



Hooray for Dumpster Day!

Get your trash ready for the Annual York Neighborhood Dumpster Day

Saturday, June 2 from 8 to 10am

in the parking lot of Nelson's Market

A huge thank you to **Sanitary Service Company and Recomp of Washington**, who provide the dumpster and the dumping free of charge to the neighborhood. Thanks also to John Ostby of **Nelson's Market** for volunteering his parking lot to make the dumpster accessible to the neighborhood.

What you cannot dump:

- No yard waste (take that to the City's *Clean Green Yard Waste Site* at the corner of Lakeway & Woburn; \$2/ cash load, Saturdays and Sundays, 8:30am — 4pm)
- No chemicals, paints or paint cans, hazardous substances, fluorescent light tubes or televisions (take these to *Disposal of Toxins*, 3505 Airport Drive, free of charge; open first Saturday of every month, 9am — 4pm)
- No recyclables
- No large appliances



Calling all trucks:

Each year we organize a fleet of trucks to roam the alleys picking up junk. To volunteer a truck, or to ride and help, please call Aaron Bandstra at 752-3230 (or show up at 8am Saturday with work gloves and a good attitude). If you have items for the dumpster but are unable to transport them the day of the clean-up, please call Aaron to arrange pick-up or walk down to Nelson's and guide a truck back to your home.

Recycle Hotline:

Answers to your questions about waste reduction, recycling, composting and household waste; weekdays 9am - 5pm. (360) 676-5723 or 384-8040.

Let's clean up our 'hood!

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.

Franklin Park Survey and Petition Results

by Helen Jackson, YNA Treasurer and Franklin Park Coordinator

Over 80 York residents completed the second Franklin Park Survey to give the committee clear ideas on what we would like to see in our park. With all of this great input the committee will begin work with city departments to make decisions on designs, concepts and funding for Franklin Park improvements.

We have gathered 375 signatures for a safe crosswalk on Lakeway Drive. The York Neighborhood Association has requested that Public Works consider installation of a crosswalk on Lakeway close to Franklin or Grant Streets. Though it might take several years, we are working to make this a reality for our neighborhood. **You can help by signing the petition at Nelson's Market.**

The Franklin Park Committee has submitted our vision of improvements to the Parks and the Planning and Development Departments, provided there are enough available funds. Our recommendations:

- 1) Solve the drainage problems in the lower areas of the park
- 2) Landscape the north side and borders on Whatcom and Grant Streets
- 3) Build a hard surface pathway, curving through the north side
- 4) Picnic tables and benches in landscaped areas
- 5) Low-level lighting along pathways
- 6) Tied:
 - A small amphitheater, possibly carved into the hillside below the basketball court, with curved benches
 - A pavilion (20' or less) with interior benches for shelter, small concerts, plays, workshops, classes, and more...
- 7) Art space



Helen Jackson teaches Loving Space Preschool kids to be stewards of the new trees in the bank above Franklin Park. Each of the kids put their initials on the tag of one tree and will monitor its growth.

Parks will remove the chain link fencing that presently encloses Franklin Park, originally built for the Franklin Elementary School. Because the cost to replace it would take a great deal of the funding, the committee voted unanimously for the removal of the fence provided the following criterion are met: berms, landscaping, boulders, barriers, etc. to provide the same means of enclosure and safety for park users; trees and landscaping planted on and around the berms to assure that cars cannot drive into the park; the fence would not be removed until construction begins and berms are formed. The committee envisions a safe and beautiful park that flows into the neighborhood.

The York Neighborhood always steps up to the plate in supporting the well being of the environment where we live and connect.

Please see the *Yorker* Calendar for our ongoing work parties for Franklin Park, or contact Helen at 656-5467 or hjaxon817@yahoo.com. Your help is needed to continue these wonderful efforts!

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Yorkers Seek Traffic Safety Improvements: City's Alphabet Soup A Step In The Right Direction

by Elliott Smith



Yorkers have been hard at work in 2007 seeking to enhance traffic safety and walkability in our neighborhood, by working through the alphabet soup of city traffic improvement programs. We're excited to see the City seeking more input from neighborhoods on this topic, and we've conveyed to the Mayor's office our hope that the process for submitting proposals will become more citizen-oriented in time for next year's round.

At our Annual General Membership Meeting this year we enjoyed a spirited and fruitful discussion about what traffic safety improvements were needed in our neighborhood. From there, we did our best to fit the round pegs of our neighborhood's needs into the square holes of city traffic safety improvement programs.

York neighbors identified that the lack of a safe pedestrian crossing of Lakeway Drive is our number one traffic safety and walkability concern. A close second is the need for a walkable link to the Sehome Neighborhood. Yorkers suggested a safe pedestrian crossing of the "Samish Way Corridor" – which is technically Maple Street, but most of us think of it as Samish – near the Pizza Pipeline. We bundled these two suggestions into a proposal called the "York-Sehome Bicycle Pedestrian Mobility Corridor," and submitted the proposal to the city to be considered for the 2008 six-year "TIP" or Transportation Improvements Project. TIP is a city program for "major capital improvements" to arterial streets. Each of Bellingham's 22 neighborhoods was allowed to submit one TIP proposal, and the mayor subsequently chose 10 projects from the list of 22 for inclusion in the 2008 citywide plan. Unfortunately, our 2-crosswalk project proposal didn't make the cut. But Katherine Hanowell from the Mayor's office has mentioned that the Lakeway crossing portion of our proposal may be included in a \$50,000 citywide allocation for crosswalk improvements.

Traffic Safety, continued on next page

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Planning for York's Future

by Anne Mackie

The York Neighborhood Planning Committee has begun the process of updating the York Neighborhood Plan. This has not been done since 1980 and is a long and complex process. Neighborhood plans help define:

- neighborhood character,
- open space,
- public facilities and utilities,
- traffic circulation, and
- land use designations.

Has the neighborhood character changed since 1980? Was the vision laid out 27 years ago for the neighborhood's future correct, or has York evolved in a different direction than what was anticipated? To answer these questions and to redefine what York is and will be, the York Planning Committee is reviewing the characteristics of each section of the neighborhood by conducting a group "walk-around." By the end of 2008 the committee will submit the updated York Plan proposals to the City.

Group Walk-Arounds

Once a month the committee tours a specific subarea of the neighborhood and analyzes its characteristics and considers future uses. The "walk-arounds" will be completed this summer, and then the committee will host a series of public meetings to hear residents' and property owners' input. Additionally, a survey will be conducted to get citizen input. Watch for the survey in a future edition of *The Yorker*.

The York subareas that are being analyzed through the "walk-arounds" are:

- Area 1: northern border along Whatcom Creek;
- Area 2: commercial section from Forest St. eastward and along Holly;
- Area 4: residential "triangle" section west of Ellis St.
- Area 5: residential section north/south of Lakeway
- Area 6: Lakeway Drive
- Area 7: Franklin Park
- Area 8: commercial section along Samish Way
- Area 9: Ellis St. – residential and commercial

How You Can Get Involved

The Planning Committee meets the first Monday of the month at 7pm for a business meeting and a second evening for a neighborhood "walk-around." The committee still needs more volunteers to participate in this update process! Contact Anne Mackie at 738-0542 or annemackie@yorkneighborhood.org.

Traffic Safety, *continued from previous page*

The other major concern identified by York neighbors was high speed cut-through traffic on our non-arterial streets. We sought action on this by submitting a 'top three' street list to the city for the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program or NTSP. This city program allows each neighborhood to request a study of three streets each year. Our list was developed from input received at the General Meeting: 1) Humboldt St. from Potter to Gladstone, 2) Whatcom St. from Ellis to Grant, 3) Gladstone St. from Ellis to Iron. According to the City: "Public Works staff will conduct traffic counts at the residential street locations indicated and work with the neighbors of qualifying locations to either solve the problem through education and enforcement, or, if a street qualifies, to design an appropriate traffic calming improvement."

Of course, this isn't going to solve all of the traffic safety and walkability concerns in the neighborhood, but it's a step in the right direction. If you're concerned about traffic safety and walkability in the York Neighborhood,

- Stop by Nelson's Market and **sign the petition** for a safe pedestrian crossing of Lakeway Drive.
- **Support candidates** for City office who will take our needs for traffic safety and walkability in our neighborhood seriously.
- As you drive through the neighborhood, set a good example by driving safely. **Remember 25 MPH is the maximum legal speed, but slower is better!** The York Neighborhood has children and pets aplenty, so think safety first!



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Save the Date:

York Neighborhood Picnic and Neighborhood School Reunions

by Anne Mackie

If you're younger than 40 you probably don't remember seeing a three-story brick school on what is now the site of Franklin Park. Franklin Elementary School, built in 1904 at a cost of \$28,000, was demolished in 1972.

And only neighborhood old-timers remember the Lincoln School that stood at the corner of James and York streets from the early 1900s to 1951. Now I-5 and the Shuksan Convalescent Center take up its space.



With funding from a city Small and Simple Grant, the York Neighborhood will host a **School Reunion Picnic September 22 at Franklin Park**. We hope to see former students and teachers of both schools and current neighborhood residents at the picnic.

The School Reunion Project is the brainchild of the York Preservation Committee Chair, Barbara Davenport. By hosting the reunion we hope to capture stories and preserve memories of our neighborhood. A brief article in *The Bellingham Herald* has already generated phone calls and interest from Lincoln School attendees.

If you are interested in helping to plan the School Reunion Picnic, please contact Anne Mackie at 738-0542 or annemackie@yorkneighborhood.org.

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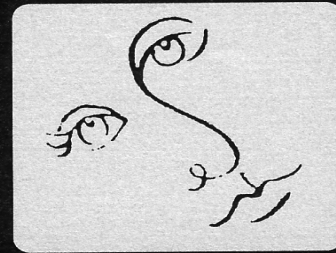
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Neighborhood News and Notes

Wine and Roses Garden Club:

The Wine and Roses Garden Club is planning "A Night at Bear Creek Nursery" for sometime in June. Please call Carol Dixon at 671-2955 for more information.



Rock Hill Park:

Rock Hill Park currently has plenty of mulch and a trash can. If you wish to lose weight and gain muscles come on out and throw mulch around! Attention parents: be aware that broken glass continues to be a danger at the park. We can always use more volunteers to help with clean-up! Please call George Liepart, Park Steward at 961-2528 for more information.

Historic Preservation Committee:

The York Historic Preservation committee continues to meet **the second Tuesday of each month from 7-8:30pm**. All are welcome. Call Barbara Davenport, Chair, at 733-4883 for location and more information.

- We continue to research and classify all the houses in the area in preparation for York's application for national and local historic district designation. The designated area will include: South from Lakeway; North, Fraser; East, Iron St. alley; West, Ellis. All the houses in the area have been identified in terms of year built and type of construction and are being entered into the state historic database. Individuals are researching their own homes and various notable homes.
- We continue to interview and videotape long-time members of the York Neighborhood with the goal of sharing interviews and videos with the Whatcom Museum.
- We are working with the Planning Department on clarifying the application process for local historic district designation. Our efforts have resulted in the application **fee being reduced to \$340 per district rather than \$340 times the number of houses in the district.**
- Five of our members are also participating in work on historic design review criteria with the Planning Committee.

Green Energy Neighborhood Challenge:

Congratulations to the York Neighborhood for its respectable 8th place finish in the Green Energy Neighborhood Challenge! York now has 90 "green energy" households, which is about 7.4% of all PSE accounts in the neighborhood. That equals 45 new "green energy" accounts in the neighborhood since the start of the challenge. **Bellingham has now become the first EPA designated "Green Power Community" in Washington state.** What a great place to live!

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City Awards Tree Planting Grant

by Anne Mackie

Through the city's Small and Simple Grant program the York Neighborhood Association has been awarded \$1,200 to plant approximately 40 trees along the parking strips in the public right-of-way. You may have noticed that many blocks already have mature flowering cherries and maples that were planted by the neighborhood association in the mid-80's. Now we have an opportunity to fill in some of the blank spots!

Property owners will be asked to cost-share by donating \$20 toward a \$40 tree. The grant funds will also be used for soil and tree stakes. The city allows a multitude of approved trees, depending on the specific location and condition, that includes a variety of maples, beeches, hawthorns, dogwoods, cherries, oaks, Japanese snowdrops – you name it! The list is long, so every tree-lover can pick their favorite!

Tree-Lover Volunteers Needed

The Tree-Lover Committee will get underway later this summer surveying the neighborhood to select good sites for trees, contacting property owners, and enlisting volunteers to dig holes and stake trees. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to get on the list to have a tree, contact the Tree-Lover Co-chairs:

Joe Edmonds, 738-3714, JEdmonds@daywireless.com
Nick Hartrich, nick_hartrich@hotmail.com.

*For The Future
by Wendell Berry*



*Planting trees early in spring,
we make a place for birds to sing
in time to come. How do we know?
They are singing here now.
There is no other guarantee
that singing will ever be.*

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

Wilfred Albans
Sarah Campbell and Dan O'Neill
Fred and Kirsti Charlton
Marion Ebergson
Helen Jackson
Anne Mackie and Jon Ostby
Anonymous

A special thank you to the wonderful landlord who has continuously and generously donated to support the YNA:

Judy Frane

And, of course, to the business who graciously contributed to the YNA:

McShane for Mayor

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

A big and appreciative hand to our many newsletter volunteers! Thank you for your commitment to YNA activities.

Tracy and Darrell Barnard
Sarah Bates
Vale Bates
Bob Bauck
Kirsti Charlton
Matt Charlton
Barbara Davenport
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York Neighborhood Association Donation

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Upcoming Events:

June 2, 8am	Dumpster Day! Nelson's Market Parking Lot
June, TBA	Wine and Roses Garden Club "A Night at Bear Creek Nursery"
September 22	York Neighborhood Picnic and School Reunions Franklin Park

Monthly Events:

2 nd Saturday of every month, 9am-12pm	Franklin Park Projects Work Party
2 nd Tuesday of every month, 7-8:30pm	Historic Preservation Committee Meeting
3 rd Wednesday of every month, 7-8:30pm	YNA Board Meeting at Garden Street UMC

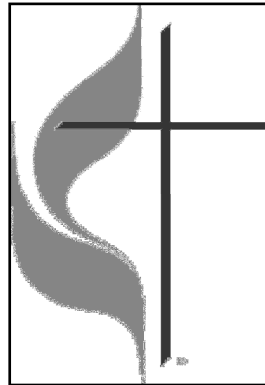


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