

THE YORKER



York Neighborhood Association • www.yorkneighborhood.org • Summer 2008

May Heats Up

by Jeremy Nunnikhoven, YNA Vice-President

A few months ago we experienced some inclement conditions that brought us out to face the challenges, Yorker-style! No, I'm not talking about that cold snap that kept our trees and flowers dormant for almost a full month while snowflakes fell. Or those pesky windstorms and torrents of rain that kept us inside in the winter season. I'm referring to the series of unfortunate events in May whose effect will last many seasons in people's lives. Out of respect to the victims, their families, and our own residents, the details have been left out on purpose as official investigations into these incidents continue. What is worth noting is that the residents of York realized that there was work to be done.

In quick response, several events helped to solidify the pride we take in our neighborhood. York Pride Night, held at Nelson's Market on May 23, saw grass-roots planning in its finest form. Over 100 people – city officials, law enforcement personnel, Board members, and residents took to the street in front of Nelson's, celebrating with live music by residents, and agreeing to save what we still have: a peaceful and low-crime neighborhood.

The York Neighborhood Association held its General Meeting on May 29, in a room just big enough to accommodate the 40+ people that attended. Many residents asked questions of Sergeant Johnston from the Bellingham Police, who kindly fielded difficult questions concerning the effects of these recent events. A very timely meeting also, as the YNA begins to draft the sections of what will become the new York Neighborhood Plan for the next 10-20 years.

Of course, none of these things happen without the dedication and determination of long-time residents of York and the YNA members. Special thanks to Nelson's Market for donating the hot dogs and beverages. Thanks also to the Bellingham Police Department and its officers, for their continuing presence and the difference they make in keeping our neighborhood safe. Residents who wish to organize or participate in a Block Watch program are encouraged to contact the YNA for more information. See our website at www.yorkneighborhood.org for contact information.

York Neighborhood Association
General Membership Meeting
Aug 27, Wednesday, 7:00 pm
Garden St. Methodist Church

Discuss the "No More Than 3 Unrelated" Rule

by Anne Mackie

The issue of Bellingham's zoning code that limits the number of unrelated persons to three per house in a single-family zoned neighborhood will be discussed at the upcoming August 20 York Board meeting. One of the guest speakers will be Dick Conoboy, who favors keeping the rule. Dick is a local blogger at zonemaven.blogspot.com, a site where neighborhood issues and city politics are discussed. A counterpoint will also be presented that argues the other viewpoint to change the rule.

The Board invites all Yorkers to attend this lively discussion on Wednesday, August 20, 7:00 p.m. at the Garden St. Methodist Church. This is an opportunity to hear the pros and cons of a hotly debated topic.

A big thank you to Garden Street United Methodist Church for their continued support of the York Neighborhood Association!
Thank you also to Nick Hartrich for organizing the 2008 Small and Simple grant tree planting along the parking strips.

Neighborhood Plan Update Moves Forward

by Anne Mackie, Planning Committee Chair

York's May 29 general membership meeting focused on the York Neighborhood Plan proposals for the Parks/Recreation/Open Space and Design sections. Each of these subgroups presented their ideas including a new park along Whatcom Creek, trail connectors, arterial crosswalks, and a new community center. Photos and design ideas for how potential new housing could be integrated into a historic neighborhood were shared.

Our next step is to draft additional sections of the Neighborhood Plan for land use, transportation, housing, capital facilities, and utilities and bring these all together into one draft version for review at the next general neighborhood meeting, August 27, 7:00 p.m. at Garden St. Methodist Church.

Bring your ideas

The work of rewriting the York Plan is well under way but have you given your input? Now is the time to get involved and be sure your visions for York's future are heard. Earlier this year, a neighborhood-wide survey was conducted to identify issues of most concern that are being addressed in the Neighborhood Plan update. Top issues are:

- Dilapidated and poorly maintained housing
- Enforcement of City codes
- Improve trails/open space/parks
- Install bike paths on arterials
- Install sidewalks
- Lakeway pedestrian crossing
- Noise control
- Parking problems
- Promote design standards
- Protect historic housing and create historic district designations
- Traffic speed and congestion

Now the details need to be hammered out to incorporate solutions for these issues into the revised Neighborhood Plan.

To keep up to date on the progress of the York Neighborhood Plan update, go to www.yorkneighborhood.org/planupdate.htm. Drafts of the Plan will be posted here. Reports from the Planning Committee meetings are also posted, as well as dates of future meetings.

If you are interested in joining the Planning Committee please contact Anne Mackie, at 738-0542 or annemackie@yorkneighborhood.org. You can also submit your ideas via email if unable to attend meetings.

Come join in the fun of creating a better place to live!

Work Parties will be held on the Franklin Street Island and the Hillside above Franklin Park on the following Saturdays from 9am-12pm: August 9, September 13, October 25, November 8.



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Crosswalks on Lakeway and Samish in 2009

By Helen Jackson and David Camp

For all of you who risk, or are afraid to risk, life and limb to cross Lakeway or Samish, this is good news! Installing enhanced crosswalks are included as a Public Works Transportation Project for 2009, to be built in late spring or summer. The crosswalks will link trail systems, connect people with parks, and enhance pedestrian safety.

The crosswalk on Lakeway will be built between Franklin and Humboldt Streets; the crossing on Samish/Maple between Otis and Mason Streets. Determination of the exact locations will be based on a study conducted by Public Works. The York and Sehome neighborhoods will be consulted on the decisions.

It is estimated that both crosswalks will cost \$150,000. Funding will come from a projected Community Development Block Grant (\$100k) and Real Estate Excise Taxes (\$50K). Chris Comeau at Public Works has assured us that other sources of funding will be sought if, in any circumstance, the grant funds don't materialize.

Increased traffic on arterials has divided our neighborhood, making walking and biking difficult and unsafe. The crosswalks should make both feet and pedals a more attractive option for visiting parks, trails and other community destinations.

Many thanks are in order to the hundreds of York residents who completed surveys and signed the petition in strong support of the crosswalks, and to the City of Bellingham for listening and finding a way to make them happen!

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Map Your Neighborhood!

by Ivy Yap

The Disaster Preparedness committee wants you to be ready if a disaster occurs. In the York Neighborhood, the committee is spearheading the Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) campaign. During an MYN session, neighbors watch an informational MYN video, then create a map of the residents living on their block, and identify who has skills or equipment that may be useful when responding to a disaster. The map also indicates those who may need extra attention during an emergency, such as children and elderly or disabled people. At the end of the MYN session, each neighbor leaves with a completed map and contact list for their block. The MYN session is a great way to meet your neighbors! For each block participating in MYN, the neighbors will receive a free goody bag filled with items that

may come in handy during a disaster, courtesy of the City of Bellingham. In addition, block captains will receive a wind-up NOAA weather radio. My favorite items were the wind-up flashlight and the 4-way tool (for gas and water shut-off, prying open doors, and digging through debris). The bag also included a hard hat, whistle, safety goggles, and other useful tools.

The committee's goal is to provide MYN training to one block per month. Block captains are still needed to organize MYN sessions for their block. If you would like to be a block captain, or for more information about the committee and MYN, contact co-chairs Libby Stark and Carol Dixon at PreparednessChair@yorkneighborhood.org. Or come by the Disaster Preparedness table at the annual neighborhood picnic in September.

Rock Hill Park update

by George Liepart

Rock Hill Park has grown! The lot on the north side of the park has officially been purchased by the Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department. They are also following our usage request to leave it open grassland so the kids can run and slide (or roll) down the hill. The basketball fence will be removed to allow free flow through the area. Thanks to all who stop and pick up trash on each visit!

Volunteers are designing a plan for native plantings on the Franklin Street Island. If you have ideas, or plants you'd like to donate, please contact: Helen Jackson at hjaxon817@yahoo.com or 656-5467.

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Another Dumpster Day In Paradise

by Carolyn Mulder

It was a fine day for thrashing through the weeds in the York Neighborhood when the annual Dumpster Day event was held in June. With the generous help of Recomp of Washington and Sanitary Service Company of Bellingham, York neighborhood residents filled an enormous dumpster in 2 hours. Thanks to John Osbey of Nelson's Market, who provided a centrally located dumpster site where people could bring their unwanted garbage until the dumpster was full. Having been our sponsors for over 5 years, these three local businesses have donated their services free of charge, motivating residents to bust a move on spring clean-up, both at home and throughout the neighborhood.



Volunteers donated their time for this event, driving the alleys in search of abandoned furniture, construction debris, and other unsightly items that collected in the margins over the year. We see a visible difference immediately, and find less garbage overall every year!

We try to time this event so that students in transition can dispose of their unwanted items appropriately, and enjoy seeing the same residents returning year after year with their own garbage, as well as a little of this and that they picked up along the way.

If you missed Dumpster Day this year, keep an eye out for information in the Yorker or on our web site (www.yorkneighborhood.org). Watch for posters in early June a day or so before the event as a reminder. See you next year!

CAFE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Marlins' Cafe, at Nelson's Market, is looking for a manager chef/leasee to take on responsibilities of managing the cafe and move it into the next phase.

Come see Jon, if you are interested!



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Thank you to the York Neighborhood for your continued patronage!

from Rick Adelstein
owner of Louis Auto Glass

Upcoming Events

York Neighborhood Association General Membership Meeting

August 27, Wednesday, 7:00 pm, Garden St. Methodist Church

York Neighborhood Association Board Meeting

August 20, Wednesday, 7:00 pm, Garden St. Methodist Church

Night Out Against Crime Potluck

August 5, Tuesday, 5:00-7:00pm, Franklin Park

Quality Committee Meeting

August 10, Sunday, 7:00 pm, Nelson's Market

Recycle and Trash Society of YNA (RATS)
August 2, 16, & 30. (Saturday). 8:30 am in front of Nelson's Market. The York RATS pick up litter and cans to keep our neighborhood clean!

Franklin Park Volunteers

August 9, Saturday, 9-noon, Franklin Park

York Annual Picnic

Sept. 21, Sunday, 3:00-6:00 pm, Rock Hill Park

Autumn Celebration

October 17, sponsored by the Wine & Roses Garden Club. Stay tuned for details!

A belated welcome back to Mike the Mailman! We're glad to have you back in the saddle and working your old and familiar route again. We missed you!

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York Neighborhood Association

1351 Humboldt St
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York Quality Committee

by Lesley Keenholts, Quality Committee Chair

The purpose of the York Quality Committee is to help neighbors to resolve issues related to Municipal Code enforcement and violations. We work with property owners, renters, WWU and city officials to educate the neighborhood about the codes and provide a means to respond to neighbors' complaints when the codes are not upheld.

The committee was formed in August 2007 in response to growing concerns around issues that affect the quality of life in our neighborhood. Our hope was to establish a committee of neighbors who would work together to find solutions to these issues and to offer support to those affected.

Some of the success of this committee over the past year has been to work with landlords to reduce the number of "party house" complaints, the removal of a 100-foot rotting poplar tree on the 1300 block of Humboldt Street, and the removal of a privately owned "school bus" parked on Humboldt that was blocking visibility for traffic.

The committee is also working on a plan to thank individual property owners when they do "something great", to show appreciation for those maintaining their property and helping to make the York Neighborhood a better place to live.

York Quality Committee meetings are held the second Sunday of the month at 7:00 PM at Nelson's Market. Interested parties may contact Lesley Keenholts for more information at 647-7768.

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Thank you to the local businesses who generously contributed to our Earth Day work party of 35 volunteers on the Franklin Street Island

- Cool Beans on Lakeway provided coffee
- Pipeline Pizza donated 4 pizzas for the hungry group

A special thank you to the landlords who have continuously and generously donated to support the YNA

- Judy Frane and David Chicovsky
- Bob and Barbara Harnden

And, of course, to the businesses who graciously contributed to the YNA:

- Family Tree Mill
- Wilson's Motors

Your donations contribute to neighborhood activities and create opportunities for Yorkers to come together and build community. Thank you for your support!

Signs of Community Spirit

by Helen Jackson, Franklin Park Projects Coordinator

This is not a story about the constant effort of many Franklin Park Projects volunteers who have contributed hundreds of hours to attend meetings, make trips to Clean and Green, weed, prune, plant, mulch, carry gravel and pick up trash. It's not a story about magnanimous Ron Barnett, who single-handedly (well, definitely he used both hands and feet, plus a strong back) carved the winding trail across the Franklin Street Island this year. These stories would make a book. This simple story about signs is shared to bring to light the generous and caring community we are fortunate to live within.

In York's Small and Simple Grant proposal for 2008, we included funding for all of the materials needed to make and install the Franklin Trail signs. When I went to purchase the clear cedar boards after receiving the City's award, the price had tripled in the last couple of months. Millwork Supply, after offering me their too expensive, but best discounted price, suggested a local mill might be more reasonable and gave me Matt Lloyd's card. Matt owns the Family Tree Mill in Custer, selectively harvesting timber from local properties. He generously offered to keep aside nice pieces of cedar and mill them for our signs. At 9pm one night, he called to say he'd just finished milling two perfect boards and I could pick them up the next morning. Wanting to donate to the community, Matt would accept no payment.

With these high quality boards in hand, we needed to find someone to make them into signs. Evan Stark suggested I contact Karll Rusch, a teacher at Bellingham High School. Without hesitation, Karll consented to have students make the signs, and then met to show me examples, and explore techniques and sizes. He assigned his Advanced Design Engineering student Dylan Blakeway to the task. Jeff Bates created three different choices of design for the signs and communicated on selection. On the last day of class, I picked up the beautifully made signs from craftsman Dylan.

The signs continue as a work in progress: Jeff is sanding them; Aaron Bandstra and Rae Edwards have loaned us posthole diggers; various businesses have offered advice and discounts on materials.

We still need many volunteers to seal and assemble the signs, dig post holes and set them in concrete. By the end of the year we hope to have not only the signs up, but stone benches set in concrete, and the entire Franklin Street Island planted with native

plants. Work parties for the signs and the many other tasks are scheduled from 9am to noon on the following Saturdays: August 9th, September 13th, October 27th and November 10th.

Join in to keep the community spirit alive and thriving! Please contact Helen Jackson at hjaxon817@yahoo.com or 656-5467

Many thanks to the neighbors who donated to the York Neighborhood Association:

- Jeff and Sarah Bates
- Jeff and Laurie Brown
- Helen Jackson
- Martha Miller
- Brian and Katy Murphy
- Walter and Loma Turpin

Thanks to several WWU students who participated in the Disaster Preparedness Committee and Franklin Park renovation.

Belated thanks to George Liepert for his donation to the Rainbow Ranch carriage ride.

York Neighborhood Association Donation

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