

THE YORKER



Earth Day Work Party Got 'Er Done

See story, Page 3



York Neighborhood General Meeting June 11

Dessert Social, 6:30pm; Meeting, 7:00pm

at Garden St. United Methodist Church
1326 N. Garden St.

PROGRAM:

**“Bellingham Rental Housing:
Issues & Solutions”**

Speaker: **Jack Weiss**, Bellingham City Councilman
and

“Stump the Junk Chump”

Speaker: **Rodd Pemble**, Sanitary Service Corp.
Bring a question about recycling and
see if you can stump the expert!

And, please bring a dessert to share.

Child care provided.

York Cleans Up Its Act on Dumpster Day, June 14

- ★ Free dumpster for all York residents, Sat. June 14, 8:30am. Come early. It's usually full by 10:00am.
- ★ Located at Nelson's Market parking lot, 514 Potter St.
- ★ Bring items that cannot go into your regular garbage pickup.
- ★ DO NOT BRING: yard waste, chemical waste (paint cans, fluorescent light tubes, hazardous substances); no large appliances; no computers or TVs; no large construction debris.
- ★ If you have a large item that needs a truck pick-up on Dumpster Day, call ahead to: Kirsti, 393-7187; or Carolyn, 647-1642.
- ★ Thank-you to SSC for the free dumpster; Allied Waste/RDS for free dumpage; Nelson's Market for the location; and York coordinators Kirsti Charlton, Carolyn Mulder and Cory Anderson.

**YORK NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

c/o 1316 Franklin St., Bellingham WA 98225

email: President@Yorkneighborhood.org; www.yorkneighborhood.org

ASSOCIATION NEWS

**Fundraising
nets great results**

By Lisa Anderson
YNA Treasurer

You make our neighborhood great! Forty households and individuals responded to the March YNA fundraising letter with \$780 in donations. This helps us fund our newsletter, park improvements, and annual events such as the fall picnic and holiday wagon ride.

If you have a suggestion for a project or something York needs, let us know. We'd like to hear from you, and volunteers are always needed!

If you have yet to mail your check, use the form on Page 6 in this newsletter. Your donations and participation is what helps make York a great place. *Thank you and keep it up!*

**Thank-you to all our
generous donors:**

Ted & Tina Ardans
Ken Barkley
Abe & Vale Bates
Jen Bauer

Micah & Tara Bobbink & Britton Sanford
Michelle Burkhart & Mark Schofield
Sarah Campbell & Daniel O'Neill
Kirsti Charlton
Mel Charlton
Barbara Davenport
Carol Dixon
Tamara French
Maureen Godwin
Richard Gortin
Travis and Brittney Kane
Lesley Keenholts
Chris & Carol Kleps
Anne Mackie & Jon Ostby
Bart Miller
Carolyn Mulder & Eric Baumgarten
Brian & Kathleen Murphy
Hannah & Gabriel Mast
Byron Manering
Eric McRory
Carolyn Milling
Mark Nuyens
Dietmar & Carrie Schwarz
Kathleen Shea-Nuzum & Friday R-House Zydeco Band
Kirsten & Alan Shore
Richard Smith
Shannon Spears
Darol Streib

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Howard & Patti VanLaeken
Michele & Eric Waltz
James Wietlispach
Steve Winterburn
Kyle Young
Anonymous donor
Cory & Lisa Anderson

**Special thanks to
Applied Digital Imaging
for FREE newsletter printing!**

TREASURER'S REPORT
Account Balance
\$6,063 (5/14/2014)

Donations in 2013 = \$2,220
\$400 event sponsors,
\$420 personal donations,
\$900 business donations,
\$500 City expense reimbursement.

Expenses for 2013 = \$2,494
\$10 WA State non-profit fee,
\$32 annual picnic,
\$40 song book printing,
\$100 parks improvements,
\$263 curb signs for meetings,
\$400 York "Welcome" sign repairs,
\$400 holiday wagon ride,
\$1,240 newsletter printing.

**2014 York Neighborhood
Association**

Officers

President: Don Hilty-Jones
Vice President: Mark Scholfield
Treasurer: Lisa Anderson
Secretary: Anne Mackie

Board Members

Cory Anderson, Kirsti Charlton, Katie Dunne,
Brian Kennedy, Tom Scott

Contact:

York Neighborhood Association
c/o 1316 Franklin St
Bellingham, WA 98225
website: www.YorkNeighborhood.org
email: president@YorkNeighborhood.org
YorkerEditor@YorkNeighborhood.org

Stay informed!

**Join York's email distribution list.
Send your name & email to:
Listmaster@yorkneighborhood.org**

**Mission Statement of the York
Neighborhood Association:**

- To reduce isolation among residents;
- To enhance the quality of life in a low and moderate income urban neighborhood;
- To create a sense of community;
- To reduce or prevent crime; and
- To preserve the historic character of the neighborhood.

YORK'S PARKS REPORTS

Another great Earth Day celebrated at Franklin Park



Thanks to Western students for help at Franklin Park.

Earth Day was celebrated at Franklin Park on Sat., April 19 with many Western Washington Univ. students joining York neighbors and Parks Dept. staff to weed the Franklin Island berm and spread limestone gravel on the trail. Thanks to all for their hard work. Special thanks to: Mark Schofield, York's Franklin Park Steward; Parks Dept. Volunteer

Coordinator Rae Edwards and intern Paige Watkins; Ellen Bohn, AmeriCorps; Western students from Service Learning, Environmental Sciences, and Asia Univ. America Program. AUAP students showed up *again* for a second work party in May! Thanks also to Woods Coffee, Nelson's Market, and York neighbors for coffee and treats.

Franklin Park, located in the southern section of York, was originally the site of Franklin Elementary school until 1972 when the school was demolished. Over the years it has gone through several morphings as a baseball field, playground, and what it is today -- a beautiful urban sanctuary, upscale playground and forested trails.

Upcoming

Franklin Park Work Parties

Thurs., June 12th - 6:30-8:00pm

Thurs., July 17th - 6:30-8:00pm

Sat., Aug. 9th - 10:00am-Noon

Contact Mark Scofield to get involved:

VicePresident@YorkNeighborhood.org

Welcome **NEW** Rock Hill Park Stewards

By Paige Watkins

Park Intern

Hello, Neighbors! I want to introduce myself and tell you a little about what is going on in the green spaces in the neighborhood we call home. My name is Paige Watkins, and I have happily lived in the York neighborhood since November 2012 with my fiancé, Josiah. As an intern for the Parks & Recreation Department's Volunteer Program, I am proud that the interest in Rock Hill Park has been rekindled.

York neighbors **Katie Dunne** and **Brian Kennedy** are the two new Park Stewards who have been overseeing work on the butterfly garden this spring, and they will be organizing work parties to tackle the hill covered in invasive English Ivy and Himalayan Blackberry. Invasive species, like these two, were brought from another part of the world as a novelty. Here, they lack natural competition and negatively affect recreational opportunities and the health of our local ecosystem. It is important for all of us in the neighborhood to support this effort by volunteering at Rock

Hill & Franklin Parks and taking a look in our yards for any invasive species. Together, we can maintain a patch of the city that is friendly to native fauna by attending to the biodiversity of native flora. To learn more about backyard habitats, go to: <http://www.cob.org/government/public/volunteer/parks/landscaping.aspx>. To learn how to identify common invasive species, go to: <https://www.cob.org/services/environment/restoration/invasive-species.aspx>. Happy spring, everyone! Check the kiosk in front of Nelson's Market for announcements about upcoming park work parties. Hope to see you there!

Rock Hill Park is located at the southern end of the 1300 block of Iron St. Many years of neighborhood volunteer work have made it a special place.

Upcoming

Rock Hill Park Work Party

lower level Butterfly Garden

10:00am to noon; Sat. June 21.

Bring your gloves & tools if you have 'em.

Samish Way Work Group Update

By Lisa Anderson

YNA Treasurer

City enforcement of codes, regulations, and laws along the Samish Way corridor is being addressed by a joint York-Sehome Neighborhood work group that formed earlier this year. Meetings have been held with Mayor Linville and City staff to better understand and evaluate problems that have plagued this area for years.

One problem is the use of local motels as long-term rooming houses for people who might otherwise be out on the street. We support efforts to find secure, safe and affordable housing for these folks. We also want to see criminal activity stopped.

In April our work group presented a list of concerns to the Mayor and a request for demographic information about the area from the city. Who lives here, which motels are providing long-term housing, what are the statistics on

criminal activity and use of law enforcement resources? We will report on this information in an upcoming newsletter.

Additional outreach by our group has included participation with Pastor Rick Qualls, Fountain Community Church, who organized a town hall meeting in March at the Five Columns restaurant on N. Samish Way. A crowd of 40-plus attended the meeting representing York and Sehome neighborhoods, churches, social service agencies and city staff. Finding suitable housing for motel long-term residents is a priority that everyone agreed on.

The recent announcement of Walgreens' purchase of the old Black Angus restaurant property and the adjacent Shell station at the south end of N. Samish Way is good news for the area. Perhaps this will be a catalyst for additional business improvement in the area.

For more information about our work group, feel free to contact me at: Treasurer@YorkNeighborhood.org.

Rentals need inspections, just like restaurants

By Betsy Pernotto

*Jobs for Justice, Birchwood
Neighborhood resident*

Imagine going to a nice restaurant with friends to enjoy a relaxing dinner. Now imagine how you might feel if you went to that same restaurant and had to wonder if the food was safe to eat because restaurants were only inspected if there was a complaint. Put your mind at rest. The Whatcom County Health Dept. inspects restaurants on a yearly basis, not simply on the basis of complaints.

Now imagine renting an apartment or house for yourself or your family; you've assumed the residence is a safe place to live. Then you discover some electrical outlets spark when you plug in an appliance; you start to question the safety of the electrical system. Or your child has frequent asthma attacks triggered by the black mold on her bedroom wall because of an unrepaired leaking tub. Unfortunately, rental

housing is *not* inspected unless there is a complaint. But you've paid first and last month deposits, and you are afraid of being evicted if you complain because you have no money to put up for another apartment if you have to move. That is Bellingham's current system.

We require restaurant inspections because food-borne illness can be deadly, and we want the public to be safe eating in those business establishments. When we pay for a restaurant meal, we have the expectation that the food will be safe. We deserve to have the same expectation when we pay for rental housing.

Safe housing is as much an issue of public health as is safe food in a restaurant. Eating in a restaurant is a choice we make. However, we spend many more hours in our homes than we do eating in a restaurant, and the dangers we might face there can be as life-threatening as food-borne illness.

City Council needs to enact an ordinance requiring registration for all rental units in Bellingham, with a small monthly registration fee for each unit. Before a system of inspections begins, the City needs to clarify for landlords the City's expectations about safe, healthy rental units and needs to educate tenants about their rights. The goal of this ordinance should be safe and healthy residences for all tenants.

Yorkers:

Show your support for rental registrations and inspections by writing to City Council at:
ccmail@cob.org.

And, attend the upcoming City Council Public Hearing on the issue. Date to be announced.

Sign-up to receive email announcements:

**ListMaster@
YorkNeighborhood.org**

Campaign for tenant safety:

Everyone has a right to a safe “Bellinghome”

“Working for proactive Bellingham city ordinances to inspect and register all rental properties to ensure they are safe to live in”

That’s the motto of a WWU student campaign being led by Associated Student activists and Theo Bickel, senior political science major. More than 1,000 signatures have been gathered on campus and by door-belling in neighborhoods to support a city ordinance for rental inspections and registrations. Supporters have testified at City Council meetings and have provided case experiences about poorly managed and maintained rental properties.

“Everybody loses when unsafe rental properties are in our community,” their flyer states. “If the City enforces health and safety codes in rental properties, it would protect tenant and neighborhood safety and make it easier for landlords to do business fairly and responsibly.” To find out more about the campaign for safe and healthy rentals, contact Theo at: bickelt@students.com.



Theo Bickel staples a “Bellinghome” campaign flier to York’s current-events kiosk on Potter St.

Annual York Neighborhood Picnic
 Save the date: **Sunday, Sept. 21, 3:00–6:00pm**
 Games, hot dogs, potluck, pie raffle, face painting, & music.
 Fun for the whole family in Franklin Park.

*Hair
by Geoff*

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Contact: [YorkerEditor@
YorkNeighborhood.org](mailto:YorkerEditor@YorkNeighborhood.org)

Fireworks Ban in City Limits Did ya know?

By Mark Schofield
YNA Vice President

Sorry to rain on anyone's parade, but fireworks are prohibited in the York neighborhood and throughout our fair city. In June 2013 the Bellingham City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting the sale and use of personal fireworks in the city limits. The ban goes into full effect this year. Those who violate this ordinance face a minimum \$250 fine. The city encourages people who witness a violation to call 9-1-1.

Don't worry. There are plenty of good alternatives to your cakes, racks, missiles and rockets. For starters, grab a seat along the bay for Port of Bellingham's impressive Fourth of July fireworks display, or view the fireworks at the top of the Franklin Trail Berm, south of Lakeway Drive.

Wherever you go, please be safe and respectful of your neighbors.

Night Out Against Crime Celebrates Safer Communities Tues., August 5, 6:00pm

Plans are underway to host two
York Neighborhood events:

At **Lincoln Square**, on York St., to support residents in crime prevention and their Block Watch program.

On **Samish Way**, partnering with Sehome Neighborhood, to show support for crime reduction and community outreach.

Details to be posted at:
www.YorkNeighborhood.org



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**York Neighborhood Association
Donation Form**

Students \$5.00 Household \$20.00

Singles \$10.00

Business \$100.00 - includes a business-card size ad for four issues.

**Make check payable to the YNA
(York Neighborhood Association)**

Name _____

Address _____

Ph# _____ Email _____

Return Form & Check to:
Lisa Anderson, YNA Treasurer,
520 Edwards St.,
Bellingham WA 98225

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Worth preserving?

Say “Yes” to York’s downtown houses

By Anne Mackie

YNA Secretary & Editor, *The Yorker*

Can cities provide housing infill and accommodate areas of redevelopment while also protecting unique historic homes in and near their downtown core? Are single-family houses desirable in downtown neighborhoods? Many American cities say, “Yes.”

Portland, Augusta, Phoenix, New Orleans have found ways to preserve historic housing bordering downtown areas. Unfortunately, Bellingham’s Planning Commissioners don’t appear to see the value in this housing choice for the area of York bordering downtown. At its meetings to discuss the Downtown Bellingham Plan, the concept of preserving historic housing in York’s western sub-area didn’t get their support.

At issue is the section of York from Ellis on the east to N. State on the west. Its streets include Magnolia, High, Indian, N. Forest and N. Garden. One Commissioner stated he just didn’t see this area of York having a “renaissance.” It’s true that several houses in this 99% rental area appear to not be well-maintained by their landlords; but does that mean they are not worth saving? The pattern we’ve seen in York is just

the opposite. Over time homes have been purchased by owners who fix them up, and the neighborhood has become very desirable because it is close to downtown.

York’s old rental properties work well as profit centers for their landlords; but for the future, are they of value to the community as a whole? The Planning Dept. staff thinks so and put forward a strong proposal that states: “encourage preservation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings and historic single family residences as infill occurs.” York’s western sub-area was surveyed in 2009 and identified as being potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an historic district.

The York Neighborhood Association has spent many years working with the Planning Department staff to support historic preservation in York. Hopefully our City Council -- the final decision maker for the “Plan” -- will support it as well when they review and vote on the Downtown Plan.

At an upcoming York meeting we will discuss ways to support the historic preservation goals developed in the York’s western sub-area. If you are interested in supporting this effort please contact Don Hilty-Jones at President@YorkNeighborhood.org.



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YORK EVENTS CALENDAR

**Sat., June 7, 10am
S.T.A.R.S.***

*Saturday Trash and Recyclers
meet at Nelson's Market

**Wed., June 11
YORK GENERAL MEETING
Dessert Social 6:30pm
Meeting 7pm**

Garden St. United Methodist Church
1326 N. Garden St.

**Sat., June 14, 8:30am
DUMPSTER DAY
at Nelson's Market**

**Tues., June 17
SUMMER BREAK
FREE ICE CREAM**
for York school kids at Nelson's Market

**FRANKLIN PARK
WORK PARTIES**

Thurs., June 12th - 6:30-8:00pm

Thurs., July 17th - 6:30-8:00pm

Sat., Aug. 9th - 10:00am-Noon

**Sat., June 21, 10am-Noon
ROCK HILL PARK
WORK PARTY
with
S.T.A.R.S.
at the park**

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