



York Neighborhood Rezone  
Final City Council Hearing  
Monday, December 4, 7pm  
City Hall  
Upstairs in the City Council Chambers

by Lisa McShane

The York Neighborhood has the highest concentration of historic homes in Bellingham, yet our zoning doesn't protect our historic neighborhood character. Despite the fact that nearly all the homes in Area 5—the main residential area of our neighborhood, both north and south of Lakeway—are single family houses, we're zoned for multi-residential high density. To resolve this mismatched zoning, the York Neighborhood Association has been actively involved in considering and putting forward a change of zoning that would better reflect our cherished neighborhood character: single family zoning.

Over the past year your neighborhood association held several public meetings and welcomed all residents and property owners in the neighborhood to consider and say what zoning they thought would be best for the York Neighborhood. We heard loud and clear that the majority of citizens in the York neighborhood, both homeowners and renters, want Area 5 to be zoned single family housing. We also heard strong support to keep our current high density of 3,000 square foot per unit. That proposal has now passed the Planning Commission, with solid support from City Planning staff, and is headed for the City Council on December 4.

**Please join your neighbors at the final City Council hearing on December 4 at 7pm.** If you're able to speak, simply tell your story: what you value about your neighborhood and the benefits you think a change to single family zoning will bring. On behalf of the York Neighborhood Planning Committee, I thank you for all your support as we worked towards a rezone this past year.



The Green Power Neighborhood Challenge is an invitation to Bellingham's Neighborhood Associations to join in promoting a clean, renewable energy future by participating in the Bellingham Green Power Community Challenge.

At the conclusion of the campaign, two neighborhoods will be recognized for their Green Power leadership and awarded community improvement prizes of \$1000 towards approved neighborhood projects. These will be the two neighborhoods with the highest percentage of electricity accounts signed up for participation in PSE's Green Power Program by **February 28, 2007**.

Go to <http://www.pse.com/solutions/greenPowerBCC.aspx> to sign up or call Jessica Bandstra at 752-3230 for more information. **Let's win \$1000 and prove that the York Neighborhood is an environmental leader!**



## Lights on for Mike the Mailman!



During these darker days, it's hard for Mike to maneuver to your mailbox. He asks Yorkers to keep their porch lights on. If you want your mail, you'd better comply!

### *MISSION STATEMENT of the YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION*

The mission of the York Neighborhood Association is to reduce isolation among residents, enhance the quality of life in a low and moderate income urban neighborhood, create a sense of community, reduce or prevent crime, and preserve the historic character of the neighborhood.

# A Report from the York Historic Preservation Committee

by **Barbara Davenport**

During the past six months many individuals in the York Neighborhood have participated in various workshops to learn how to research their own homes and how the York Neighborhood might become a National Historic District. We have held several meetings with the Bellingham Planning Department as well as two meetings with a coalition of neighborhoods interested in historic preservation.

After approval by Washington State Architectural Historian Michael Houser, who met with us on November 4, the York Historic Preservation Committee has decided to move forward toward National Historic District certification. This will be an exciting undertaking. We feel that it is an important step toward preserving our neighborhood's historic character.

**Our proposed project timeline is about twelve months and includes the following steps:**

1. *Deciding on boundaries*
2. *Identifying and photographing all structures within those boundaries*
3. *Completing the National Historic Neighborhood Register application*
4. *Meeting with other neighborhoods to learn what they are doing*



**How you can help:**

Research the history of your own house or a house that interests you. Conduct oral histories and photograph “old-timers” who lived in our neighborhood fifty or more years ago (call Barbara at 733-4883 for details and information). Help establish a website (call Anne at 738-0542).

To see an example of a well done historic district website, check out Nettleton’s Addition, part of Historic Spokane, at: [http://www.historicspokane.org/NettletonsAddition/Nettletons\\_homepage.htm](http://www.historicspokane.org/NettletonsAddition/Nettletons_homepage.htm)

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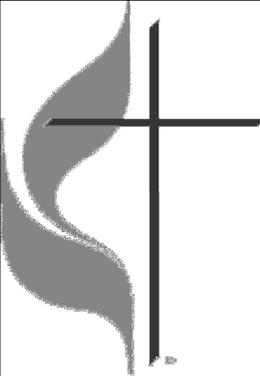
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# York Neighborhood Receives \$2,500 Grant



by Lisa McShane

This fall the Bellingham Planning Department, with the leadership of our new Planning Director Tim Stewart, held a Planning Academy for Bellingham Neighborhoods. Each neighborhood had the opportunity to send two citizens to be trained in how to bring forward plans and amendments to benefit their neighborhood. The York neighborhood sent two members of the York Planning Committee—Helen Jackson and me. One of the many benefits of the Planning Academy was seed money that allows us to move forward with what we learned: a \$2,500 grant that can be used to benefit our neighborhood.

The York Planning Committee has decided to use our \$2,500 to update the York Neighborhood Plan. Our current neighborhood plan was adopted in 1980 and hasn't been updated in the past 26 years. An update seems past due! The 2007 update will be an extensive process that works with the entire neighborhood to look at key elements: land use and zoning, traffic, public facilities and utilities and open space and parks. **All interested neighbors are invited to join the planning subcommittee and help work on the plan update.** Call Lisa at 647-3744 to volunteer.

This past year our committee has worked on a rezone of a portion of York but the York Neighborhood is far larger than Area 5. Our borders are formed by Whatcom Creek to the north; by the Commercial area on Samish Way to the south; to the west we extend to State Street; and to the East, I-5 is our border. We hope all residents and business owners will be active in the plan update. We look forward to working with all of you over the next year to make the York Neighborhood an even better place to live, work, play and own a business.

*Many thanks to the neighbors who donated to the York Neighborhood Association:*

Darrell and Tracy Barnard  
George Liepart  
Michael Neville and  
Don Hilty-Jones  
Mark Sherman and  
Leigh McDiarmid  
Dan Weeks

*A special thank you to the landlords who donated:*

Don and Helen Dorn  
Helen Ives

*Your donations contribute to neighborhood activities and create opportunities for Yorkers to come together and build community. Thank you for your support!*



## York Neighborhood Association Donation

(Thanks for your support!)

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## Mark your calendars:

2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month, 9am-12pm	Franklin Park Renovation Project Work Party
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month, 7-8:30pm	Historic Preservation Committee Meeting at Nelson's Market
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month, 7-8:30pm	YNA Board Meeting at Nelson's Market

→ **don't miss these great holiday events...**



**What:** The York Neighborhood Annual Holiday Progressive Dinner!

**When:** Saturday, December 9, 6pm

**Why:** Remember last year? The tasty food, the amazing chatter, the strolling in-between host houses, and the unusual gifts?

If you wish to take part this year call Amelia at 734-6739. We still need two homes to host. Remember you don't have to furnish all the food—just the much appreciated space. If you have any questions, please, don't hesitate to call!

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**What:** Gather for caroling through the neighborhood on a large wagon drawn by a team of midnight black Percheron draft horses

**When:** Saturday, December 16, 6pm

**Where:** Meet at Nelson's Market

Come join neighbors and friends at Nelson's Market for a holiday wagon ride and caroling party!  
Cookies, cocoa and caroling books are included.  
Be sure to dress warmly and bring a flashlight so you can see the words to the holiday tunes.  
For questions or to volunteer to make a treat, call Libby at 715-3728.



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