

THE YORKER

FEBRUARY 2019



FROM THE YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION—BRINGING THE YORK COMMUNITY TOGETHER

YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, ~~February 13th~~

at Garden Street United Methodist Church

1326 North Garden Street

5:30 to 8:30pm

5:30pm—Community Baked-Potato Supper (YNA Board supplies the baked potatoes. Please bring your choice of toppings to share.)

6:15pm—Neighborhood Police Report, Bellingham Police Department Officer Eric Osterkamp

6:30pm—Meeting & Speakers

**Meeting postponed
due to weather/safety concerns!**
new date TBA via web, social media, YNA list

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Topic #1: "Preserve and Promote A Healthy Tree Canopy," with speaker John Hymas.

A long-time Bellingham environmental activist and certified arborist, John has planted hundreds of trees to improve the city's tree canopy. A former president of the **Happy Valley Neighborhood Association**, John initiated many tree-planting projects there and throughout the city. He currently serves as a commissioner for the **Chuckanut Community Forest Park District**, is a former **City Parks & Rec Board** member, and is involved with **Tree Keepers**.

Topic #2: "Update on School Bus Barn at Whatcom Creek."

Anne Mackie, YNA Board member and cofounder of the **Whatcom Creek Alliance**, will provide information about the School District's planned \$3.5-million construction project of the bus maintenance facility on Whatcom Creek. The Alliance has been advocating for the school district to relocate the buses off the creek as an effort to continue the restoration of this important salmon and wildlife habitat. *See page 3 for more information.*

Topic #3: 2019 YNA Board Election. *See page 2 for more information.*

If you need childcare, please contact Tom Scott, president@yorkneighborhood.org, a few days before the meeting, so we can plan.



Hey,
kids!

Come to the Valentine-Making Party, 5:30 during the York Supper, Wednesday, February 13. We'll have all the fixins for making some super valentines for your loved ones.

Prefer to read *The Yorker* in digital format?
Get it here:

yorkneighborhood.org/newsletters



YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

c/o 336 36th St #370, Bellingham WA 98225

www.yorkneighborhood.org • President@yorkneighborhood.org • [#YorkNeighborhood](https://www.facebook.com/YorkNeighborhood)



News from the 'hood

YNA Board elections and nominations

At the upcoming Annual Meeting, Wednesday, February 13, we will elect the 2019 YNA Board. Nominations are open until then, so now's your chance to get involved! Current board members include: **Tom Scott**, President; **Leigh McDiarmid**, Secretary; **Anne Mackie**, Treasurer; **Mark Ellis Walker**, Newsletter; **Emma Toth**, Student Representative, and **Ticker Ba-Aye**. All these members have agreed to serve another term, but we are recruiting more!

Nominated for election: **Rob Lewis**. Interested in joining us? Let us know by contacting President@YorkNeighborhood.org.

Thank you, party sponsors!

York's 14th Annual **Holiday Horse Wagon Ride and Holiday Caroling Party**, on December 8, was a huge success. **Nelson's Market** was packed with revelers. The horses were well-behaved, and the kids were...well-sugared and joyful. Special thanks to our financial sponsors **Jeremy Ferrera**, with Edward Jones Financial; **Doug Hyldahl**, Attorney; **Tom Scott**, On-Site Computer Services; and **Jon Ostby**, Nelson's Market & Marlins' Café. Several large boxes of food items plus \$40 were donated to the **Bellingham Food Bank**.

The party wouldn't have happened without the hard work of volunteers **Lisa and Cory Anderson**, **Leigh McDiarmid**, **Kirsti Charlton**, **Don Hilty-Jones**, **Michael Neville**, **Anne Mackie**, and guitarist and singer **Barry Buchanan**, and all the cookie bakers and singers. And, of course, thank-you to **Reinbow Ranch** for providing the horse wagon.

New grant funds available

Mayor Linville is bringing back the **Mayor's Small and Simple Grant Program**, which has not been available for the past 10 years. From 2003 to 2008, the YNA applied for and received funding through the program for a variety of neighborhood projects:

- 2003, "Welcome to York" sign at Magnolia and Ellis Streets.
- 2005, printing the **York Historic Walking Tour Map and Brochure**.
- 2006, expenses related to **York's Neighborhood Plan Amendments update**.
- 2006, **Rock Hill Park Butterfly Garden** rock wall and plantings.
- 2007, Historic **Lincoln and Franklin School Reunion Picnic**.
- 2007, **Restoration of the Franklin Street Island Berm** to connect Lakeway Drive to Harriet Spanel Park (then Franklin Park).
- 2008, **Street Tree Planting** project.

We are excited to have the opportunity to apply for funding for additional neighborhood beautification and education projects.

**Have project ideas? Be sure to attend the meeting
February 13!**

Spread the York love, and have fun with it

By *Mark Ellis Walker*, Board member and *Yorker* layout guy

If you've got a playful streak and 20 or so minutes available every few months, please consider being a *Yorker* delivery volunteer!

The York Neighborhood Association is an all-volunteer organization, and that extends to the delivery of these newsletters. We are intensely grateful to all the community members who already provide this service to us so graciously, but over the past few years our distribution organization has fallen by the wayside, with the result that some blocks occasionally don't receive issues at all.

This is a pity, because, as I can testify firsthand, **it is actually a lot of fun** to deliver copies of the *Yorker*! It's a bit like a scavenger hunt: the objective is to leave a copy somewhere on a residence's main porch or gate or wherever, and the challenges are to 1. secure it in some way so it doesn't blow away, 2. try to keep it from getting rained on, and 3. not put it in or on a mailbox. Other than that, you just want it to be somewhere a resident will see it.

Since I started delivering *Yorkers*, a couple of years ago, I've found that there were some addresses where I pretty much only had one placement option...but most others I approach each time in search of a different spot or method of securing the copy. Sometimes it gets tucked in a screen door's handle, sometimes it occupies a flowerpot, sometimes it's tied in a dangling bit of rope; the potential variety of solutions is a hoot.

You can help out and have fun very easily; we just ask that you deliver to one full block's residences and businesses. Here's a list of blocks that are available; if you live on one of these, maybe send a note to YorkerDistribution@yorkneighborhood.org and participate in your community this way!

Billy Frank Jr.: 1300s

James: 1800s

Champion: *from State to Ellis*

Lakeway: 300s to 600s

Forest: 1300s, 1400s, 1500s

Magnolia: *from State to Ellis*

Garden: 1300s, 1400s

State: from Holly to York
(*even numbers only*)

Grant: 1200s

York: 300 to 700

High: 1300s, 1400s

Holly: *from State to Ellis*
(*odd numbers only*)



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Move the school buses ...

The time has come to do the right thing

By Anne Mackie, York Board Member

Whatcom Creek cuts a path through the city from Lake Whatcom on the east to Bellingham Bay on the west. Coho, chum, Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout use this creek; it should be our collective goal to see it flourish. As a unified community we must work together to ensure protections for this creek.

In the coming weeks the **Bellingham School District** will accept bids for its \$3.5 million renovation project of its bus barn, located on York's northern boundary at 1801 James Street, by submitting bids.

Following the deadly pipeline explosion in 1999, millions of dollars were used to restore the burned-out creek. Bellingham voters approved a Greenways 3 levy allocating \$1 million for property acquisition along Whatcom Creek, however, that money was spent elsewhere when the city did not offer a property trade to the school district to relocate the buses.

In 2009 the York Neighborhood Association proposed that the City acquire the bus barn property and create a park and rezone the street frontage property to allow for much needed infill housing. The proposal received unanimous support by the City Council; yet, for 10 years it remained on the back burner.



photo by Alex McLean

At the November 19, 2018, City Council meeting, **Mayor Kelli Linville** stated that “under the current ordinances and regulations we could always condemn it.” Now that is a great idea! Too bad it was made in jest.

What about salmon and orcas?

At the state level, **Governor Jay Inslee** is not joking when he proposes a “herculean effort” to save the orcas. In his press statement issued December 13, 2018, Inslee said, “It will take action at every level of the environment across our entire state. We need to restore the ecosystem to one that sustains orcas, salmon and the quality of life for all Washingtonians.” Hopefully, Olympia will take a closer look at what’s happening on Whatcom Creek as they evaluate restoration efforts for salmon.



What’s wrong with this picture looking down on Whatcom Creek and the bus barn?

Moving forward

In an effort to create a community dialogue, the YNA hosted a public meeting January 8, 2019, with members of the **Bellingham School District**, **City Parks & Recreation Department**, **Parks Board**, **Greenways Board** (current and former), **WRIA-Area 1** (Water Resources Inventory), **Sierra Club**, several neighborhood associations, and City Council member **Michael Lilliquist**.



Community participates at York’s special Bus Barn & Whatcom Creek Meeting, January 8.

Resources

Following the meeting, a new community coalition—the **Whatcom Creek Alliance**—formed to continue organizing support to relocate the school bus barn. Its Facebook page will share information about future meetings.

A series of articles by **Alex McLean**, local environmental activist and president of the **Happy Valley Association**, are posted online at **Northwest Citizen**, <https://nwcitizen.com>

What you can do

Write letters urging the Bellingham School District to relocate its bus facility off Whatcom Creek, addressed to:

- Superintendent: **Dr. Greg Baker**
greg.baker@bellingshamschools.org
- **The Bellingham School Board:**
board@bellingshamschools.org or bellingshamschools.org/about/school-board/listening-post/

South side news: updates on the Samish Way Urban Village

Groundbreaking is scheduled for early summer 2019 at the former **Aloha Motel** site at 315 North Samish Way. This much-awaited event will begin the construction of an affordable housing complex owned by the **Bellingham Housing Authority** (BHA) that is considered an anchor property for the redevelopment of the **Samish Way Urban Village**, which abuts York Neighborhood on its most southern border.

The property will be redeveloped into a complex with 160 apartments and townhouses for residents with a range of incomes, new office headquarters for the housing agency, a parking garage for tenants, and commercial spaces along North Samish Way.



A backhoe is positioned to begin work in a few months at the Bellingham Housing Authority building at 315 North Samish Way.



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Originally approved in 2009, the **Samish Way Urban Village** (SWUV) plan is being updated to include changes made since 2009 to the Comprehensive Plan and the city-wide pedestrian and bicycle master plans. A brief summary of these updates includes:

- Increase height limits for BHA's new housing complex up to 75';
- Allow flexibility in the ground-floor commercial-use requirement to discourage auto-oriented development and encourage residential uses, while allowing for conversion over time;
- Clarify and simplify street improvements for the extension of 35th Street;
- Expand the types of infill housing in the Residential Transition-2 zone and increase the allowable density for this type of development to 1,000 s.f./unit;
- Reevaluate parking requirements and other strategies to ensure highest and best use of redeveloped properties;
- Create a safe and comfortable urban street environment for bicycles and pedestrians along Samish Way;
- Update the Samish Way regulations to be consistent with city-wide commercial code requirements, where applicable (e.g., expanded bike parking requirements)

The Planning Commission will continue to review and recommend changes until the proposals are presented to the City Council on **February 11, 7pm**, at City Hall. For more information contact **Darby Cowles**, Senior Planner, City of Bellingham: dkcowles@cob.org, 360-778-8389.



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.

For love of our trees

Protecting and adding to our neighborhood trees has been a 30-year mission of neighborhood volunteers. So, breathe deep and enjoy the fact that one large tree supplies a day's supply of oxygen for four people.

This map of York shows our remaining treasured "heritage" trees noted for their age, rarity, and size as well as aesthetic, botanical, ecological, and historical value. This list was originally created in 2009 as part of the York National Historic Neighborhood research project. Enjoy a walk through the neighborhood and see how many you can find!



NEXT
The April issue of the Yorker will feature a guide to the trees of Harriet Spanel Park!

York Historic District (shaded)

North of Lakeway Drive

Address	Tree Name
1415 Humboldt	Blue Spruce, Cedar
1711 Humboldt	Walnut
1421 Iron	Elm
1450 Iron	Catalpa
1464 Iron	Silver 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
711 Gladstone	Walnut

South of Lakeway Drive

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

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Keeping York's parks healthy for you

On December 8th, more than 25 volunteers—including a large contingent of students and several nearby neighbors—assisted with the **Harriet Spanel Park volunteer work party**. Together we hauled out two large bags of trash and recyclables, removed many invasive plants, trimmed back overgrown vegetation, planted native plants (such as Oregon grape, kinnikinnik, and Sitka alder), and spread a load of mulch. Many thanks to the volunteers for two hours of diligent work, the **City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department** for guiding the effort, and **Woods Coffee** for the donation of hot coffee and baked goods to keep us going.



In an effort to open up Rock Hill Park for more play and dog walking, the Parks and Recreation Department cleared away overgrown shrubbery. New native, low-growing plants are coming this spring.



Thanks to our 25 volunteers who helped at the December 8 Harriet Spanel Park work party!

Western students CAN

Western Washington University is introducing the **Community Ambassador Network (CAN)** in 2019 with the goal of creating inclusive neighborhoods and to engage student voices in Bellingham. CAN describes itself as *"a student collective of community builders; amplifying student voices in Bellingham's neighborhood Associations, engaging students in local issues, and promoting health and well-being in our communities."*

CAN will be training student ambassadors during this school quarter to stay up-to-date with local issues, represent the University in neighborhoods, and unify long-term residents and students. Student ambassadors are already in place in the **York** and **Happy Valley** neighborhoods, with more to soon follow. Ambassadors will meet monthly to discuss neighborhood and student issues and to plan events and/or projects in neighborhoods. York neighborhood currently has one student ambassador, and, according to group organizers, more students may join soon.



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Meet, and join, the York Board!

Welcome to three new York Board members who have already joined but will be part of the 2019 slate for election at the Annual Meeting Wednesday, February. 13. They will be joining **Tom Scott, Leigh Mcdiarmid, and Anne Mackie**. There's plenty of room for more. One year, we had 15 board members, which meant we got a lot more done! Come to the February 13 meeting to learn more about the job.

*My name is **Emma Toth**, and I am a Junior at Western Washington University. I am currently doing a double major, working on degrees in both Political Science and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. I've been living in the York Neighborhood for two years, but I am originally from Seattle. In the summers I move to Oregon, where I teach surfing to all ages and have participated in the Hood to Coast Relay for the past two years.*

*I am coordinating with **WWU's Community Ambassador Network** (see page 6 for more about CAN) to represent Western on the YNA Board and am looking forward to being able to serve and learn more about the neighborhood!*



Emma



Mark

I'm **Mark Ellis Walker**, an 11-year renting resident of northern Iron Street since fleeing Seattle in 2007 after 20 years. Professionally I'm a freelance graphic designer and editor by trade who wears a variety of other hats as situations call for them.

Before joining the board in late 2018, I took on the layout of the *Yorker* newsletter in fall 2016 and have enjoyed working with the YNA to help keep neighbors up to date on York's status and activities.

And oh boy am I a cat person. I don't drive, and thus I've earned the nickname of The Cat Whisperer from some neighbors along my grocery-run route between home and Fred Meyer, as I visit with (and know by name) nearly all outdoor kitties along the way. I grow catnip, so on summer afternoons it's not unusual to see a trail of blissed-out cats lying on the sidewalk in my wake.

*My name is Shannon Ba-Aye but I go by **Ticker**, a nickname my father gave me early on. My family moved here when I was 4, and at 21 I moved away to explore the rest of the country. After twelve years away I'm so happy to be back in the PNW with a family of my own. With all its beauty and endless outdoor activities I have plenty to fill my free time and my heart! We moved here from New Orleans in 2016 and in 2017 we happily bought a little home in the York neighborhood.*

As small-business owners and with two young children of our own, my husband and I are deeply interested in becoming more closely connected to our community along with making efforts to get involved with, support and nurture the neighborhood around us—hence my desire to be a part of the Board.

I look forward to the coming year serving on the board and getting to know my fellow Yorkers!



Ticker



Board Responsibilities

Board members help organize annual events such as the summer picnic, spring Dumpster Day clean-up, December holiday and horse-wagon party, park work parties, write and help deliver the newsletter, assist with community meals, and participate in a variety of city meetings to carry out the mission of the neighborhood association.

Board meetings are held six times a year, on the off-months that a general meeting is held. The next Board meeting is March 13, 7pm, at Garden Street United Methodist Church. Come see for yourself, and consider joining the Board!

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Calendar of York Events

February						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		
March						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
April						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, February 11
 7pm
 at City Hall
 410 Lottie Street

City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, February 25
 7pm
 at City Hall
 210 Lottie Street

York Annual Meeting
Wednesday, February 13
 5:30pm Community Supper & Valentines Party
 6:30 Meeting
 at Garden Street United Methodist Church
 1326 North Garden Street

YNA Board Meeting & Election of 2019 Officers
Wednesday, March 13
 7pm
 at Garden Street United Methodist Church
 1326 North Garden Street

Presidents' Day Holiday
Monday, February 18

General York Meeting
Wednesday, April 10
 5:30pm Community Supper
 6:30pm Meeting
 at Garden Street United Methodist Church
 1326 North Garden Street

City Planning Commission Meeting
Thursday, February 21
 7pm
 at City Hall
 210 Lottie Street

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CONTACT

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President@YorkNeighborhood.org

website: www.YorkNeighborhood.org

For advertising / business donations, contact:

YorkerEditor@YorkNeighborhood.org

Donations to the York Neighborhood Association are appreciated!

YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION DONATION FORM

suggested donation levels

- Students—\$5 Household—\$20 Singles—\$10 Other Amount _____
 Business—\$100 *includes a business-card-size ad for four issues of The Yorker*

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