

THE YORKER

DECEMBER 2023



FROM THE YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION—BRINGING THE YORK COMMUNITY TOGETHER

17th Annual Christmas Caroling Party & Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides!

*Come join your neighbors and friends at Nelson's Market for
a holiday wagon ride and caroling party! All are welcome!*

*We have room for close to 30 per wagon ride and will have multiple rides.**

Saturday, December 9, 5–8 pm at Nelson's Market—514 Potter Street

Wagon rides are FREE! First departure at 5:00 pm*



* This event is weather-permitting; if it's too icy and unsafe for the horses, we will walk instead.

Bring your good cheer, a flashlight,
an ornament to exchange/donate,
warm clothes (don't forget a hat and
gloves), and/or a treat to share if you can.
Holiday attire and costumes are encouraged!

There will be some shared seasonal
goodies and hot bevies. We will be
caroling in the neighborhood and will
try to get mostly families with younger
children onto the first couple rides.

Come enjoy live music from local
school choirs and contemporary-Celtic
folk-music band **Gallowglass!**

BENEFITING



We will again collect donations for
the **Bellingham Food Bank** too, whether
as funds or a nonperishable food item
(or more). You can also donate digitally
via the QR code which will be posted
at the event.

We hope to see you there!

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Corner	2
Annual Summer Picnic report	3
Urban Forestry plan news	4
Bridge replacements ahead	5
Parks updates	5
Following up on past news	6
Word jumble	6
Local business spotlight	6
Interactive walking tour coming	7
Calendar of events	8



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

yorkneighborhood.org/newsletters



YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

PO Box 2662, Bellingham WA 98227-2662

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



President's Corner

By Colin Beazley, YNA President

With the recent local and state elections, the York Neighborhood was able to hear firsthand from candidates, and our community reflected on York's civic priorities. Recently, I also "informally" polled neighbors, and similar themes rose to the top—public safety, housing, and services and infrastructure.

The York Neighborhood Association (YNA) is committed to listening to priority issues and providing a space to discuss action... and so is the City of Bellingham's Planning and Community Development team, who are currently in the early stages of the State-mandated update of the City of Bellingham's **Comprehensive Plan**, which will be completed and published by July of 2025. I encourage everyone to learn about the update process at engagebellingham.org with an eye to what you want Bellingham to be 20 years from now. Check it out, and let me know your priorities for York going into FY24.

Speaking of civic duty, the York Neighborhood Association is proud of this year's accomplishments... and I encourage all neighbors to consider if **2024 is the year to get more involved with the YNA**; you can reach out to me personally via President@yorkneighborhood.org if you want to discuss volunteer options.

A look back at 2023:

HISTORIC PRESERVATION -

Board Members **Chris Donaldson** and **Megan Doyle** formed a committee to delve into the decades of historic neighborhood archives. Next year, the committee will create an **Interactive Walking Map** that explores York's rich architectural and historic footprint. See page 7 for more and how to get involved.

PARKS & RECREATION -

New **basketball net, fencing and signs**, and **clean-ups supported by work parties** kept our two parks safe and fun. We look forward to starting the **Rock Hill Park Renovation** in 2024! Board members **Kevin Cussen** and **Colin Beazley** will spearhead the work; see the Parks update on page 5, and reach out to President@yorkneighborhood.org to get involved and put your stamp on the park design.

FUNDRAISING - The YNA elected a new Treasurer, **Opie Knechtel**, who is overseeing responsible budgeting and donation acquisition. We frequently look for new sponsors for our *Yorker* newsletter, published in three to four editions per year.



We hosted multiple fundraising opportunities and created a neighborhood **Venmo link** for easy donations of all sizes (included on the last page). All contributions go directly to supporting neighborhood

events like the Summer Picnic and Caroling and Wagon Ride event. Please consider donating to help us prepare for next year!

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND

ENGAGEMENT - The Board views our role in keeping the neighborhood safe manifests through community events that connect neighbors. We will continue to focus on neighborhood safety and I will work with the new mayor, City Council, Parks Department, and Bellingham Police Department to keep the York Neighborhood on their radar. Next year, we hope to expand our social engagement to once a quarter by adding a few more neighborhood events that all neighbors can participate in.

Happy Holidays to all, and see you at the Caroling and Wagon Ride event on Saturday, December 9!



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 OC24-309

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



Jane Richardson PT, SCD, OCS, COMT

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

1408 N. Garden Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

www.skyline-physicaltherapy.com

Summer's last shout—York's Annual Picnic!

The York Neighborhood Association hosted a wonderful event in **Harriet Spanel Park** on September 10! The feedback received during and after the event was very positive.

- There were at least 120+ York neighbors, friends, and families in attendance.
- About 125 hot dogs were cooked and served by Board member **Chris Donaldson**. Big thanks to **Nelson's Market** for donating them!
- Our local band **Wild Geese of the West** played two awesome sets of Grateful Dead tunes. They said they thoroughly enjoyed the event, and they brought a bunch of college students with them.
- Local governmental officials and candidates **Lisa Anderson**, **Russ Higbee**, and **Kim Lund** were on hand to discuss Yorkers' concerns and interests.



- Over 30 dishes were contributed by community members.
- Ideas for the upcoming renovation of Rock Hill Park were submitted for the Board to include when things get under way in January (see page 5).

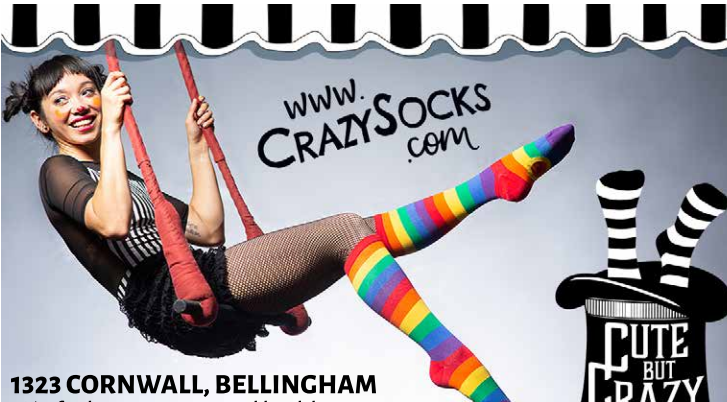
- The annual piñata got demolished to the tune of 120 pieces of candy for the kids, and 10 kids participated in the talent show at the end of the picnic.



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



WWW.CRAZYSOCKS.COM

1323 CORNWALL, BELLINGHAM
1% of sales support mental health.

www.nelsonsmarket.com



The **NEIGHBORHOOD**
is WAITING for YOU at

Nelson's Market

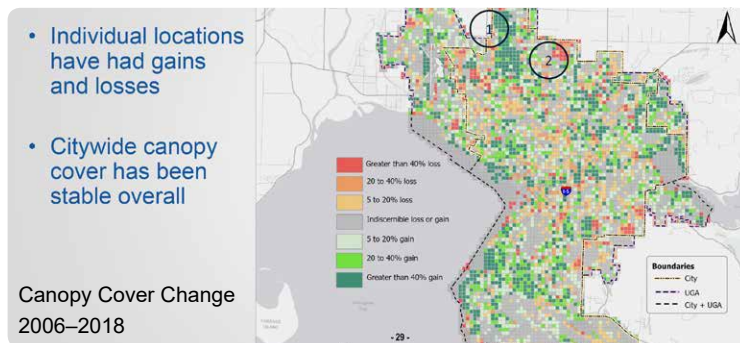
BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER BEER, WINE & CIDER
8 A.M.-10 P.M. DAILY 514 POTTER ST. (360) 734-2448

Urban Forestry Management Plan update

The City of Bellingham continues to make progress on the development of its first **Urban Forestry Management Plan** (UFMP) and is in Phase 3 (Plan Development), the process of preparing a draft using the community input they received in Phase 2. There will be opportunities for community feedback on the draft plan before it is finalized. City staff presented a project status update to City Council during the **Committee of the Whole** meeting on September 25.

Currently, about 35% of Bellingham's area has a tree canopy—pretty good as compared to, say, Seattle's 28% or Abbotsford's 22%. In preparation for developing the Plan, Planning Department and its team of consultants evaluated three possible canopy-cover targets: Status Quo (35%), No Net Loss (40%), and Growth (45%). The canopy-cover target will guide and inform which actions are included in the Plan.

Department staff presented an update to City Council on Monday, November 20th, at the Public Works and Natural Resources Committee meeting. In preparation for developing the Plan, they evaluated three possible canopy-cover targets: Status Quo (35%), No Net Loss (40%), and Growth (45%), and they recommended the 40% approach. Following the staff presentation and further City Council discussion at the evening meeting, however, the Council directed the Planning Department to develop a draft plan using the 45% (Growth) canopy cover target.



What is the urban forest?

"All trees, vegetation, soils, associated natural processes, and cultural elements, found in towns, cities, and other communities where people reside."

Components of Bellingham's urban forest



Assumptions of the Growth target were:

- Doubling private and public urban land planting (~10,000 trees/year)
- Same habitat restoration/mitigation
- Highest landscaping requirements
- Trees taller than 8 inches protected/replaced
- Complete assumption of City street tree maintenance
- Tree-planting incentive program

Video recordings of these presentations, along with their agendas and minutes, are available at meetings.cob.org. For additional information, please visit the project web page—cob.org/services/planning/environmental/ufmp—where you can also sign up for email updates.

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**.



Felicia Andreotta
Art Studio

Located in York Neighborhood
Bellingham

Abstract & Atmospheric Landscape
Oil Paintings

Studio visits by appointment: fandreotta29@gmail.com
www.feliciaandreotta.com

Fantastic Frames.
Thorough Doctors.
Outstanding Service.



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





Brace yourself for bridge closures

Just when you thought Meador Avenue was driveable again after this autumn's Cascade Natural Gas (CNG) project...the City plans to begin construction on its project to replace the **Meador Avenue and James Street bridges** in early 2024. Both bridges were originally built in 1936 and rebuilt in 1962 and are now due for replacement. During construction, there will be at least one bridge open at any given time to minimize traffic disruptions.

A portion of the CNG project involved moving their natural-gas main in preparation for the bridge replacement projects. Learn more about the project at cob.org/meador-james-bridge. You can learn about a variety of City projects at cob.org/projects.

Changes coming to York's parks

Find yourself curious as to the concrete laid in our two neighborhood parks this autumn? Wonder no more! Those foundations are the beginnings of our new kiosks constructed by the **Bellingham Parks Department** and supported by a **Small & Simple Grant**. The kiosks will be open to communicate messages and provide a safe meeting location for community members. Once the kiosks are complete, the next phase will add a park description and history.

As reported in previous editions of the *Yorker*, **Rock Hill Park** is scheduled for a renovation in early 2024. The Parks Department intends to start detailed planning and design work in the new year, and the York Neighborhood Association (YNA) will provide opportunities for input and feedback. Following recent visits by Parks officials, focus areas will include activation of the top portion, wayfinding paths to encourage healthy walking traffic, improved accessibility, and a new playground. YNA Board members **Kevin Cussen** and **Colin Beazley** will oversee the Rock Hill Park Renovation Committee, and we welcome your participation and input.

YOUR YORK NEIGHBORHOOD REALTORS!



MADRONA
Residential Real Estate

MIRANDA LOCK
OWNER | MANAGING BROKER
360.566.7998

KEITH FERRIS
OWNER | BROKER
CERTIFIED HOME INSPECTOR
360.510.5998



Follow-ups from recent *Yorkers*

The **Bellingham Play Library** we told you about in our February issue opened in September, just north of York at 1801 Ellis Street (although they've recently announced that they'll be moving to Downtown). They have weekly "pop-up events."

You can browse their Toy Catalog online. Annual memberships will be \$160, with the first 50 members to sign up getting a special price of \$100. Memberships begin the first time you check out a toy at a pop-up event.

Their Lending Hours are posted online at www.instagram.com/bellinghamplaylibrary/ and playlibrary.co/.

In our article on the 2013 "**Couches of York**" calendar this summer, we inadvertently failed to properly credit its creator, **Sarah N. Dillard**. She came up with the idea of it, took the photos, curated it into production with her father, and arranged with **Jon Ostby** for it to be sold at **Nelson's Market** as a community fundraiser.

Sarah has moved on from the York Neighborhood, but she certainly gave us a treat by making lemons into lemonade!

Wintertime in the York Neighborhood

N	Q	N	Y	C	I	P	A	Y	M	W	L	C	G	R
V	U	O	G	B	H	H	D	Q	A	I	E	R	B	W
S	R	G	H	S	S	R	F	J	G	D	A	W	V	N
K	A	K	B	Q	E	D	I	H	A	N	I	S	O	S
S	B	W	Z	D	S	E	T	S	T	B	O	L	E	I
X	Y	A	P	F	R	S	E	D	T	B	K	I	O	S
R	B	G	R	G	O	W	I	R	Q	M	K	H	P	H
M	W	O	N	S	H	D	S	N	T	O	A	N	O	K
O	R	N	A	M	E	N	T	T	O	V	I	S	T	A
Q	K	P	U	C	C	P	E	C	G	A	G	W	T	L
B	W	A	S	A	C	K	E	K	R	D	T	S	E	Z
R	E	O	G	X	O	J	W	T	R	Z	F	T	R	B
B	N	L	K	Q	P	Z	S	B	Z	C	O	C	O	A
H	K	X	L	O	Z	I	S	E	Z	H	X	Y	N	K
A	T	N	A	S	T	D	L	O	B	M	U	H	C	F

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words can go in any direction.

BELLS
COOKIES
HORSES
ORNAMENT
SNOW
TREE

CHRISTMAS
GRANT
HUMBOLDT
POTTER
SWEETS
WAGON

COCOA
HOLIDAY
LIGHTS
SANTA
TRAIN
YORK

Focus on York business: Five Columns

York residents may be reading this with a little confusion:

Five Columns is a *Sehome* restaurant, isn't it? Actually, it's not; our little neighborhood is largely residential but is home to around 100 storefront businesses, and Five Columns is one of our only three dining establishments.

It's *Sehome*-facing in their location at 1301 East Maple Street and probably has more clientele from that direction, but it's in York...and it's a longtime staple of both neighborhoods—and beyond, with regulars coming from Canada and Anacortes as well as other Bellingham neighborhoods.

It's been here a long time, too, originally as a steakhouse called **Rib 'n' Reef** run by **Dimitri (Jim) and Argedini (Dini) Christopoulos** since 1987.

Both are from small villages in the Peloponnese region of Greece but came to Bellingham via Montréal, where their daughters **Soula** and **Niki** were born. The family still runs the business, and part-owner **Soula Christopoulos** was happy to answer our questions on behalf of their York neighbors.

Five Columns was originally just a traditional steakhouse; as guests got to know the restaurant and its staff, they started requesting Greek dishes, and the menu evolved into what it is today: a Greek steakhouse. As a result, their offerings range from baby back ribs from the old days to souvlakia (Soula herself loves their prawn souvlakia). On Sundays, the kitchen gladly serves their breakfast crowd Eggs Benedict; Soula suggests "if you're feeling adventurous, make sure to try it with the gyro meat instead of the ham."



As for the Five Columns name, well, it's not mythologically or culturally rooted: when the restaurant was being remodeled in the early 2000s, five bright-white columns were installed as part of the architecture. The Christopoulos family then hit on the idea of renaming the business to refer to those columns with a nod to their ample Greek heritage.

Regardless of whether you think of Five Columns as being a *Sehome* or a York restaurant, Soula says, "one of the biggest compliments we can receive, besides our guests enjoying our food, is when they tell us it's like coming home walking through the doors. And the best part is, you can leave the cooking and cleaning to us." For a taste of their roots, you can also purchase wine from Dimitri's home region there.



The York interactive walking tour is under way

The York Neighborhood Association is pleased to announce the development of a **York Neighborhood Interactive Walking Tour** with the assistance of **Katie Franks** of the City of Bellingham. This online mobile experience will highlight a walking tour of about 25 landmarks and houses in the neighborhood and their associated histories, including photos and stories, that helped shape the neighborhood into what it is today.



Longtime residents may remember a printed walking-tour map that was published back in 2004. Though we plan on using many of these same locations as landmarks, everyone who lives in the neighborhood is encouraged to reach out to **Chris Donaldson** (vp@yorkneighborhood.org) with any further suggestions. Katie Franks has also offered to meet with us in January to discuss the working plan for this, as well as review the list of landmarks that we come up with. If you're interested in helping with this, let Chris know and we'll set a date for a meeting—most likely over a nice lunch at Nelson's.

Archives, archives, archives!

Under the fearless direction of Board member **Megan Doyle**, we are slowly going through the multitudes of York archives that were gathered by **Anne Mackie** over the years. The goal with this is to eventually digitize all those records that are pertinent to the history of York and post them online.

If you're interested in helping out, give us a holler about that as well at the email listed above. We'd love to see you.

1430 North Garden Street then...



... and now.



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

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



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

York Neighborhood Association Board

2023 Officers

President: **Colin Beazley**

Vice President: **Chris Donaldson**

Treasurer: **Opie Knechtel** • Secretary: **Mark Ellis Walker**

Members-at-Large

Élan Engel • Jeremy Ferrera • John DeOrio
Kevin Cussen • Mars Lindgren • Megan Doyle
Tom Scott

Newsletter Production: **Mark Ellis Walker**

December						
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						
January						
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			
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	29		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

Calendar of York Events

**York Neighborhood
Annual Holiday Party**
Saturday, December 9, 5–8pm
Nelson's Market—514 Potter Street

Christmas Day
Monday, December 25

WWU Finals Week
December 11–15

WWU Winter Break
December 16 to January 7

BTC Winter Break
December 11 to January 2

WCC Winter Break
December 9 to January 2

Bellingham Schools Winter Break
December 18 to January 1

New Year's Day
Monday, January 1

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, January 15

Treaty Day—Schools Closed
Monday, January 22

York Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 24, 6:30pm
Nelson's Market—514 Potter Street

Semester Day—Schools Closed
Wednesday, January 31

Valentine's Day
Wednesday, February 14

Presidents' Day
Monday, February 19

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

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

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

Over 1,000 copies delivered
door-to-door!



Contact: YorkerEditor@yorkneighborhood.org

CONTACT

York Neighborhood Association
mailing address:

PO Box 2662
Bellingham WA 98227-2662

President@YorkNeighborhood.org

website: www.YorkNeighborhood.org

For advertising / business
donations, or to
submit an article, 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 · PO Box 2662
Bellingham WA 98227-2662

Or donate via
venmo

