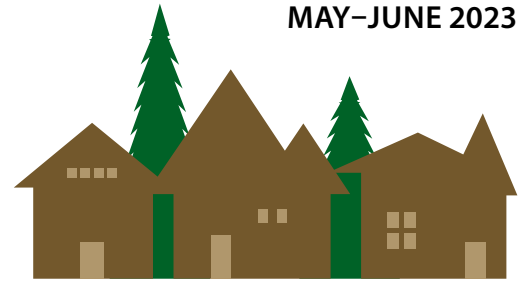


THE YORKER

MAY-JUNE 2023



FROM THE YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION—BRINGING THE YORK COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Bulletin boards are coming to our parks!

By Megan Doyle

Each year, the City of Bellingham allocates \$40,000 to fund the **Small & Simple Grant** program—small amounts of money to be used for simple but substantial improvements. In the past, the **York Neighborhood Association (YNA)** has utilized Small & Simple funding to complete many projects, ranging from park improvements to historic preservation. The Butterfly Garden at Rock Hill Park, the “Welcome to York” signs on Ellis Street, and many of our annual community events have all been funded through this program. The application guidelines specify a preference for project proposals that “make real, substantial, and positive changes” to the neighborhood, and it is in that spirit that we are proud to announce the City has approved our 2023 selection!

It’s hard to miss the freestanding bulletin board outside of **Nelson’s Market** at 514 Potter Street, and that’s by design. The simple structure is well loved and much utilized by local residents (as evidenced by the hundreds of staples I pulled out of it last weekend) for seeking everything from babysitting to lost pets to garage sales, and beyond. In an increasingly digital age, there is something truly sincere and effective about a handwritten sign that a Facebook post simply cannot compete with, which is why, for our 2023 Small and Simple project, the YNA Board of Directors proposed erecting **additional bulletin boards in Rock Hill Park and Harriet Spanel Park**. We plan to utilize local labor and materials and will allocate funding for ongoing maintenance.



In future years, we envision converting one side of each bulletin board into a monument sign for the parks, which will detail their histories and further cement the unique sense of place and community that makes York our home. These boards will join the one at Nelson’s as places where our children advertise their lemonade stands, where our friends promote small businesses, and where our neighbors connect in a “real, substantial, and positive” way.

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There is a **lot** happening in York these days!

A graphic showing a calendar of events for June and July. Each event is represented by a date card with a colored header and a brief description.

- JUN 3**: York Community Farm Work Party! see pg. 4
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Prefer to read *The Yorker* in digital format?
Get it here:

yorkneighborhood.org/newsletters



YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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President's Corner

By Colin Beazley, YNA President

Spring is sprung in the York neighborhood, and after months of hibernation, NOW is the time to meet your neighbor and visit local businesses in Bellingham. The York Neighborhood Association is putting together a slate of fun, family-friendly activities, to meet neighbors and community members. Get these onto your calendars, as we know this is a busy time of year.

I want to wish good luck to our graduating students—of all ages—in the York neighborhood. You have endured a lot the past years: a pandemic, isolation, and a polarized environment. I imagined if I had to give a graduation speech to the York community, here's what I'd say:

First, **be curious.** Curiosity is the fuel of learning, discovery, and innovation. It is what drives us to explore new things, to challenge assumptions, to seek new perspectives. Be curious about yourself, your neighbors, about the world. Be curious about the problems that need solving, the opportunities where you can lend a hand, and consider actions over words.

Second, **be compassionate.** It is what connects us to each other, to other living beings, to our community. Don't let fear, hatred, or prejudice cloud your judgment or harden your heart. Be compassionate towards those who are suffering or struggling, those who are different or marginalized, those who need your help or support.



Third, **be courageous.** Courage is the power of action. Courage is what makes us resilient and adaptable in times of change and uncertainty. Don't let doubt, failure, or criticism stop you from trying new things or following your passion. Be courageous in your choices and actions, in your words and deeds, in your vision and mission.

Class of 2023 and York neighborhood, we are entering a new phase at a pivotal moment in our history. We are entering a world that is full of challenges and opportunities, of threats and promises. We have inherited a community that needs our curiosity, compassion, and our courage more than ever.

Fun was indeed had by kids throughout the neighborhood during the Painted Rock Hunt on April 22!



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Come help out at Rock Hill Park!

On **June 17**, from 9–12 pm, the York Neighborhood Association and City of Bellingham Parks Department are teaming up for a Work Party at **Rock Hill Park**, located just west of I-5 north of Lakeway Drive. Join a group of neighbors to tend to our pollinator garden and take on invasive species. All ages and abilities are welcome. Participants under age 14 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Tools, gloves, and instructions are provided. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. If you plan to attend, please sign up ahead of time by searching for the Rock Hill Work Party at volunteerbellingham.org.

We had great turnout at the last few work parties, and it is a great opportunity to give back to your park and meet some neighbors. See you there!



Local biz with global reach

by R. Rebecca Hobbs

The *Yorker* recently checked in with York resident **Jesse Levison** over on Franklin Street. She's the owner of **Alphabet Studios**, a stationery-and-gift company. Jesse's designs are bright, fun, and simply from the heart. I admit I chuckled when I saw the scantron card with the words "You did it!" bubbled in—perfect for graduation!



So, Jesse, why stationery and greeting cards?

That is, what was the spark for this particular form of creativity?

I grew up in Miami and studied photography and printmaking in college at the University of Florida in Gainesville, falling in love with the medium while I was there. I loved the tactile nature of the inks, running paper through industrial presses, and learning how to translate art onto a silk screen.



What brought you to Bellingham?

My husband Alex and I moved here almost two years ago to be closer to accessible nature and smaller-town living than LA. We have a four-year-old and wanted her to grow up in more of an outdoorsy community. It just seemed like a bit of a slower pace of life here.

What are some things you enjoy about the York neighborhood?

We love the family friendly vibe here and small-town charm. The York neighborhood in particular has such a great mix of college students, young families, and seniors. We love walking around the neighborhood and chatting with people, grabbing an ice cream at Nelson's, and seeing everyone's gardens explode in the spring. We love the accessibility to downtown and have spent many afternoons at Harriet Spanel Park with our daughter Sonny and dog Scout.

Are your products carried locally?

Our greeting cards, necklaces, and children's books are carried locally at **Village Books and Paper Dreams** in Fairhaven and **Bison Bookbinding** downtown, as well as in Seattle and across the country! We are currently working on our summer release, which should be out in June. Check out www.alphabetstudios.com for details!



Help the York Community Farm with their survey and community forum

This year, **Mary Loquvam**, the York resident who's been managing the **York Community Farm** on James Street for the past 10 years, retired and handed over the reins to the **Center for Community Learning** at WWU. **Ellie Duncan**, the new manager, has been in touch with the YNA to let us know they're having a **work party on June 3** and that she, along with the help of Environmental Justice students, is conducting a "survey to gauge interest from community members about having the space available as a community garden where folks can grow their own food, participate in workshops, and attend community work parties."

Ellie has been codirecting the **City Sprouts Farm** in the Birchwood neighborhood for the past five years and is using these farming spaces "to foster learning and relationship-building for a wide variety of Bellingham residents, including WWU students, faculty, and staff, and to support community-wide efforts to increase access to healthy food and food justice." She'd love your feedback on the survey. Let's show up to the work party and give her a friendly York welcome.

You can participate in the survey online at www.yorkcommunityfarm.org or via the QR code below. The work party on June 3 will run from **3 to 5pm** and will be followed by a community forum downtown at the **Brandywine Kitchen** mezzanine from **5:30 to 8pm**; space is limited, so be sure to sign up for the forum at www.yorkcommunityfarm.org/events. The forum will include a free meal and a collaborative brainstorming session and discussion about shaping the future of York Community Farm.



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It's an exciting time at Nelson's Market! The flowers are popping, the patio is open, and summer hours are in effect.

Nelson's Market is participating in **Dine Out for Maple Alley Inn** the entire month of May, donating \$1 from the sale of every lunch/dinner entree to help prepare nutritious meals for community members in need.

Don't miss **Free Ice Cream Day** in June! Neighborhood kids are invited to enjoy a free cup or cone from 12-4pm on **Friday, June 16**, the last day of school before summer break for Bellingham public schools.



The York Neighborhood Association presents **Dumpster Day** on **Saturday, June 24**, in the Nelson's Market parking lot. Do your spring cleaning ahead of time, because the dumpster fills up fast!

Nelson's Market is also participating in the **York Yard Crawl** on **Saturday, July 29**, from 4-8pm. Maps of neighborhood events will be available in our store sometime in July. Stop in to find out what your neighbors are up to!

www.nelsonsmarket.com

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The first **York Yard Crawl** took place in 2018 and was started by resident June Hathaway because she was "jealous of the **Sunnyland Stomp**." She asked the folks over in Sunnyland if she could steal their idea and then ran with it. See, one person can change the world!

The York Yard Crawl is a neighborhood-wide festival of yard parties featuring art, yard sales, music, and activities for kids of all ages... a chance for York neighbors to celebrate the talent and creativity we have here. The 2023 Crawl will take place on **Saturday, July 29**, from 4-8pm. Head on over to www.yorkyardcrawl.fun to register your own "yard thing!"



Kim Haustedt, D.C., QNCP

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



45TH ANNUAL DUMPSTER DAY!

Get your junk ready to dump and help clean up York!

Saturday, June 24—8:30am (not a minute earlier)

At Nelson's Market parking lot
 514 Potter Street

The dumpster usually fills up
by 10am, so don't be late!

Special thanks to **Sanitary Service Company (SSC)** for the free dumpster, to **Republic Services** for the free dumpage, and to **Nelson's Market** for the location.

Items you **CAN** dump:
 household items that do not fit into a normal pickup.

Items you **CANNOT** dump:
 yard waste; chemical waste such as paint, fluorescent light tubes, hazardous materials; large appliances; computers or TVs; tires; large construction debris.

Business-generated waste is not accepted.



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.



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Newsletter Layout: **Mark Ellis Walker**

Longtime neighbor leaves York

by R. Rebecca Hobbs

As some Yorkers still mourn the loss of Jon Ostby, and breathe a sigh of relief that the new owners of **Nelson's, Ben and Urania Shaklee**, will keep the establishment the same great place the York neighborhood has come to love, let us not forget to honor our longtime neighbor and board member **Anne Mackie** who recently moved from the residence above the market to the Cordata neighborhood, following Jon's passing.



Anne's legacy of activism in York flourished for over 30 years after moving to York (a second time) in 1992, when she purchased a home on Grant Street. She has been instrumental in keeping our city planners on their toes and attuned to the diverse needs of the York community. Of course, she didn't do it alone, and she credits the YNA groups over the years for the wide array of projects that have been completed during her tenure.

Having taken over as the *Yorker* editor when Anne passed the torch last year, I was moved by her recent admission of pride that "York has maintained its newsletter since 1977, and I had a hand in carrying the tradition on from others when I came in 1992. Communication and outreach to all neighbors was always a number one priority of the board. We also committed to being inclusionary of all neighbors and especially wanted our temporary rental neighbors to feel they belong."

As an at-large member of the board, I can say that we are still honoring these commitments. I'm confident Anne will continue to be active in any community she is a part of and we wish her the very best in her new home. **We THANK YOU, ANNE**, for all you have done over the decades, and we will continue to be a force in the preservation and shaping of our future York neighborhood.

When I asked Anne what she felt most satisfied about having accomplished, she replied, "It's hard to pick one thing; but I am fortunate to have partnered with my husband Jon Ostby to keep the dream alive at the corner of Potter and Humboldt Streets for so many years as Nelson's Market. Someone once wrote, 'The best neighborhoods are distinguished by more than an address or location. The best neighborhoods are defined by a caring community spirit.' That spirit is what I hope carries on in York."

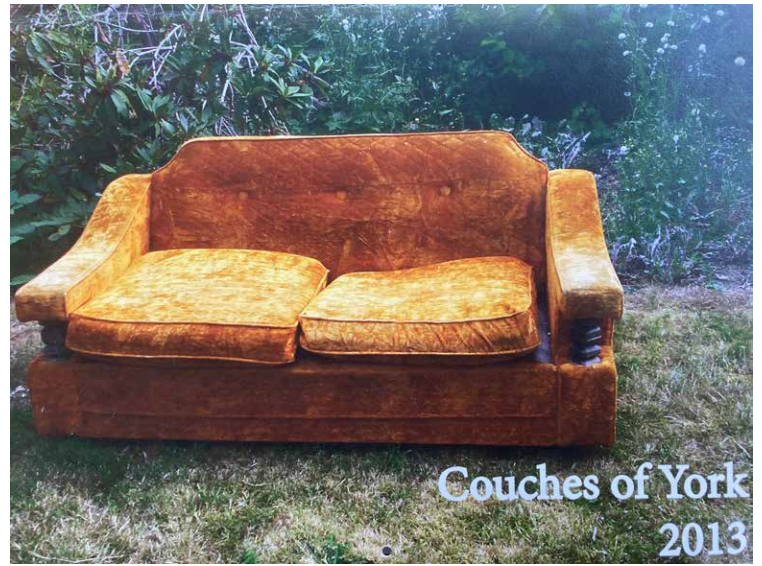
Digging through the archives

by Chris Donaldson, YNA Board

Over the years, **Anne Mackie** collected decades worth of valuable materials relevant to York’s history. This includes old newsletters, photos, newspaper clippings, and much more, all telling the rich history of how this neighborhood was shaped and the many colorful characters that shaped it. Now, led by YNA Board members **Rebecca Hobbs** and **Megan Doyle**, these archives are slowly but surely being reviewed and categorized, with the eventual goal of digitizing the most important materials for posterity. Already, some great treasures have been uncovered.

One gem is the “**Couches of York**” wall calendar that was created and produced in 2013 by resident **Sarah N. Dillard**. This calendar highlights some of the most epic couches left streetside by departing York residents and was sold as a fundraiser to benefit neighborhood projects like trash removal and general clean-up. This project is going to be resurrected for a 2024 calendar and fundraiser, so if you do happen to stumble on a wayward couch in your travels, take a pic and send it along to YorkerEditor@yorkneighborhood.org.

That said... this is a reminder that **Dumpster Day is June 24th!** So if you’re tempted to leave something behind as you move out of York, instead be a good neighbor and take anything you don’t want over to the dumpster at Nelson’s starting at 9am. It will be disposed of free of charge, and your inner self will thank you.



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Couch photos by Sarah N. Dillard

June						
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	

July						
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
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30	31					

August						
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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		

Calendar of York Events

Memorial Day
Monday, May 29

York Community Farm Work Party
Saturday, June 3, 3-5pm
York Community Farm—1400 block of James Street

Free Ice-Cream Cones for York Kids
Friday, June 16, 12-4pm
Nelson's Market—514 Potter Street

Rock Hill Park Work Party
Saturday, June 17, 9am-12pm

Father's Day
Sunday, June 18

Juneteenth
Monday, June 19

Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission (MNAC) Meeting
Wednesday, June 21, 6:30pm
via Zoom—see www.cob.org for access info

Dumpster Day

Saturday, June 24, starting at 8:30am
Nelson's Market parking lot—514 Potter Street

York General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, June 28, 6:30pm
Norway Hall—1419 North Forest Street

Independence Day
Tuesday, July 4

MNAC Meeting
Wednesday, July 19, 6:30pm
via Zoom—see www.cob.org for access info

York Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 26, 6:30pm
Nelson's Market—514 Potter Street

York Yard Crawl
Saturday, July 29, 4-8pm
maps will be available at Nelson's Market

★ plus: Monday Game Nights at Nelson's—6pm till Close! ★



York's Annual Picnic will be on Sunday, September 10!

CONTACT

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