

THE YORKER



THANK-YOU, CITY COUNCIL

By Anne Mackie
President, YNA

A public "thank-you" to our City Council for their unanimous approval of the York Neighborhood Association's (YNA) Plan Amendments including the rezone for Area 9 Ellis Street. This decision renews our confidence in the public process and shows that citizen involvement can make a difference.

The Ellis Street rezone protects the historic four-block corridor along Ellis Street, which includes 53 homes built between 1895 and 1930. The rezone adds value for property owners so they can reuse their historic properties for new commercial uses if housed in an historic structure; and the rezone proposal includes new housing types, such as carriage houses, with design guidelines in keeping with the historic character of the zone.

With their vote of support, the City Council demonstrates appreciation for the value that Bellingham's historic neighborhoods bring to the community as a whole. Locating infill in appropriate sections of the city – such as the Samish Way Urban

Village, along Meador Avenue, and within the surrounding downtown core of Area 2 (such as the former Wilsons' Motors site) – is a goal we share with the Council.

York's planning process consumed many, many hours of volunteer time – that's an understatement! Thanks, all, for your contributions.



Photo by Eric Baumgarten

Mr. Peanut congratulates Carolyn Mulder for another great York holiday party.

See **Mr. Peanut** on pg.7

York Neighborhood Meeting and Soup Supper

Wed., January 12th

6:30 – 7pm Soup & Bread Supper

7pm Growing Native Plants

Business meeting and 2011 Board elections will follow after speakers at Garden St. Methodist Church

Interested in Growing Native Plants in Your Yard?

By Helen Jackson

"Growing Native Plants" is the topic for York's meeting, January 12th. If you are interested in knowing the best web sites, local sources and what natives might work for your yard, here's a chance to expand your borders. York neighbors, Carrie and Dietmar Schwarz, will share what is growing in their yard. Rae Edwards, Bellingham Parks & Rec Department, will discuss web sites, local growers and native alternatives for ornamentals, along with a slide show of some local favorites. If you've been reluctant to plant natives, this should provide the scoop you need to successfully choose and grow native plants.

York Neighborhood Association

c/o 1351 Humboldt St., Bellingham, WA 98225
www.yorkneighborhood.org

933-4369

Out with the old and in with the new:

YNA Board Election January 12, 2011

It's time to recruit new energy to the York Board. Responsibilities include oversight for one of the neighborhood projects, events or committees, or serving as an officer. Each board member helps hand out the newsletter (about four times a year). Attendance is required at a minimum of half of the general and board meetings (that's about 10 total/year).

New volunteers are encouraged to put their name forward for nomination by contacting Kirsti Charlton at: vicepresident@yorkneighborhood.org. Elections will be held January 12 at the general membership meeting.

Many thanks to our 2010 board members: Lisa Anderson (Treasurer); Jessica Bandstra (Secretary, Picnic Chair); Vale Bates (Picnic); Kirsti Charlton (VP, MNAC Rep, RATS Coordinator); Chris Collison (*The Yorker* Editor); Gary Gerard (City Gates' Rep, RATS); Nick Hartrich; Don Hilty-Jones (Historic Preservation Chair); David Hopkinson (Rental Licensing, City Gates' Liaison); Helen Jackson (Franklin Park Steward); Leslie Keenholts (Quality Committee); Jake Lunden; Anne Mackie (President & Planning); Carolyne Milling (Picnic); Carolyn Mulder (Dumpster Day, Holiday Horse Wagon Party); Carrie Schwarz (Rock Hill Park Steward); and Tom Scott (Holiday Horse Wagon Party, ABN Rep).

Mission Statement

of the York Neighborhood Association:

"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."

2010 YNA Board Accomplishments:

Yorking it up!



Photo by Jessica Bandstra

Three cheers for pie at York's Annual Picnic, Sept. 19.



Photo by Anne Mackie

Handing out candy canes and holiday cheer, Mrs. Santa Claus (aka Sheryl Hershey) joined in the festivities at York's holiday caroling and horse wagon ride party held Dec. 11.



Photo by Anne Mackie

An early winter storm turns Rock Hill Park into a sledding paradise for the Murphy Girls.

Annual Picnic: Held September 19 with great activities including our first "harvest table" of neighborhood-grown produce, pie contest, kids making bird feeders.

City Gate Apts.: Residents joined York RATS for trash clean ups.

Crosswalks: New crosswalks installed at Lakeway Dr. and Grant St.; and Samish Way and Maple St.

Dumpster Day: Annual neighborhood clean-up held in June '10.

Franklin Park: 11 work parties, 200 volunteers, over 900 volunteer hours, a new Native Plant Committee (125 hours of combined time), 725 new native plants planted, four calling birds, three French hens, etc.

Garden Club: Annual December Holiday Progressive Dinner and summer backyard potlucks.

General Meetings: Topics included backyard habitats, Home Energy Challenge, historic home restoration, neighborhood safety, chili supper, burrito fiesta, dessert social.

Historic Preservation Committee: Continuing interest about researching local homes, acquiring street signs and house plaques.

Holiday Horse Wagon and Caroling Party: Fifth annual party was held December 4 at Nelson's Market. Thank you to the piano-playing Grinch, Judy Buchanan and on guitar, Barry B.; Mr. Peanut on saxophone (Steve Stimson), Mrs. Santa Claus (Sheryl Hershey); and the Rainbow Ranch wagonneers (Paul and Gail Nelson).

I-5 Safety and Sound Wall: The need for a safety and sound wall along I-5 south of Lakeway Drive brought forward to the City Council, Transportation Commission, and WA Dept. of Transportation.

MNAC – Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Council: Ongoing attendance and participation by YNA's rep.

Neighborhood Plan Amendments: Successfully completed updates to the York Neighborhood Plan with final City Council approval, Dec. 16. Whoo Hoo.

RATS (Recycle and Trash Society): Twice monthly neighborhood trash pickups.

Rental Licensing: YNA board members met with other neighborhood associations to discuss the importance of rental licensing; meetings held in Alabama Hill, Columbia, Cornwall Park, Fairhaven, Roosevelt, and South Hill.

Rock Hill Park: Weeding in the butterfly and pollinators' garden.

Neighborhood Faces:

Our Outstanding Volunteer, George Liepart

By Anne Mackie
President, YNA

Next time you walk through Rock Hill Park stop and take a look around. There you will see the handiwork of a neighborhood volunteer, George Liepart, who for several years served as the Rock Hill Park steward. In that role George organized work parties, weeded, mulched, planted and “even lost 10 pounds doing it,” he laughs.

A laugh and a smile are always ready for you from George. Or if you need a spot to sit while enjoying the park, a bench by the basketball court is waiting. Installed in memory of his wife Helen who grew up in the neighborhood, the bench is a celebration of her childhood in York.

“She called Rock Hill the ‘mountain,’” George said. “It was where all the kids played. There used to be a creek in the area where the freeway runs through, now.” The park has evolved through the years to include a playground, butterfly habitat, and open play space – features that are the work of many, many volunteers, George is quick to add.

Hauling out weeds isn’t George’s only talent, though. He also has the gift of “asking” – asking for donations. Using his sales skills and background in busi-



Photo by Anne Mackie

ness, George has been responsible for *The Yorker* newsletter’s successful business advertising sales.

“You just have to ask, and they will give,” he said.

Thank you, George, for giving so much to our neighborhood through your hard work, laughter and smiles.

“Neighborhood Faces” is a regular column in *The Yorker*. If you have someone you’d like to feature, please write to president@yorkneighborhood.org.

A page out of York’s history...

34 years of “Keeping the Dream Alive”

Reprinted from the Yorker News,
Sept. 12, 1977

“The YNA is concerned with preserving the neighborly atmosphere of York: its open spaces, foliage, 1920’s architecture, gardens, tasteful design, relative quiet, the home-like feeling we share.

“We are home-owners and apartment dwellers, children, older folks, young marrieds, students, workers, and anyone else who speaks out and stands up for what they like and don’t like in our territory.

“The next Planning Commission meeting is a critical one on apartments – what do we do about quickie duplexes, four-plexes, even nine-plexes built on single lots; what do we do about apartments in general in regard to density of population/dwellings; parking; heights of structure; landscaping; design of building sites? Some feel York could be quickly destroyed if we do not deal now with new development. Help plan our future. Shall we have homes/apartments designed for human living; or tacky, Monopoly-style cages springing up in all available open space?”



Photo by Anne Mackie

Winner of the 2010 Golden Trowel Award:

Cindy Kaufman

Each year at the annual York Wine & Roses Holiday Party, the coveted “golden trowel” is awarded to an outstanding volunteer for their work in beautifying the neighborhood. The 2010 award went to Cindy Kaufman for her many, many hours of work at Franklin Park and in the 1200 Franklin block trail berm. Thank you, Cindy, for making our neighborhood more beautiful.

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Neighborhood Calendar of Events

YNA General Meeting & Soup Supper Speaker Topic: Native Plants

2011 Board Elections

Wed., Jan. 12, 6:30 p.m.

Garden St. Methodist Church

YNA Board Meeting & Election 2011 Officers

Wed., Feb. 9, 7:00 p.m.

Garden St. Methodist Church

RATS (Recycle and Trash Society)

Every first and third Saturday of the
month, Meet at Nelson's Market
8:45 a.m.

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Judy Hopkinson and Helen Jackson share native plant facts with Loving Space students at Franklin Park's shelter.

Photo by Abby Franklin

Loving Space students adopt Franklin Park native plants

By Judy Hopkinson

On a chilly November day 20 giggling, bouncing Loving Space preschoolers streamed into Franklin Park led by their teachers Abby Franklin and Erin Merenda. Ready to greet them were Helen Jackson and Judy Hopkinson from Franklin Park's Native Plant Committee. And, ready for "adoption" were new native plants.

The students talked about how plants get water, how they might have to fight with weeds for nourishment, and most of all – how they cannot run away from danger. The students learned and laughed about a few things – like how some plants "talk" by releasing chemicals. They learned how to plant bulbs and where fragile bulbs are newly planted beneath the compost in the park. They

also learned how to create a berm out of compost to channel water to the base of a seedling and how to keep the area clear of dandelions and common weeds.

After the discussion, groups of children headed for the hills with a guide. Each child selected a new native plant to "adopt." Afterward, Helen Jackson gave the school a DVD containing pictures of all the "adopted" plants so the children can recognize their new charges throughout the year. When the happy children left the park, they left behind delighted smiles on two much older faces.

Loving Space school is one of the many treasures in the York neighborhood – a wonderful establishment and a great example of "creative reuse" of the York's historic housing stock. No surprise that it was recently voted "Best Preschool" in Bellingham by the *Bellingham Business Journal*.

Contact us to reserve this ad space.
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This Old Tree

By Barbara Davenport

Coordinator, Tree Keepers

Living in an historic neighborhood like York is not just about the unique historic homes. We also have numerous old trees that date back to when the houses were being built. These heritage trees, like the historic houses, need our protection. A local group called Tree Keepers is actively working to promote, preserve and protect Bellingham's trees.

Tree Keepers provides education and advocacy about heritage trees and has compiled a list for each neighborhood. Hopefully, the City of Bellingham will eventually establish a tree protection ordinance as do many cities, including Seattle and Shoreline. We might also establish a tree steward position within the Code Enforcement office to monitor tree removals. Two neighborhoods, Happy Valley and South Hill, have included tree protection in their neighborhood plans.

As part of York Neighborhood's application for the National Historic District status, I wanted to include not just houses but notable trees over 50 years old. Carol Lavoie volunteered to identify the trees with the help of Tree Taxonomist John Wesselink. Unfortunately, our old trees were not allowed to be included in the nomination. However, we can still care for and honor the life-giving trees of our neighborhood, for they too are homes for many living creatures.

Tree Keepers includes professional arborists, city planners, Parks Dept. reps and concerned citizens. For more information about tree preservation and what you can do, contact me at bcdaven@earthlink.net, or 733-4883.

**HEY KIDS...CAN YOU FIND SOME OF YORK'S HERITAGE TREES?
TAKE THE WALKING TOUR AND HAVE FUN HUNTING!**

South of Lakeway Drive

Address	Tree Name
520 Edwards	Spruce
1102 Franklin	Pine
1109 Franklin	Locust
1111 Franklin	Spruce
1130 Franklin	Sawara Cypress
1139 Franklin	Douglas Fir (2)
1138 Franklin	Western Red Cedar
1141 Franklin	Douglas Fir
1149 Franklin	Spruce
1108 Newell	Walnut
1101 Newell	Cedar
1101 Grant	Birch
1158 Grant	Locust
1228 Grant	Lombardy Poplar
1029 Humboldt	Pine
1115 Humboldt	Spruce
1137 Humboldt	Walnut
1233 Humboldt	Douglas Fir
1253 Humboldt	Western Hemlock

Limited space only allows us to print this abbreviated list.

North of Lakeway Drive

Address	Tree Name
1402 Humboldt	Maple
1415 Humboldt	Blue Spruce, Cedar
1711 Humboldt	Walnut
1421 Iron	Elm
1422 & 1428 Iron	Horse Chestnut
1439 Iron	Curly Willow
1450 Iron	Catalpa
1464 Iron	Maple
1600 Iron	Silver Maple
615 York	White Oak
1540 Grant	Sequoia (2)
1400 Franklin	Birch
1430 Franklin	Sawara Cypress
1348 Franklin	Bigleaf Maple
1332 Franklin	Birch
511 Gladstone	Locust
606 Gladstone	Weeping Birch
614 Gladstone	Cedar
623 Gladstone	Maple
704 Gladstone	Horse Chestnut
711 Gladstone	Walnut

Yorker Kids' Corner:

Share your wish for the New Year

By Carrie Schwarz

In the blink of an eye the year 2010 has come and gone, and now it is time to welcome in the New Year!! Do you have any hopes or wishes for the year 2011? How about the adults in your life? If so, how about writing them down and adding them to the neighborhood Wish Tree?

During the first two weeks of January we invite all neighbors, young and old, to write down their hopes and wishes for the new year and hang them on the "wish tree" near Nelson's Market. You can sign your name to your wish, or just make an anonymous addition to the tree.

The supplies you will need are in Nelson's Market (markers, twine and strips of fabric). Check back from time to time and see how the number of wishes added to the York wish tree has grown! We'll print them in a future Yorker newsletter for all to read. Happy New Year!

Tree Keepers Meeting:

Thurs., Jan. 20th, 5:30 p.m., at the Public Market.
Contact Barbara Davenport for information
at bcdaven@earthlink.net
Phone: 733-4883

Anyone is Welcome!

Online survey collects rental housing facts

By David Hopkinson

Some rentals appear to be clean and well cared for; others seem decrepit and run-down. But are any of them safe? Nobody knows, because there is no law that requires rental inspection. Nor has anybody ever tried to survey renters to ask about the experience of renting in this city – until now.

The Rental Housing Online Survey is a joint project of WWU Viking Community Builders and a local group, Neighbors for Safe Rentals. All students and non-students who have rented here are qualified to answer the 22-question survey. Most questions concern the safety of the rental building, while some ask about renter satisfaction.

Survey data will be presented to the Bellingham City Council, which is considering legislation in 2011 to regulate rentals.

Steps to take the survey...

1. Survey takes 10 minutes.
2. Responses are anonymous; personal identity is protected.
3. Only current or former Bellingham renters can respond.
4. Only one survey per computer.
5. You must answer each question to be able to move through the survey; the system does not allow you to scroll through the survey to just read it.
6. When you click 'Done', you will not be able to re-open it. (This protects the data).
7. To log on to the survey, type the link into your browser: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GKRJB7M>

Please ask your friends who rent to take the survey.

What was old is now new

By Don Hilty-Jones

York Historic Preservation Committee Chair

These comments were provided at the Public Hearing on York's Plan Amendments, submitted to the Bellingham City Council Oct. 25, 2010

Once a neighborhood has done the hard work to achieve historic preservation status, you will discover that the process has changed the resident's group psychology. The people who live in that "community" now know more about what they have and why it is distinctive, they know more of why it affects their lives, and they have an increased desire to see it remain and have an effect on their futures. In short, they take the next step and begin improving the laws and codes that protect what they have learned to value.

As the current chair of the York Neighborhood Historic Preservation Committee, I can tell you from 40 years of working on preservation projects that this influence I have described only grows and assumes more and more prevalence. The old philosophies of growth and expansion don't ring true anymore. The old conceit that used to allow property owners free will in how they used and treated what they owned dies hard, but it gets winnowed and fades away.

Shift in public attitude

The idea that you can do anything adjacent to the property of others in the name of progress has been long out-moded, but there are a few among us who haven't realized this shift in public attitude and still point to their imagined violated rights of investment as sufficient reason to ruin the environments of their neighbors. But what is even more valuable to learn is the unfailing environmental value of historic preservation.

There is no modern equivalent to old forest timber or to the craftsmanship of our predecessors. There is no plastic, no modern wood, no modern paint, no trigger-happy, air -compressed carpenter, plumber or painter who can come close to building what was crafted a hundred years ago. So keep whatever you can, because much of it can't be replaced. And even if you can sometimes currently reproduce that quality, the cost is huge.

Beyond Katrina

All you have to do is witness the miles of photos taken in the aftermath of Katrina to see what survived that storm and flood and what melted and rotted instead and had to be swept up and planted in landfills. Sheetrock, concrete block, and plastic are all perfectly fine when you can't afford better; but you can never replace the real thing with supposed modern equivalents. There is nothing man-made or grown today that has the insulative properties, or the strength, or the ability to survive weather and disaster as does old growth wood. And there is nothing today that can replace the spacial balance, clean lines, real craftsmanship or integrity of an old home that has held four to six generations within its mass and can still stand straight and engage our pride of association just by its being there.

Yes, York Neighborhood, enjoy the zoning victory which does so much to improve our ability to protect and pass on this distinctive environment. But I do warn you... I admonish your care and wink and bend to whisper in your ear.... "We have only begun." Because when we go on further with this learning, when these values seep even deeper into our natures, we will all find that we haven't done nearly enough!

The Yorker, published by the York Neighborhood Association
c/o 1351 Humboldt St., Bellingham, WA 98225, 360-933-4369.

Contact president@yorkneighborhood.org for more information or how to advertise.

Neighborhood RATS on the move

By Kirsti Charlton

YNA Vice President

The Recycle and Trash Society of York Neighborhood (RATS) conducted twice-monthly scours of neighborhood streets, alleys and parks throughout 2010. We'll continue again in 2011.

We pick up the usual: beer cans and bottles, fast food wrappers and coffee cups. But we also pick up syringes and spoons and lighters, shoes and underwear, and wind-blown trash. We make note of items that are too large for us to carry and notify the City's Code Compliance officer who gets them removed.

We have a good time, good conversations, and good vibes from our neighbors who stop to say, "thank you." Plus warm and fuzzy feelings, knowing that maybe we've kept a neighborhood kid from cutting herself on a broken bottle or a neighbor's dog from eating something he shouldn't. Plus, visitors to the neighborhood have told us that we have clean streets. And, it's done in less than one hour of your time!

As we collect the trash, it is separated into real trash and recyclables. Alumi-

num cans are turned in for cash at local recyclers, and the money is turned over to the neighborhood general fund. We're not making a lot of money, but we feel strongly that we're contributing to a sustainable environment while maintaining high neighborhood standards.

Who are we? Well, there are a couple of retired folks, a couple of young families with kids, and other neighbors. We'd especially like to recognize several stalwarts from City Gate Apartments who show up consistently with their plastic bags and nifty nabbers.

We'd love to have you join us. We meet on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 8:45 a.m. at Nelson's Market (if we are doing north of Lakeway), at the Chevron gas station on Lakeway (if we are doing the Franklin Park area), and at City Gate Apt. on Holly St. (if we are doing the Magnolia area). We're usually done and on our way home for a cup of hot coffee by 9:30!

Bring gloves. We supply the plastic bags and nifty nabbers!

Watch for a notice on the neighborhood bulletin board by Nelson's or an announcement in *The Yorker* for location.

Mr. Peanut from pg. 1



Photo by Carolyn Mulder

Mr. Peanut and Jon Ostby discuss crowd control at York's annual holiday party.



Photo by Carolyn Mulder

Mr. Peanut wishes the York Neighborhood a Happy New Year.

York Neighborhood Association Donation Form

Is it time to renew your donation? We need your support!

- Students \$5 Singles \$10 Households \$20
 - Business \$100 (includes a business-card-size ad in the newsletter)
- Indicate Cash or Check

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Make check out to York Neighborhood Assoc. (YNA); mail to Lisa Anderson, YNA Treasurer, 520 Edwards St., Bellingham, WA 98225

Thank you for your continued support!

Your financial donations contribute to printing costs for *The Yorker* newsletter, meeting notices and signs, public events, the Annual Picnic, and create opportunities for neighbors to come together and build community. Thank you to these York neighbors and businesses who have donated since the publication of the last issue of *The Yorker*: A.A. Anderson Co., Catherine Chambers, Judy and Dave Hopkinson, Don Hilty-Jones and Michael Neville, Holly Stafford and Amber Edwards, Douglas White.

And, a BIG thank you to our Holiday Horse Wagon sponsors Back In Motion Massage, On-Site Computers, and Nelson's Market.

And THANK YOU to our friends at Garden St. Methodist Church for letting us continue to meet there and to Paul, for his patience when we are slow to adjourn our meetings. We'll be better in 2011, we promise!



Photo by Carolyn Mulder

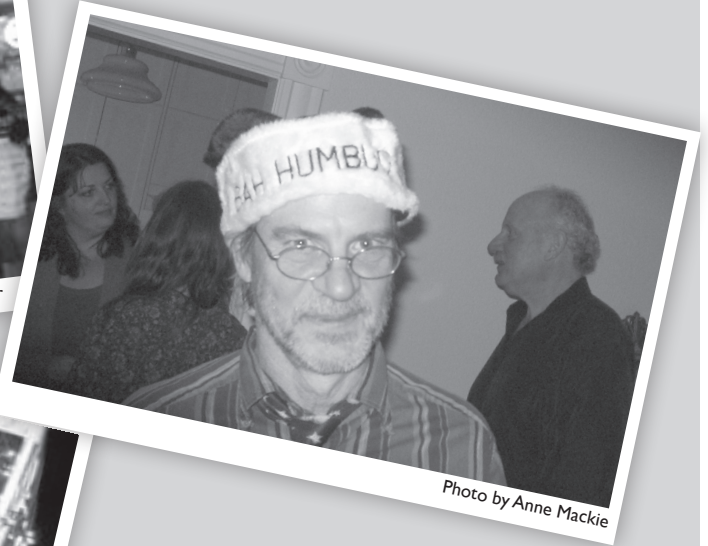


Photo by Anne Mackie



Photo by Carolyn Mulder

York's annual holiday parties

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