the past two years and excited to announce is now doing an outstanding job as the new Newsletter Editor Chair. We look forward to her leadership on this big job.

THANK YOU!



YMCA Groundbreaking Celebration

YMCA Eastside Executive Scott Sadler, Lake Heights Family YMCA Board Chair Jim Carney, Eastside District YMCA Board Member and Community Campaign Co-Chair Marilyn Herzberg, YMCA CEO Robert B. Gilbertson, Jr., Association Capital Campaign Co-Chair Kristine Kim and YMCA Eastside Executive Marcia Isenberger (l to r) helped break ground Tuesday, September 9th, on the new YMCA facility in Newcastle. The new 49,000-square-foot YMCA, anticipated to open in fall 2009, will have a fully accessible swimming pool, teaching kitchen, teen center, community meeting space and health and wellness facilities for all ages, interests and abilities. More than 100 people attended the groundbreaking celebration.





SANTA IS COMING!

We have received word that Santa is coming to Newport Hills on Saturday December 20th!

Led by a Bellevue Fire Engine, he will tour through Newport Hills and hand out treats to all the boys and girls!

Tour begins at 9:00am and will end at the Newport Hills Shopping Center at 1:00pm.

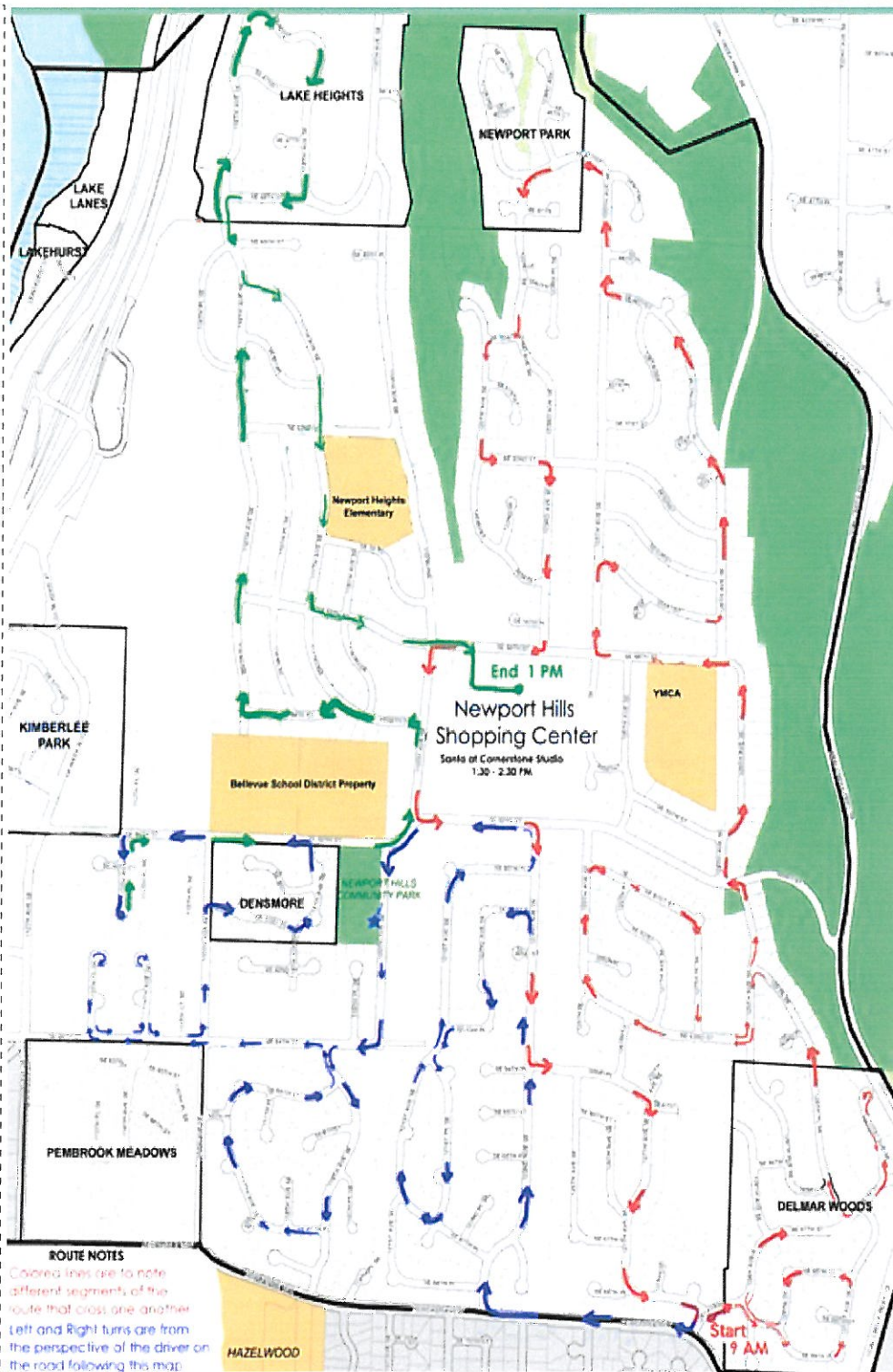
Locate the tour street nearest you & listen for the siren!

From 1:30-2:30pm Santa will be spending time greeting visitors at the CornerStone Jazz Studio! Bring your camera and join him for a photo opportunity, and merriment!

Santa Parade Canned Food Drive

Last year we added a Canned Food Drive collection along our route during the Santa Tour Parade through Newport Hills. Due to the great response, and the help we provided needy families in our community, we will again be collecting canned food along the route during this year's Santa Parade. We will also be collecting canned food at the Cornerstone Jazz Studio between 1:30-2:30pm on that Saturday as well during Santa's time there. This food goes directly to families in our community – a great way for neighbors to help neighbors during the season of giving. Thank you for your support and look for Santa on Saturday December 20th! HO HO HO!!!

Michelle Hilhorst
NHCC Youth Co-Chair / Santa Parade Coordinator



For a larger colored map of Santa's route, please visit the Newport Hills Community Club website at: www.newporthillscommunityclub/events.org

Inside your Newport Hills Community Club Newsletter you will find:

- * NHCC 2009 Board Member and Trustee Elections—Page 1
- * NHCC Holiday Lights Contest & Santa's Coming—Page 1
- * Volunteer Lists and Opportunities—Page 2
- * NHCC Presidents Message - Page 3
- * Mini Membership Drive—Page 3
- * Calendar of Events—Page 4
- * Call To Action—Page 4
- * Website Update—Redesign—Page 4
- * Neighborhood Identification Project—Page 5
- * Holiday Light Safety—Page 5
- * Treasure Report—Page 5
- * Public Art Project—Page 5
- * VP Report—Page 6
- * YMCA Active Seniors Program—Page 6
- * YMCA Groundbreaking Celebration—Page 6
- * Santa Tour Map—Page 7



WINTER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2008

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