

THE YORKER



York Annual Picnic Sun., Sept. 21, 3 - 6 p.m. at Franklin Park



York children pose for the annual photo at the picnic, 2012.

It's fun for all at the annual York Neighborhood Picnic. A tradition is to snap a photo of our neighborhood children, so be sure to show up by 4 o'clock sharp, Sun., Sept. 21, to get in the picture!

A new event this year is a kids talent show. Bring your instruments, skits, dance routines, or magic shows. Maybe some old folks will get into the act, too!

Picnic Details

Location: Franklin Park, located at the corner of the 1200 block of Franklin and Whatcom streets.

Hot Dogs & Lemonade

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share, plus your own table service.

Kids Talent Show

Bring your instruments, skits, dance routines, or magic shows.

Face Painting

Harvest Table - Bring a sample of your garden bounty to share.

Pie Raffle

Bring a homemade pie for the drawing.



UPCOMING IMPORTANT MEETINGS:

York General Meeting Wed., Oct. 8

6:30 p.m. Social; 7:00 p.m. Meeting
at Garden St. United Methodist Church,
1326 N. Garden

Guest Speaker: Police Chief, Cliff Cook

City Council Public Hearing Mon., Oct. 27, 7:00 p.m.

at City Hall

on Rental Housing

Registrations, Safety and Inspections

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Meet new York Board member, Robb Correll



Robb Correll, elected to York Neighborhood Association’s Board in June, serves as liaison for residents of Lincoln Square at 409 York St. A life-long resident of Whatcom county, he is a former horse-trainer and riding instructor. Robb now works part-time for Yellow Cab. He is the father of three adult children.

“As a board member I want to bring a voice to issues we are experiencing at Lincoln Square. We have a general concern for the safety and security of our residents. I also want to be more active in the community that I love,” Robb said.

Welcome to the Board, Robb!

In unity there is strength

Yorkers celebrate National Night Out Against Crime in the neighborhood, August 6

Ice cream and cake were enjoyed by **Lincoln Square** residents and York neighbors at the National Night Out Against Crime celebration August 6. Bellingham Police Officer Lewis Leak answered questions for residents who voiced concerns about crime and pedestrian safety in the neighborhood.

That same night at Diego’s restaurant on **N. Samish Way**, York co-hosted a meeting with the Sehome Neighborhood Assoc. to address on-going concerns about criminal activity and resident safety on this strip of commercial and motel businesses. City Council members Terry Bornemann and Michael Lilliquist attended along with Bellingham Police Detective Al Jensen. For more information about the Samish Way Work Group see the article on page 5 of this newsletter.



National Night Out Against Crime was celebrated at Lincoln Sq. with York residents and Bellingham Police Officer, Lewis Leak, August 6.

2014 York Neighborhood Association Officers

- President: Don Hilty-Jones
- Vice President: Mark Schofield
- Treasurer: Lisa Anderson
- Secretary: Anne Mackie

Board Members

Cory Anderson, Robb Correll, Kirsti Charlton, Katie Dunne, Brian Kennedy, Tom Scott

Contact:

York Neighborhood Association
 c/o 1316 Franklin St
 Bellingham, WA 98225
 website: www.YorkNeighborhood.org
 email: president@YorkNeighborhood.org
YorkerEditor@YorkNeighborhood.org

Stay informed!

Join York’s email distribution list.
 Send your name & email to:
Listmaster@yorkneighborhood.org

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.

We “DIG” new rain gardens along York streets

By Anne Mackie,
YNA Secretary, Newsletter Editor

The new “**Downtown Improvement Gardens**” -- the “DIG” program -- along Magnolia St. and at the corner of Ellis and Commercial streets in the York Neighborhood, are the result of a \$600,000 Dept. of Ecology grant obtained by the City.

The new rain gardens are a filtering system to help reduce pollutants as they travel via storm water into nearby streams and, eventually, into Bellingham Bay. The project is 75% funded by the Dept. of Ecology with the City providing 25% of the funding.

In addition to filtering storm water, the rain gardens also bring improvements for pedestrians by adding bulbed-out intersections, which help to slow down vehicle traffic. Drought-tolerant plants have been added. New parking spaces created by the project will be well used.

A “**DIG Steward**” program has been established to keep up the maintenance on the rain gardens in the coming years. York’s 22 new rain gardens have been adopted by businesses to oversee trash clean-up, weeding, and watering, if needed, said Freeman Anthony, project engineer with the City Public

Works Dept. Public Works will take care of functional maintenance such as flow paths, piping, and sediment removal.

Making a two-year pledge to be Rain Garden Stewards are the following local businesses. We appreciate their dedication to quality improvement of storm water and to helping beautify the neighborhood.

Thank-you neighboring businesses:

Alicia’s Bridal & Formal House, Aslan Brewery, Back In Motion, Bellingham Public Market, Bellingham / Whatcom County Housing Authority, Bellingham Flea Market, Binyon Vision Center, Chuckanut Builders, Ciao Thyme, Firestone Complete Autocare, Garden Street United Methodist Church, Greenleaf Bookkeeping, HUB Northwest, Klicks Running and Walking, Kulshan Services, Stan’s Auto Body, Studio Galactica, Terra Organic and Natural Foods, Texture Clothing, The Bell Tower Studios, TranTech Engineering LLC, Unlimited Auto Service, Western Solar, Whatcom Council of Governments, and Whatcom Educational Credit Union.

And, thank-you to Rose Lathrop, with Sustainable Connections, for her recruitment of these stewards.



Get Ready to Scare Hunger

Halloween is quickly approaching, and again this year local Sehome high school volunteers will “**Trick or Treat**” the neighborhood looking for your canned food donations. Way to go York kids and the Social Action Club!

Thanks for Your Donations to York!

Since publication of the June *Yorker*, these folks have made a financial contribution to the YNA that helps pay for our annual picnic, this newsletter, committee projects, and publicity.

Laurie Brown
Don Hilty-Jones
Lisa and Dan McShane
Robert and Karen Lazzar-Atwood
Judith Sen
Shannon Spears
Drew Weidenbacher
Laura Witt and Rick Green



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www.gardenstreetumc.org

Help keep the neighborhood rat-free, healthy, and clean

Tired of looking at the neighbor's garbage or uncut grass that is as tall as the cars? Believe it or not the City has laws against these problems that, when enforced, help make our

neighborhood a much more pleasant environment in which to live. Rats love garbage, and when they find it along with high grass, it's time for them to set up camp.



Everyone can help keep the neighborhood clean and rat free by either taking care of their own garbage or asking the City's Code Enforcement Officers for help in issuing citations so that it gets done.

Important contact information:

Claudia Vizcarra, Litter Control Officer

cvizcarra@cob.org; 778-8756. She handles:

- Litter complaints
- No garbage service
- Dumped items (couches, furniture, etc.)
- Junk vehicles

Kyla Walters, Code Enforcement Officer

kmwalters@cob.org; 778-8614. She handles:

- Construction without permits
- Dangerous structures
- Open/accessible vacant structures
- Tall grass complaints
- Vegetation encroachments

And the winner is: 1310 Grant St.

Thank You, Dumpster Day Volunteers! 35 Years and Going Strong

Thanks to Kirsti Charlton and Carolyn Mulder for organizing the annual neighborhood clean-up on June 14. This was about the 35th year the neighborhood has hosted the clean-up. Thanks also to the volunteers, families, SSC for the free dumpster, RDC/Allied Waste for free dumpage, and Nelson's Market for use of their parking lot.



Raise Your Voice on Rental Ordinance

By Mark Schofield
YNA Vice President

The coming weeks will be crucial to ensuring a minimal level of health and safety for the thousands of rental housing units in our city. Bellingham City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Mon., Oct. 27, 7pm at City Hall about how rental housing should be regulated.

The Problem

Much of the housing stock in York and the rest of Bellingham is rentals. While many landlords properly maintain their properties, we know that others skim off profits while letting buildings deteriorate. Fire hazards, extensive mold, faulty wiring and other threats are not uncommon.

Further, many renters are hesitant to complain about dangerous or unhealthy housing conditions for fear of jeopardizing their housing options in a tight rental market. By setting clear standards and instituting professional,

independent inspections, a robust ordinance would change that dynamic.

Your York Neighborhood Assoc. Board has gone on record supporting a strong rental registration and inspection ordinance. We're working hard with other neighborhoods throughout the city to make this a reality. Please join us.

Three things you can do...

1 – Learn more by talking to renter neighbors about conditions in their rentals. Or, attend the Oct. 8 York meeting to talk with board members about the issue.

2 – Contact Bellingham City Council members at ccmail@cob.org, or 360-778-8219. Encourage them to support a strong ordinance that includes rental registration *and* inspections.

3 – Attend and speak out at the public hearing on Mon., Oct. 27, 7:00pm, at Bellingham City Hall, 210 Lottie St.

Samish Way Moves Forward with Community Support

By Lisa Anderson
YNA Treasurer

Months of collaboration between community social service agencies, churches, and neighborhood associations culminated on July 14 at a successful neighborhood fair held on Samish Way in the parking lot of the Five Columns Restaurant. About 80 volunteers had signed in to help out, and 350 hot dogs were served.

Samish Way, a high-crime area, is receiving focused law enforcement and health department involvement to fight the drug and crime problems. We are pleased that Mayor Linville has directed city staff to work on solutions for this area, which borders the York and Sehome neighborhoods. Working together, our neighborhoods have been bringing attention to the problems. We held a combined Night Out Against Crime Aug. 6 on Samish Way at Diego's Restaurant.

In her column in *The Bellingham Herald*, Aug. 10, the Mayor stated the city is working on solutions that may involve use of a mental health court, increased coordination and outreach between social services, a range of housing alternatives and creation of a 24-hour mobile mental health response system. "These will help in creating a safety net of services for those most in need," she said. Anyone in York who is interested in becoming involved can contact me at: Treasurer@YorkNeighborhood.org.



Photos provided by Pastor Rick Qualls,
Fountain Community Church



Franklin Park: Plan to Make a Difference, Sat. Oct. 25, 9am - Noon

By Mark Schofield

YNA Vice Pres. & Franklin Park Steward


When's the last time you went to a city park to use the playground, run on the grass, enjoy a picnic or stroll along a path? The more you and your neighbors use and care for public parks, the safer and more vibrant they become. Less crime, more good times!

To make a really positive impact in our neighborhood, you can join us for the **Franklin Park "Make a Difference Day"** (MADD) Work Party on Sat., Oct. 25, 9:00am-Noon.

Meet at the picnic shelter at Franklin St. and Whatcom St.

This will be BIG! It's the Bellingham Parks Department's main MADD event this year! We'll tackle projects to improve visibility and support native plants. Gloves, tools and refreshments will be provided.

Bonus warm-up
Franklin Park Work Party
Sat., Sept. 20
10:00am-Noon
For more info, contact Mark at
VicePresident@YorkNeighborhood.org.




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Contact: YorkerEditor@
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receive from our local
businesses.

The story behind York’s “Historic District” street signs

*By Don Hilty-Jones,
YNA President*

As you walk around the York Neighborhood you’ll notice the street corner signs that say: “Historic District, York Neighborhood.” The signs were installed in March 2012, after the northern portion of the neighborhood was established as a National Historic District by the U.S. Parks Service. Funding for the signs was made possible by residents’ donations totally \$1,400+.

Working with city staff, many York volunteers - students and residents - researched the history of the neighborhood and each of its homes. Identifying architectural styles, important historic residents, and even heritage trees, the research project culminated in the northern portion of York receiving historic district status. Today, we can all see the benefits of restoring older, historic homes. It’s a beautiful neighborhood, especially when one is on foot.

More signs on the horizon

At the time of the research project additional sections of the neighborhood were identified as potentially qualifying for historic district status: the Franklin Park area and the area west of Ellis St. north and south of Magnolia St. While we remain hopeful that the city and state will take up these additional historic district designations, in the meantime we want to create new “toppers” for the street signs in these areas.

The YNA Board is pursuing new signs that will say: **“Welcome to York Neighborhood.”** While these blocks may not be currently included in the historic district designated areas, they are certainly part of York; and we want to say so!

Want to help?

If you are interested in supporting this effort by contributing time or a small donation to the new sign project, please contact YNA President, Don Hilty-Jones at: President@YorkNeighborhood.org.



**York Neighborhood
Association Donation Form**

Students \$5.00 Household \$20.00

Singles \$10.00

Business \$100.00 - includes a business-card size ad for four issues.

Make check payable to the YNA
(York Neighborhood Association)

Name _____

Address _____

Ph# _____ Email _____

Return Form & Check to:
Lisa Anderson, YNA Treasurer,
520 Edwards St.,

*Congratulations, Joey Robles,
Marlins' Cafe Breakfast Cook!*



Blaze and Joey Robles

We're proud to share a story about Marlins' Cafe cook, Joey Robles, who received the "Panda Pride Award" for being an exceptional parent volunteer at his son's school, Parkview Elementary. He's been volunteering in the classroom since his nine-year-old son, Blaze, was in preschool.

"So many kids today don't have a male role model in their lives, and by being in the classroom I am making that a little more possible. Plus, it helps the teachers out," said Joey. He also belongs to the "Watch D.O.G.S." program, which stands for: Dads of Great Students. *Way to go Joey. We are so proud!*



Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Your neighborhood gathering place!

HOURS: Mon. - Thurs., 7am - 8pm

Fri. 7am - 9pm; Sat. 8am - 9pm

Sun., 8am - 8pm

514 Potter St., inside Nelson's Market

Call-in to Take-out, 724-2448

YORK EVENTS CALENDAR

FRANKLIN PARK WORK PARTY

Sat., Sept. 20
10am - Noon

YORK ANNUAL PICNIC

Sun. Sept. 21, 3 - 6pm
at Franklin Park

YORK GENERAL MEETING

Wed., Oct. 8
Social: 6:30pm
Meeting: 7pm

Garden St. United Methodist Church
1326 N. Garden St.

**Guest Speaker: Chief of Police,
Cliff Cook**

YNA BOARD MEETING

Wed., Nov. 12, 7pm

Garden St. United Methodist Church
1326 N. Garden St.

S.T.A.R.S.

Saturday Trash and Recyclers

Meet first and third Saturdays
to pick up litter.

Meet at Nelson's Market
10:00am

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