

# THE YORKER



**YORK NEIGHBORHOOD GENERAL MEETING**  
**“Public Safety in York”**  
**Wed., Jan. 13**  
**6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Garden St. United Methodist Church  
1326 N. Garden St.  
6:30 p.m. – Soup supper  
7:00 p.m. – Speakers

Speakers: Chief Clifford Cook and Officer Eric Ostercamp, Bellingham Police Department; Scott Ryckman, Bellingham Fire Department

## “Public Safety in York”

York Board Members are providing soup; neighbors are asked to bring a salad or dessert.

If you need child care at the meeting, please let us know by contacting [VicePresident@yorkneighborhood.org](mailto:VicePresident@yorkneighborhood.org) so we can plan.

*Hope to see you there!*



Caroling at the annual holiday party! Just one of the many great activities YNA supports with your help!

## Consider joining the York Board!

Meet great people while making York an excellent great place to live

Take an active role in the planning activities

Be a voice for our neighborhood in the larger community

Learn more at the General meeting on January 13

## Do you enjoy reading about York?

Value the events we sponsor?

**Please donate to help support all the great activities and the newsletter of YNA.**

Keep an eye out in your mail for the donation form or use the one on the back of this newsletter.

Thank you in advance for your support!

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- President’s Corner, P. 2
- YNA’s Newest Board Member, P. 3
- Neighborhood News , P. 4 and 5
- Tenant Waste Taskforce Report, P. 6
- Kid’s Corner, P. 7
- Calendar of Events, P. 8

## YNA President's Corner By Lisa Anderson, President, YNA

Greetings Yorkers!

Winter is here with a mixture of good blessings and misfortunes.

Two rental houses in south York caught fire in December, displacing the residents. It was a great loss to have two of our beautiful historic homes damaged by fire. Even worse are the hardships and displacement for our impacted student neighbors. Adding to the tragedy, their home was broken into and items stolen shortly after it was posted as "condemned." If anyone doubts the need for rental inspections, we have two good examples of why they are needed. If you have any household furnishings that you would like to donate to help these students, please contact Anne Mackie at [secretary@yorkneighborhood.org](mailto:secretary@yorkneighborhood.org). She will let you know if your items are needed.

December was not all bad news. We had a wonderful night out at the garden club progressive dinner. A special thank-you to Jon Ostby and Anne Mackie for hosting us for appetizers in their charming home above everyone's favorite neighborhood store, and to Lisa and Dan McShane for sharing their lovely home for soup, dessert, and a rousing game of stealing white elephant gifts. On December 12<sup>th</sup>, we held our eleventh annual horse and wagon caroling event. New this year, Santa visited to hand out candy canes. Helping Santa were several Bellingham Fire Department

personnel who gave fire engine tours and handed out fire hats. One hundred and eighty participants enjoyed a night of hot cocoa, cookies, and caroling. This is by far my favorite York event!

Winston Churchill once stated, "You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give." I ask you to ponder this as you consider my request to volunteer for your neighborhood. Every January we elect new board members. A requirement to become a board member is that you have attended two York meetings in the past year.

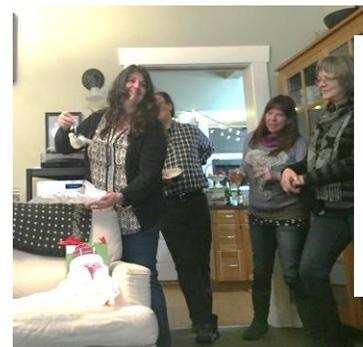
For many years, York board members had asked my husband Cory and I to join the board. We politely declined stating that we just did not have the time due to work and family. Frankly, I just did not see why I should donate my time and effort. I did not understand what impact I could make. Then it happened: an event where I had to go to the board for guidance and help to prevent the unraveling of what I loved about my part of the neighborhood. This was very similar to what our neighbors on Iron Street faced this past summer. The board rallied around us, wrote letters, and spoke in unison on our behalf and frankly saved the day. Cory and I knew we had to pay it back because we definitely had not paid it forward. I am so thankful for this event. It really taught me how great our neighborhood is, and that in part is due to a strong board that programs great events and advocates on behalf of our neighbors.

We welcome all who would like to volunteer but would especially like to see a parent or two with young children volunteer on the board. We would like to have one to two special events each year programmed by a board member specifically focused on bringing our youth together. In the past, board members have organized Tea with Teddy, Butterfly Garden, and a children's talent show, yet we have not had a specific role on the board to ensure consistency year-to-year. I hope you will take an interest in helping us focus on creating a sense of community with our youth and their neighborhood.

We have accomplished much. I am proud of each of our board members who have contributed their skills to help keep York the best neighborhood in Bellingham. We have many neighbors not serving on the board who have consistently step in to help with events, advocate on issues, and create lasting connections with their neighbors. I want to thank them as well for all they do. 2015 has been a great year!

See you in the 'hood,

Lisa A. Anderson



Lisa opening her white elephant gift at the Progressive dinner

## Meet York’s Newest Board Member: Audrey Roberts

By Anne Mackie, YNA Secretary

A recent walk through York’s Rock Hill Park shows something new: a stone wall has been uncovered along the ridge dividing the upper and lower levels. The wall is left over from the days when houses once occupied the park, before there was a park, in the days before the Interstate plowed through the eastern portion of the neighborhood.

The stone wall being “day-lighted” is the hard work of York Board’s newest member, Audrey Roberts, who serves as Co-Steward for the park with fellow board member and WWU student, Edward Tabor.

“By opening up the stone wall and ridding this area of the snowberry bushes, we’ll create better visibility between the two layers of the park and make the park feel safer,” Audrey said. “We’ll replace them with lower-growing plants like

Oregon grapes.”

As a WWU Community Recreation major, Audrey’s vision is to make the park safer for kids. After graduation she hopes to have a career working with a city to help children in areas of need have access to free play.

“I believe that getting kids outside where they can run around free is the key to their cognitive growth and self-awareness,” she said. “Bellingham does a good job making recreation, jobs, and other opportunities accessible for all people.” She says that moving from Yakima to Bellingham three years ago has been a huge wake up call for her.

“Many times I have been a part of things in Bellingham that don’t exist in other places. Once I graduate I hope I can perpetuate these opportunities to communities in need, whether they have been stricken by poverty, crime, or poor leadership.”

Audrey is already showing great leadership in organizing work parties for Rock Hill. Last October’s Rock Hill Park work party had a turn-out of more than 50 volunteers from WWU students, Girl Scouts, and the community.

“So many people came from the community, which makes it easier for the park to reach our goal to be a place where the neighborhood can come to relax, feel safe, and at home.” There will be more work parties beginning in February. For now, we thank you, Audrey, for your hard work and enthusiasm for York!



Audrey at work in Rock Hill Park

### 2015 York Neighborhood Association Officers

President: Lisa Anderson  
 Vice President: Tom Scott  
 Treasurer: Don Hilty-Jones  
 Secretary: Anne Mackie

#### Additional Board Members

Cory Anderson, Robb Correll, Kirsti Charlton, Kim Bogren Owen, Mark Schofield, Edward Tabor

#### Contact:

York Neighborhood Association  
 c/o 520 Edwards St., Bellingham WA 98225  
 President@YorkNeighborhood.org  
 website: www.YorkNeighborhood.org  
 For advertising / business donations, contact:  
 YorkerEditor@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.

Thank you to these folks and businesses that made donations since the last publication of this newsletter:

- ◆ Dixie Cheek
- ◆ Shannon Spears
- ◆ Nelson’ Market and On-Site Computers for the Christmas horse drawn wagon

## Preparing for the “Big One”

By Anne Mackie, YNA Secretary

York’s fall meeting Oct. 14 featured speakers Dan McShane, local geologist, and Paul Gazdik, City Emergency Management Coordinator, who spoke about “What do to when the Big One hits.”

Dan discussed earthquake potential for the Puget Sound region and its Subduction Zone between the North American plate and the San Juan de Fuca plate. The probability of a 5.0 earthquake in Bellingham is nearly 68% in the next 50 years, but luckily York is on solid ground he explained, and is positioned out of any major tsunami danger zone. The best approach is to plan your emergency response.

Paul Gazdik emphasized that in addition to earthquake potential Bellingham must be prepared to deal with wind storms, power outages, ice and snow, and flooding. Through the Whatcom Unified Emergency Management system a partnership exists between the county, cities, and the Port of Bellingham in Whatcom County to provide coordinated services. Paul outlined the numerous emergency preparedness programs available in the community, some of which include:

**Emergency Alerts:** Sign-up for emergency alerts via phone, text or fax through:  
[www.cob.org/services/safety/emergencies](http://www.cob.org/services/safety/emergencies)

**CERT**– Community Emergency

Response Team educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

<http://www.whatcomcert.org>

**American Red Cross** provides a variety of training programs, [www.Redcross.org/wa/Bellingham](http://www.Redcross.org/wa/Bellingham)

**Map Your Neighborhood:** This program is designed to improve disaster readiness at the neighborhood level and teaches neighbors to rely on each other during the hours or days before fire, medical, police or utility responders arrive. By compiling a neighborhood resource and skill inventory, we can be better prepared in a disaster. Several years ago the YNA provided educational information about this program, but it was difficult to obtain all the necessary household information due to the fact that much of York’s population is temporary as student housing. If anyone is interested in pursuing this program, again, please contact: [Secretary@yorkneighborhood.org](mailto:Secretary@yorkneighborhood.org). It would be a great project for a group of students.



Dan McShane and Paul Gazdik at the October YNA general meeting

### CERT Basic Training

February 10 – March 30, 2016

6:00 – 9:00pm, 8 class sessions of 3 hours, weekly on Wednesdays

Training Location: Whatcom Unified Emergency Coordinating Center  
3888 Sound Way, Bellingham

Pre-registration required

For More Information email  
Mel Monkelis at  
[MelM@WhatcomVolunteer.org](mailto:MelM@WhatcomVolunteer.org) or  
call (360) 734-3055



The first steal of the night at the Wine and Roses Garden Club Progressive Holiday dinner- a cow shaped cookie jar full of chocolate chip cookies!

## Fire strikes in York, again!

By Anne Mackie, YNA Secretary

Six students in York Neighborhood were made homeless on Dec. 14 when an attic fire left their rental house uninhabitable. Thankfully, no one was hurt. The fire started in the afternoon when five of the residents were away from the house. Luckily, it was not in the middle of the night when they would have been sleeping. The cause of the fire, as reported by The Bellingham Herald, was “possibly electrical.”

At home at the time of the fire was Carissa Loft, 19, who was alerted to the fire by an employee of the next door Loving Space pre-school and day care center.

The rental owner is Dave Hansen, Lakeway Realty, who owns two other rentals involved in house fires in recent years. Both were electrical or heater-related. Concern continues to grow about the safety conditions of Bellingham’s rental housing. This topic will be addressed at York’s upcoming annual meeting, Wed. Jan. 13, 6:30pm at the Garden St. Methodist Church.

The York Neighborhood Assoc. responded to the fire by posting requests for housing vacancies on social media to assist the displaced tenants find either temporary housing or new winter quarter housing. The American Red Cross and WWU also provided temporary housing.

WWU’s Campus Community Coalition will host a “Rental Safety Workshop” in February at Western and continues to educate students about renter safety and rights. Information is available at: [www.campuscommunitycoalition.com](http://www.campuscommunitycoalition.com).

## Franklin Park Update

By Mark Schofield, YNA Franklin Park Steward

Huge Franklin Park work party gives native plants a chance!

On the brisk morning of Nov. 21st, over 65 people participated in the last Franklin Park work party of the season. Many students from both WWU and WCC took part, as did about 10 employees from Bellwether Real Estate who showed up in their "I [heart] the York District" t-shirts!

We worked on the Franklin Street island removing invasive plants that were competing with our desired natives like low Oregon grape, Pacific madrone, Garry oak and red-flowering currant. We also spread a truckload of mulch.

Thanks go out to the Bellingham Parks Department for staff and logistics support, Lisa Anderson for providing scrumptious refreshments, and Woods Coffee for generously donating coffee and baked goods.

Our volunteer crew will be dormant over the winter, but we'll get started again in March. If you're interested in receiving notices of future Franklin Park work parties, contact Mark Schofield at: [franklinparksteward@yorkneighborhood.org](mailto:franklinparksteward@yorkneighborhood.org).



Volunteers at the Franklin park work party on November 21<sup>st</sup> proudly sporting their York pride

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## Tenant Waste Taskforce

By Edward Tabor, YNA At-Large Member

As can be expected living in a college town with a large population of renters when it comes time for leases to expire and the moving trucks to make their way around town, some items of furniture don't always make it to their new home. Whether it's a TV on the side of the road or a couch conspicuously peeking out behind a dumpster or ivy clump, these items can become a real eyesore or health hazard.

At the end of this past year, a group of representatives from the Bellingham Planning Committee, Bellingham Public Works, Western Washington University Campus Community Coalition, Bellingham Police, as well as representatives from many of the neighborhoods (Anne Mackie and Edward Tabor for York) gathered to discuss the current problems being generated by tenants improperly disposing of waste and furniture. Keeping in mind that the meeting was only the first of many, it was discussed that the numerous items of furniture lying out for days or weeks was costing Public Works an immense amount of money to pick up – money that had to be pulled out of the road repair fund. The Police were also spending a lot of time working to resolve complaints when their time could be spent elsewhere. In short, tenant waste in Bellingham was generating a lot of problems (For specifics on the meeting or to help represent York on the Task Force contact Board member Edward Tabor). So what can we do to help?

While specifics are still yet to be decided, there are organizations that will take furniture donations or deal with delinquent furniture on the side of the road. The **House 2 Home Network** (360-224-7185 or on Facebook) is a Non-profit organization that will take your unwanted furniture to homes in need, providing that you can hold onto it until someone expresses an interest. If you are



A lonely recliner discarded in the rain

looking instead to rid yourself of furniture but are unsure of where to take it, the **Recycling & Disposal Services Inc.** transfer station in Ferndale (360-384-8011) or the **Sanitary Service Company Drop Box Facility & Recycling Center in Bellingham** (360-734-3490) will provide a location to dispose of large items or trash you don't know what to do with. Lastly, if you wish to report an item of furniture on the side of the road you think needs to be picked up you can report it to Bellingham Public Works (360-778-7700).

“We need community action and policies to support healthy communities”

Mark Hyman, Physician and Author

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## KID'S CORNER

By Kim Bogren Owen, Newsletter Editor, YNA

Who are the creatures in our neighborhood?

Many of the birds and other animals leave when it starts to get cold, but some stay around. And you may even see some new ones as they migrate from the colder north. Today I saw both a hummingbird and a robin in our front yard, and it is almost Christmas!

Anna's Hummingbird overwinters here so you may be seeing some as well. It is OK to feed these birds even during the winter (you aren't keeping them here) so consider putting out a hummingbird feeder. Did you know that hummingbirds can fly 60 miles per hour? That is almost as fast as your parents drive on the highway!

At night keep an eye out for raccoons, opossums, and skunks. These nocturnal animals (asleep in the day, awake at night) like to raid our trashcans and gardens for any food they can find. We want to keep our food away from these animals since they can find their own food, but they are tricky and often find a way!

Deer browse on all sorts of plants so you will see them around as well. They are very beautiful animals that are fun to watch.

We don't see foxes or coyotes very often, but they visit occasionally.

Bald eagles also over winter here, although they are mostly down in Skagit County. They come for the salmon that are migrating up our streams and rivers to lay their eggs. You can see them on the bridge at Arroyo Park.

Keep your eyes out for these animals, as well as owls, and see how many of them you can find in the neighborhood.

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Young musicians sharing their talent at the annual York youth picnic talent show



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**Volunteer Mobilization Special Event  
Saturday, January 23rd  
10:00am-Noon**

The Volunteer Center of Whatcom County is having an Orientation to the Volunteer Mobilization Center (VMC) on Saturday, January 23, 2016 from 10:00 am – 12:00 Noon. The VMC functions as a processing center for all volunteers who wish to help out in the event of a natural or manmade catastrophic disaster. See this link for more details on the event:

[http://whatcomvolunteer.galaxydigital.com/event/detail/?event\\_id=23512](http://whatcomvolunteer.galaxydigital.com/event/detail/?event_id=23512)

**York Calendar of Events**

*Save the Dates!*

**YNA GENERAL MEETING**

Wed., January 13th  
Garden St. United Methodist Church  
1326 N. Garden St.  
6:30 pm Soup Supper  
7 pm Speakers & Meeting

•••••

**YNA BOARD MEETING**

Wed., Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>  
Officer Elections  
7pm at Garden St. United Methodist Church

•••••

**YNA GENERAL MEETING**

Wed., March 9th  
7pm at Garden St. United Methodist Church

•••••

**York Neighborhood  
Association Donation Form**

- Students \$5.00
- Singles \$10.00
- Business \$100.00 - includes a business card size ad for four issues.
- Household \$20.00
- Other Amount

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

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

Ph# \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Return Form & Check to: Don Hilty-Jones,  
YNA Treasurer,  
1316 Franklin St.  
Bellingham, WA 98225**



Young volunteers learn planting skills from Parks Volunteer Coordinator Rae Edwards, right, at the Rock Hill Part October 2015 work party.

**KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH YORK NEWS!**

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- Join Nextdoor York

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