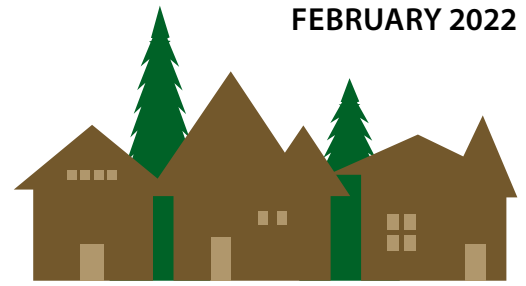


THE YORKER

FEBRUARY 2022



FROM THE YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION—BRINGING THE YORK COMMUNITY TOGETHER

YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, February 23, 2022
7:00–8:00pm

to be held online via Zoom

access codes will be posted on www.yorkneighborhood.org

Topics:

Guest: **Lieutenant Claudia Murphy**,
Bellingham Police Department's
Public Information Officer,
assigned to Special Operations



- Policing challenges with reduced officer staff
- Managing vehicles/RVs used for shelter
- How citizens can foster safe neighborhoods

- **YNA Board of Directors** Final Nominations & Election
- Rock Hill Park “Small & Simple” Grant Report
- Park, Committees, Projects Reports
- Annual Treasurer’s Report



Lights on, please!

Porch lights brighten up the neighborhood and deter unsavory behavior. An LED bulb will save tons of energy (\$), alleviating the guilt of leaving outside lights on. And your mail carrier and delivery people will be grateful, too, for safer navigation to and from your door!



IN THIS ISSUE

York Board elections	2
Use the City's SeeClickFix app	3
Local business spotlight	3
Rock Hill Park improvements	4–5
Amy Brown moving on	
Parks Work Party report	
Scarecrow contest results	6
Garden Street church departs	7
Calendar of events	8

York's Loving Tree Needs YOU

Come hang a Valentine on the tree at **Nelson's Market** (514 Potter Street) and tell us what you LOVE about our neighborhood. Paper and ribbon to make a valentine are on the bulletin board in front of the market, if you need materials. Share your love!

Sidewalk Snow & Ice Removal

It is the sole responsibility of the property owner or tenant to shovel and remove snow and ice on their abutting sidewalk.

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

yorkneighborhood.org/newsletters



YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

c/o 2950 Newmarket St #101–216, Bellingham WA 98226-3872

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



2022 York Board elections

Board elections will take place at the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, February 23, a meeting to be held via Zoom. If interested in volunteering to join the Board, please apply by contacting current President **Tom Scott** at President@yorkneighborhood.org.

Board Requirements: You must live in York, or have a business in the neighborhood, and be 18-years or older. One-year term; members must be available to attend monthly board meetings, which are currently being held in person, so COVID vaccination is required for in-person attendance; otherwise, you will participate remotely.

Duties: Each member volunteers to chair or cochair one of York's activities or committees: annual picnic, holiday wagon-ride and party, Dumpster Day cleanup, help with park work parties, or other events. Board members assist with writing and handing out the *Yorker* newsletter (approximately four times per year in a "normal" year). Committees that are currently inactive but which we hope to revitalize in 2022 include Planning, Historic Preservation, and STARS (neighborhood trash cleanup). The Wine & Roses Garden Club continues to meet and welcomes new members. Its chair and York's two park stewards are not required to be Board members.

Elected Officers: The 2022 new Board will elect its officers at its first meeting of the new year: president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. It will nominate a representative and alternate to the **Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission (MNAC)**, which is an appointment by the Mayor.

Current 2021 Officers, Board Members, and Others:

President—Tom Scott

Vice President—Anne Mackie

Treasurer—John DeOrio

Secretary—Mark Ellis Walker

MNAC Representative—Tom Scott; *Alternate*—Anne Mackie

Members-at-Large: Audra Blankers, Jeremy Ferrera, Colin Beazley, Chris Donaldson, and Opie Knechtel

Newsletter Editors: Anne Mackie, Mark Ellis Walker

Wine & Roses Garden Club Chair: Dondena Scott

Harriett Spanel Park Steward: Mark Schofield

Rock Hill Park Steward: John DeOrio

2022 Board Nominees

Returning: Colin Beazley, John DeOrio, Chris Donaldson, Jeremy Ferrera, Opie Knechtel, Anne Mackie, Tom Scott, Mark Ellis Walker

Add your name here? We hope so!

Contact president@yorkneighborhood.org to apply.

Meet two new York Board members!

Colin Beazley

Colin, his partner Kristin, and two young boys Charlie and Wesley moved into the York neighborhood in August 2021.

They remodeled a Victorian home on Humboldt where Kristin lived during her time at Western. The family enjoys listening to music, frequenting local parks, and cooking. Colin has his MBA from the University of Washington and leads the Professional Services teams at **Smartsheet**, a Bellevue-based technology company. Colin and Kristin spend their philanthropic time giving back to educational causes. Colin spent 10 years on Seattle-based YMCA boards, and Kristin is a school psychologist for elementary-school children.

Colin looks forward to working with the Board on improving quality of life for all friends, families, and neighbors of the York neighborhood. He is particularly interested in maintaining the historic charm of the neighborhood, improving Rock Hill Park, and giving the York community a voice in broader Bellingham conversations. He enjoys meeting new neighbors and listening to their York stories. Say hello if you see him around the neighborhood!



Opie Knechtel

Opie has had a 35-year goal to move back to the York neighborhood, but life keeps getting in the way! Recently escaped from a 24-year stint out in the county on acreage, she can now be found living and working out of a fixer-upper apartment in the downtown section of York neighborhood on Champion Street.

Someday she'll retire, life willing, to her "granny" house on Humboldt Street. Until then, ERP software programming, several small-fry home businesses, food-lab projects, and camping with her husband and provincial one-eyed cat in the wilds of Eastern Washington keep her busy and out of trouble.



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.

Use “SeeClickFix™” to help our neighborhood

Tired of looking at old mattresses thrown out on the curb? See a street pothole? There’s a reporting system you can use to get the City’s attention to the problem. The City’s SeeClickFix™ browser application and mobile app was set up in February 2021 for citizens to report nonemergency issues to Public Works. Go to the City’s **Report an Issue** web page to use: <https://cob.org/about/contacts/report>

After filing a report, you’ll receive an automatic update, an assessment, and what repair may have been done. Reporting may be done confidentially and anonymously or by creating an account.



Urgent Issues? Residents should still phone 360-778-7700 to report urgent issues such as a broken water main.

Examples of issues listed on the city website that can be reported using SeeClickFix include: ADA accessibility, such as overgrown vegetation blocking the sidewalk; minor flooding and drainage problems; graffiti; litter and illegal dumping, such as furniture left on sidewalks; missing lid or grate; missing or damaged signs; potholes and street repair needs; street light issues; traffic-signal issue; water-utility leak; and code violations.



A positive, practical, research-based approach to parenting that works!

Services Offered to Parents with Children of All Ages:

- One-on-One Parent Coaching
- Virtual Group Seminars
- Scholarships Available

NOW ACCEPTING INSURANCE - CALL FOR MORE INFO

Visit our website or call for a FREE consultation!

114 W. Magnolia Street #300 | Crown Plaza Building
www.parenting-academy.org | (360) 922-3600

Focus on York business

Plantas Nativa flourishes as native-plant interest grows

In a small space tucked on the western edge of the York Neighborhood, a large vision for Planet Earth is growing. Specializing in plants that are native to the Pacific Northwest and educating gardeners about using natives is the vision **Plantas Nativa** has fostered since 1994.

Originally located further south on State Street, Plantas Nativa moved to the lot at 315 East Champion Street in York several years ago, where it operates a retail, wholesale, and online plant nursery. Owner **Bay Renaud** and employee **Angie O’Hare** spend time with each customer, advising them on how best to use native plants in their home gardens. If there’s a special plant they don’t have in stock, they can track it down for you.

Recently, they helped select native plants to be good pollinator attractors for the Rock Hill Park pollinator garden (see pages 4–5 for more on this). Finding the right plants for bees, butterflies, and birds will help bring more pollinators to the neighborhood garden in the spring and summer. A planting work party will be held in early spring at Rock Hill Park.

Plantas Nativa has over 125 different plants, none dug from the wild, available from many commercial growers. Small or large orders can be filled, including bare roots, plugs, 4" pots, 1-gallon to 15-gallon and larger. Winter hours for the shop are Tuesdays, 10am to noon for curbside pickup and shopping. Staff is also available by appointment; call 360-715-9655, or email sales@plantasnativa.com.

What better way to spend the last few weeks of winter than scrolling through online plant catalogues and imagining digging your hands into the dirt? Visit **Plantas Nativa** and get excited about spring! www.plantasnativa.com



A.A. Anderson Co., Inc.
Heating • A.C. • Electrical • Sheet Metal
360-734-7710

1409 N. FOREST STREET
BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

Family Owned and
Operated since 1948

Bees, butterflies, basketballs bounce back at Rock Hill Park

By Anne Mackie, Editor

Pollinators welcome here!

We can't wait for spring at York's Pollinator Garden in Rock Hill Park. Thanks to a City of Bellingham "Small and Simple" Grant in 2021, many new plants that provide nectar for a wide range of insects will take root soon. A new interpretive sign in the lower level of the park was crafted by **NW Custom Signs & Graphics** and **Carlson Steelworks** and will be installed by Bellingham's **Parks and Recreation Department**.

The new sign explains the importance of creating pollinator gardens: "Flowering shrubs, spring and summer bloomers make nectar for the pollinators, who carry it to other plants to help keep crops, vegetables, and fruits growing. This garden has what pollinators need to do their important work."

A variety of flowering plants purchased from **Kent's Garden & Nursery** and **Plantas Nativa** will be planted in early spring by York volunteers who will also tag the plants so visitors can learn what plants do well here. New mason-bee houses have been sprinkled throughout the park. Look up!

Originally designed and planted in 1998 by the York **Wine & Roses Garden Club**, the pollinator garden has gone through many redos over the years. In 2005, **Boy Scout Troop 4019** installed the rock retaining wall, also paid for by a City "Small and Simple" Grant.

Beautyberry (Callicarpa) at Rock Hill butterfly garden entices birds with its magenta purple berries in winter



A new interpretive sign coming to Rock Hill Park

Basketball court gets a makeover, too

Thanks to Bellingham **Parks and Recreation** staff for improvements coming in 2022 to Rock Hill Park's basketball court, which will be repainted and gets a new hoop and adjustable pole later this year; these replace the pole and hoop installed by neighborhood volunteers in the 1980s. A new bench will be added at the top of the sledding hill, which also serves as a frisbee field, dog exercise area, and a nice place to just roll down the hill. Several years ago, the city expanded the park by purchasing this extra lot where an abandoned house stood.

Come out to the park and enjoy one of Bellingham's hidden treasures. Better yet: sign up to help with our spring work parties by contacting Rock Hill Park Steward **John DeOrio** at RockHillParkSteward@yorkneighborhood.org.

Farewell & best wishes to Amy Brown

For the past three and a half years, York has been working side-by-side with **Amy Brown**, Bellingham Parks & Recreation Department Volunteer Coordinator, to organize and plan several projects at our two parks: Harriett Spanel and Rock Hill. She left us in December to join Americorps as Program Director for Washington Campus Compact. We will miss her!

Under her leadership we held many successful work parties at both parks, began a restoration project of the butterfly garden at Rock Hill Park, and were inspired by her excellent organizing and leadership skills. We wish her well in her new position. Welcome, now, to **Ryan Robie**, Interim Parks Volunteer Coordinator.

A brief history of Rock Hill Park

In the late 1970s this open-space parcel of four-plus lots was slated to become a multiunit apartment complex, but with federal block grant funds the land was purchased for \$35,000. York Neighborhood Association took over maintenance of the area, and thus Rock Hill Park was born. Over the next 20 years, York volunteers oversaw many projects: regrading and seeding the upper open-space area, clearing out brambles and blackberries, and creating access to the large sandstone rock for climbing and a good spot to view Mount Baker. They also built the staircase to connect to the lower level and installed the basketball court and the perennial garden berm along the alley with flowering plants for a butterfly habitat. In 2005 the local Boy Scout Troop installed the stone wall circling the butterfly garden. Many of these projects were funded by the City's "Small and Simple" Grant awards from the Mayor's Office.



The abandoned house sat next to the park for many years until finally, following a suspicious fire, the owner was required to demolish it. In 2008 the City purchased the lot and added it to the park.



Volunteers spread dirt for the butterfly/perennial garden bed and prepare memorial bench area, circa early 1990s.

Rock Hill Park is between the Humboldt/Iron alley and I-5 just north of Lakeway Drive.

Work Party: Rock Hill Park Sunday, March 20 • 10am–Noon



Amy Brown

Sun shines on Harriet Spanel Park work party

By Mark Schofield, Park Steward

On a beautiful December 11 morning between storms, nearly 30 volunteers came together to spruce up Harriet Spanel Park. The crew primarily picked up litter and removed invasives, filling up a large city truck with pulled Himalayan blackberry, tansy, Scotch broom, and other species that crowd out native plants.

It was a great day for families, too! Many thanks to all the volunteers as well as the City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department's excellent staff and AmeriCorps members. If you have ideas for this park or want to be notified of future work parties, contact Park Steward Mark Schofield at harrietspanelparksteward@yorkneighborhood.org.



Mark Schofield and son Miles do some serious lopping at the Harriet Spanel Park work party.

Work Party: Harriet Spanel Park Saturday, June 11 • 10am–Noon

Harriet Spanel Park is south of Lakeway Drive, at Grant and Whatcom Streets.

Autumn fun on York's porches

Check out the contestants who participated in our October scarecrow contest! All participants won a \$20 gift certificate to Planta Nativas.



1336 Grant



1411 Humboldt



1428 Iron



1229 Grant

LAW OFFICE OF DOUGLAS HYLDAHL, P.S.

DOUGLAS HYLDAHL
Attorney at Law

DUI/DWI • Criminal Defense • Protection Orders

360-734-8176
email: doug@hyldahl-law.com

103 E. Holly St., Suite 505
Bellingham, WA 98225



Jeremy Ferrera
Financial Advisor

1801 Roeder Ave Suite 156
Bellingham, WA 98225-2257
Bus. 360-671-0850 Cell 360-348-0018
Fax 855-426-4545
jeremy.ferrera@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com
California Insurance License OC24309

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



EVERYBODY
DESERVES
EXPERT CARE
**Long-Acting, Reversible
Contraception**

1.800.230.PLAN | mbpp.org
Bellingham • Mount Vernon • Friday Harbor



Skyline
PHYSICAL THERAPY

Jane Richardson PT, SCD, OCS, COMT

360-738-4300
FAX: 360-738-8010

1408 N. Garden Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

www.skyline-physicaltherapy.com

The end of an era on Garden Street

York's long-time neighbors and friends the **Garden Street United Methodist Church** have moved out of their historic church and are now meeting temporarily at **Four Points by Sheraton** for services. We will miss them and their hospitality, as this was York Neighborhood's meeting place for many decades. Always welcoming, with open-door policies, and allowing YNA to use their kitchen facilities and meeting spaces, the GSUMC family will be missed.

New owners have not been announced, but the building sold in late 2021. According to **WhatcomTalk's** December 24, 2021, article, the new tenant agrees to use the existing building and ensure that the handmade stained-glass windows and other flourishes remain. See the full article on the history of the church at <https://www.whatcomtalk.com/2021/12/24/a-historical-look-at-bellinghams-oldest-churches-part-1>.



in the historic York neighborhood at
514 Potter Street

call in to take out: **360-734-2448**

Get some love at Marlins' Café. Chocolate-chip pancakes, biscuits and gravy. House-made soups and specials every day!

Happy Hour
4-6 PM

great burgers & fries

dinner-plate specials



#Nelsons-Market-Marlins-Cafe

7 days a week

microbrews on tap

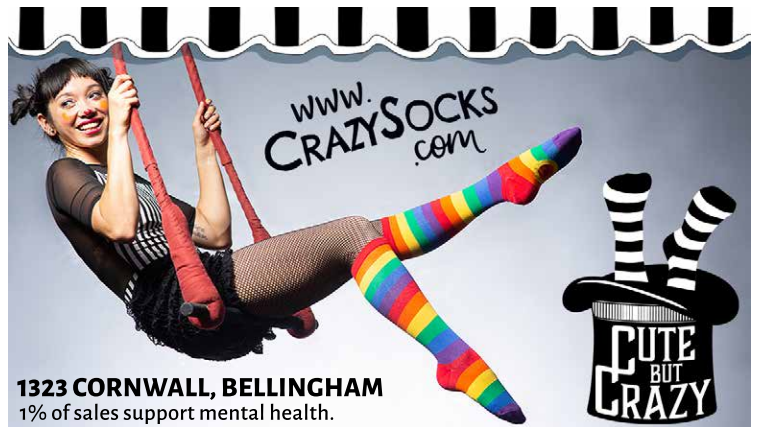
wine by the glass or bottle

**Fantastic Frames.
Thorough Doctor.
Outstanding Service.**



Binyon Vision Center

Located Downtown Bellingham since 1933!
411 E. Magnolia Street 360-647-2020
www.binyonvision.com



1223 CORNWALL, BELLINGHAM
1% of sales support mental health.

Advertise in *The Yorker!*

GREAT RATES

Business-card size
\$30 per issue or \$100
for four issues

¼ page
\$50 per issue or \$175 for four

1,000 copies delivered
door-to-door!



Contact: YorkerEditor@yorkneighborhood.org

Rhythms of Life



wellness studio

Kim Haustedt, D.C., QNCP

1404 N. Garden Street, Bellingham, WA 98225
Tel: (360) 714-0550 info@rolws.com www.rolws.com

Calendar of York Events

February						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 <small>ELECTION DAY</small>	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

York's Loving Valentines Tree Days

February 6 to 16
outside Nelson's Market, 514 Potter Street
see page 1 for details

Valentine's Day

Monday, February 14

Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission (MNAC) Meeting
Wednesday, February 16, 6:30 pm
via Zoom

President's Day Holiday

Monday, February 21
no school

York Annual Membership Meeting
Wednesday, February 23, 7-8:30pm
via Zoom
access codes will be posted on www.yorkneighborhood.org

March is Women's History Month

National Peanut Butter Lovers' Day
Tuesday, March 1
Peanut butter pancakes and waffles at Nelson's Market

National Learn About Butterflies Day
Monday, March 14
Visit the butterfly garden at Rock Hill Park

MNAC Meeting
Wednesday, March 16, 6:30 pm
via Zoom

St. Patrick's Day

Thursday, March 17

Hunt for the pot of gold in York Neighborhood,
all day and night

Work Party at Rock Hill Park
First Day of Spring
Sunday March 20, 10am to Noon

York Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 23, 7pm
Marlins' Café

Spring Break
Bellingham Public Schools
April 4-8

MNAC Meeting
Wednesday, April 20, 6:30pm
via Zoom

Earth Day Celebration
Work party at Rock Hill Park
Saturday, April 23, 10am to noon

York General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, April 27, 7-8:30pm
via Zoom?

44th Annual Dumpster Day
June—date to be announced

Work Party at Harriet Spanel Park
Saturday, June 11, 9am to Noon

CONTACT

York Neighborhood Association
mailing address:
2950 Newmarket St #101-216
Bellingham WA 98226-3872

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*

Make check payable to the **York Neighborhood Association**

Name _____

Address _____ Phone Number _____

Email _____

Return form and check to: YNA Treasurer · c/o 336 36th St #370
Bellingham WA 98225