

THE YORKER



YORK ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday, September 19

3 to 6 p.m.

at Franklin Park

(1200 block of Franklin and Whatcom streets)

Join us for a neighborhood get-together, co-sponsored by the City of Bellingham, at Franklin Park

Good Company

Meet your neighbors to talk about the upcoming Seahawks season, share gardening advice, and enjoy a meal together!

Good Food

The association and Nelson's Market will provide hot dogs, buns, condiments, and lemonade. Please bring potluck to share: Last Name: A-H = side dish; Last Name: I-M = dessert; Last Name: N-Z = salad, plus your own table service and chairs.

Kids Talent Show and Piñata!!!

Start practicing and bring your instrument, skits, dance routines, or magic shows to the picnic. There are prizes for everyone who participates!

Harvest Table

Bring your extra fruit and vegetables from your garden to exchange with your neighbors.

Pie Raffle

Bring a homemade pie for the drawing, and be sure to purchase tickets so you can win one to take home!

Hope to see you there!



Lola taking a swing at the piñata at the last year's picnic.

Are You Ready for the BIG ONE?

York Neighborhood General Meeting

Wed., Oct. 14

6:30 - Baked Potato Supper; 7:00 - Speakers
Garden St. United Methodist Church
Speakers: Paul Gazdik- Coordinator, City of Bellingham
Emergency Management
Dan McShane- Engineering Geologist, Stratum Group

Learn about emergency preparedness in our local community and "Whatcom Ready" programs.

- ✓ Do you know what to do when an earthquake strikes?
- ✓ Are you prepared for the power to be out for more than 24 hours?
- ✓ How vulnerable is the York neighborhood to natural disaster?
- ✓ What about your pets?

Come learn how to be prepared!

Baked potatoes and all the toppings are provided by the YNA Board. Coffee provided by Nelson's Market.

We ask you to bring a salad or dessert to share and your own table ware.

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YNA President's Corner
By Lisa Anderson, President,
YNA

Greetings Yorkers!

Your York Board has had a very busy summer. As some of you may be aware, Bellingham has settled with the owners of the Aloha Motel on Samish Way. The owners have agreed to a fair market price for the land and will vacate the property by September 1st. The city did not have to pay for the buildings since they were deemed to have no value due to contamination. The city will take ownership of the motel on September 2nd. Bellingham Police will ensure the buildings are empty, and then it will be boarded up and fenced off.

Bellingham will test for asbestos before the buildings are demolished. This should take six to eight weeks. Bellingham has been working with the remaining long-term residents to find better housing. In early fall, Bellingham will form a group of stakeholders to help create a "rating tool" for potential development bids. I, along with Sehome's President Harriet Spanel, will serve on that committee. I hope we will all be looking at the Samish Way urban village design standards for guidance.

The Aloha is not the only hotel of concern along Samish. Currently, the State Department of Health has denied

the Mac's Motel their transient accommodations license which is issued by the state to allow a motel to offer lodging for up to 30 days. The owners have filed an appeal which will take months for a final decision. Without a proper license to operate as a motel, the city has the ability (and obligation) to withdraw or deny a business license. The city has met with management to discuss options.

Unfortunately, there are multiple motels in this area that have rented to individuals for years often at rates higher than the cost of an actual apartment. I have spoken with individuals who spend their whole disability check for "rent" and are then unable to save for first/last and damage deposit for an apartment. They get stuck. These motel rooms are not suitable for long-term living. They do not offer the amenities that help create a home. If these motels, which are basically operating as boarding houses, want to become apartment complexes they should work with the city to bring their properties to current codes for apartments so they can offer their clients appropriate amenities for the rent they charge. There are many reasons our neighbors get "stuck," yet as a community we must find a way to assist them into suitable housing. I am confident the city is prepared to assist our neighbors if these motels are closed. There are a lot of challenges ahead. I will keep you posted.

On the fun side of neighborhood events, the Wine and Roses Garden

Club held their summer garden party at my and Cory's home. Despite the rainy start, we had over thirty neighbors attend. Several Sehome Board members, along with Bellingham's Ward Five City Council member Terry Bornemann, attended the event. Everyone enjoyed a great night!

One of the reasons I wanted to be part of this board was to help program events that connect our neighbors together. One of my favorite events is just around the corner. The York Neighborhood Picnic will once again host a hotdog BBQ, piñata, garden exchange, pie raffle, and youth talent show. Last year was our first year for the youth talent show, and it was so much fun we had to bring it back! This year we will have participation prizes and grant prizes awarded for several categories. I hope we will see you there. We have such a great time.

See you in the 'hood,

Lisa A. Anderson



Lisa with Sehome's President, Harriet Spanel at the summer Wine and Roses Garden party

2015 York Neighborhood Association Officers

President: Lisa Anderson
 Vice President: Tom Scott
 Treasurer: Don Hilty-Jones
 Secretary: Anne Mackie

Additional Board Members

Cory Anderson, Robb Correll, Kirsti Charlton, Kim Bogren
 Owen, Mark Schofield, Edward Tabor

Contact:

York Neighborhood Association
 c/o 520 Edwards St., Bellingham WA 98225
 President@YorkNeighborhood.org
 website: www.YorkNeighborhood.org
 For advertising / business donations, contact:
 YorkerEditor@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.

Donations to York Neighborhood Association are appreciated!

Thank you to these folks and businesses that made donations since the last publication of this newsletter:

- ◆ Shannon Spears
- ◆ Frances Allen

Protect York’s Unique Character

By Anne Mackie, Secretary, YNA

York is one of Bellingham’s most desirable neighborhoods. We are close to downtown, and we have beautiful historic architecture, tree-lined streets, sidewalks, and two parks. We are an eclectic mix of residents: families, single working adults, retirees, students, artists, and educators. About 50 percent of the homes are owner-occupied; 50 percent are rentals.

In May we were confronted with a developer’s attempt to build three mega-plex rooming houses in the 1600 block of Iron St. The houses were advertised on Craigslist as seven-bedrooms each, renting for \$3,500 a month, and requiring a \$250 damage deposit per person.

The York Neighborhood Association (YNA) organized a petition drive that collected over 300 signatures and presented these to the Bellingham City Council asking them to investigate this mega-plex development and to implement design guidelines for new construction in historic districts, such as York’s.

With the support of the City Planning Director, Rick Sepler, and the City Attorney’s office the outcome for this new construction is going to be much better. The older home will not be torn down; it is a contributing property to the York National Historic District. The two new homes will be “monitored” for compliance with York’s single-family zoning; and, the City Council is supportive of a draft proposal by Sepler for design guidelines for new construction in single family historic neighborhoods.

Unfortunately, these new guidelines won’t be enacted in time to regulate the design of the two new homes, which are now under construction; but in the future, we hope to have some assurance that the character of York’s historic neighborhood won’t be bulldozed and over-filled.

We are one of Bellingham’s most densely populated neighborhoods already challenged by over-crowded houses that have illegally been “up-zoned” into rooming houses. We don’t need more, and we don’t need developers

operating as carpetbaggers to drain off their profits and leave us with a chopped up, dismantled neighborhood that was once a place of pride.



1625 Iron St. house saved from the bulldozers.

York Residents Encouraged to Attend! Open House on Planning Issues Tues., Sept. 15, 6 – 8 P.M. Old City Hall, 121 Prospect St., Rotunda Room

This meeting is hosted by Mayor Kelli Linville and City Planning Staff. It presents an opportunity for citizens to provide input about proposed changes to the citywide Comprehensive Plan. Issues for discussion include neighborhood housing density, land use, and environmental concerns.

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The Gardens of York

By Kim Bogren Owen, Newsletter Editor, YNA

As summer winds down, and a chill starts to come into the air we wanted to highlight a few of the gardens in York to celebrate the beauty they bring to the area and as inspiration for next year. Did you know fall is the best time to plant many perennials and to start preparing the ground for next year’s plantings?



Left- Lisa and Cory’s “cabin”; Below- Enjoying the fire pit at the Garden party



Left- An apple tree and vegetable growing in Lisa and Cory’s garden



An Urban Oasis

When you first enter Cory and Lisa Anderson’s garden, you feel like you have stepped into a resort. The gardens surround the 1907 house and include features such as a pond, fire pit, hammock, covered “cabin,” fruit trees, and a patio. They include both ornamentals and edibles. Cory and Lisa are able to grow enough to can for about 20 families to get through the winter.

Lisa said it has taken them years to get the garden to the point it is and will take several more to finish all the projects they have planned.



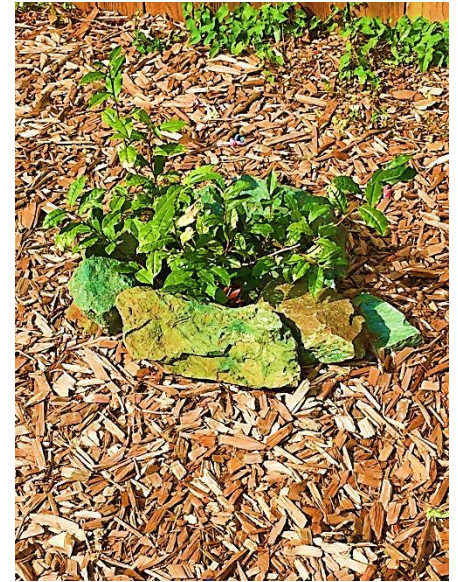
A Farm in the City

When Dan and Megan Gould bought their house five years ago, they knew the yard would need some work. Slowly over those years they have removed all their grass and put planters made out of cedar fencing in most of it. They are working on the final planters this year and hope to have them done by next season. Dan and Megan often put out their produce on a stand to share with their neighbors.

They keep everything trained and well pruned to maximize space and have made use of netting to keep the deer away from most of the fruit trees. This year they are trying their hands at bee keeping and have planted tea (yes, actually, green tea) in their backyard.



Dan and Megan’s beehive



Left- Planters and crabapple tree in Dan and Megan’s fenced off area; Above- An example of how fruit trees can be trained; Right- A green tea bush



Growing Food with Fish

One year ago, Johnson decided to try his hand at vegetable gardening using aquaculture. He purchased a used greenhouse made from a kit, as well as barrels, built wood container boxes, and added PVC piping. One year later he has it down and is growing tomatoes and cucumbers in it.

He is able to maintain the balance and avoid too many nutrients by keeping a one-to-one balance between the gallons of water he has the fish in and the square footage he has for plants. Currently, he is feeding his fish regular fish food, but he hopes to switch to an organic one so all his produce will be organic. This method uses about 10 percent of water as a traditional bed so it is a great way to conserve water, as well as natural fertilizer since it is all created by the fish.



Above- the greenhouse from the outside; Left- water feeding into the beds; Center- the barrels of fish and piping to move water between barrels and into the beds

KID'S CORNER

By Kim Bogren Owen, Newsletter Editor, YNA

Did you know that many of the houses in the York neighborhood are over a hundred years old? That a trolley used to run through the neighborhood? And that there has been several grocery stores in York? That our neighborhood is recognized as a National Historic District?

Many of the older houses are listed on the Washington State's Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation website. You can search to see if your house is there, learn about your house's history, and maybe find some old photos of it using their WISAARD tool. Once there click "Start WISAARD" and then click "search" on the tabs in the second row of the page, and enter in your address, city, and county.

What do you think you will find out about your house? If you know or find out something cool or unique, let us know and we may do a story about you and your house!



The York Trolley



The contents of a little time capsule

Create Your Own Time Capsule

By Kim Bogren Owen, Newsletter Editor, YNA

When we remodeled our house, we had heard stories of cool things people found in the walls of their houses and we hoped we would find something. Unfortunately, we didn't, but we did create our own treasure box that we hid in the wall for someone to find in the future. We included some coins, matchbox cars, pictures of us, an old nail from our floor, and a few other small things.

You may not be able to hide something in your wall, but you can create your own time capsule and hide it. If you want to look in it when you are older, put it somewhere where you can get to it; or if you would rather just hide it for someone in the future to find, put it somewhere hard to get. With your parents' permission, you can bury it somewhere in your yard. Be sure to put it in something waterproof!

When deciding what to put into your time capsule, think about what you wish someone had left you from the past and what you want the future to know about you or this time period.

Have fun!

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Welcome Back, Students!

By Kim Bogren Owen, Newsletter Editor, YNA


As the new school year starts for college students we want to say welcome back! The diversity of the individuals living in York is one of our strengths, and we all benefit from each other.

We strive to create an environment that is welcoming to everyone, so we work to be courteous around parking, noise, and by helping one another out. Communication and understanding are key, so if you are having an issue with a neighbor, please, be sure to talk with them and listen to their concerns. You can likely come to a solution that will work for both of you!

If you have any issues or questions about your rental situation, visit the City of Bellingham’s Landlord/Tenant Information and Resources page on the city’s website (www.cob.org). This webpage has many helpful links to the laws and regulations governing rentals and local agencies that can help with disputes between landlords and tenants. You can also learn about the city’s rental registration program. Remember, all rentals must be registered and will be inspected to insure they meet basic health and safety requirements. If you aren’t sure if your rental is registered, ask your landlord; and if they haven’t already, encourage them to register your unit so you can be assured you are living somewhere safe.

To get more involved in the neighborhood join us at the October 14 general meeting. You will get to meet your neighbors, learn what is happening in the neighborhood, and learn how to prepare in case there is an emergency in the area. Additionally, there are several opportunities to volunteer including distributing newsletters, helping at park work days, or being a park steward. Who knows? You may even be able to get some college credits for helping out!

We hope you enjoy your year and are happy to have you in the neighborhood.



A York neighborhood gathering place.

Some favorites: chicken ‘n waffles, country-fried steak and gravy, Eggs Benedict, great burgers and hand-cut fries, soups, sandwiches, and salads.

A kid’s menu and daily specials, too!

Happy Hour daily, 4 – 6pm

Located in the historic Nelson’s Market at the corner of Humboldt & Potter streets
514 Potter St. Bellingham, WA
We do Take-Out, too. Call 734-2448

*“Alone we can do so little;
Together we can do so much”
~Helen Keller*




Franklin Park Volunteer Work Party
Saturday, November 21st
9:00am-Noon

Meet at the Franklin Park picnic shelter (Whatcom St.)

Feeling thankful for our neighborhood parks? On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, join York neighbors and Bellingham Parks Dept. for this end-of-the-season work party. We'll clear trails, remove invasive plants and prep the park for winter. Gloves, tools and refreshments (including hot drinks!) provided.

Questions?

Contact Mark at franklinparksteward@yorkneighborhood.org.



Enjoying the garden behind Nelson's Market at the Wine and Roses Garden Club meeting

Donations to York Neighborhood Association are appreciated!

York Neighborhood Association Donation Form

- Students \$5.00 Household \$20.00
- Singles \$10.00 Other Amount
- 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: Don Hilty-Jones,
YNA Treasurer,
1316 Franklin St.
Bellingham, WA 98225

York Calendar of Events

Save the Dates!

ANNUAL YORK PICNIC

Sat., Sept. 19
 3 pm to 6 pm
 Franklin Park



YNA GENERAL MEETING

Wed., Oct. 14
 Garden St. United Methodist Church
 1326 N. Garden St.
 6:30 pm Potato Bar
 7 pm Speakers & Meeting



YNA BOARD MEETING

Wed., Nov. 11
 7pm at Garden St. United Methodist Church



FRANKLIN PARK WORK PARTY

November 21
 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.



WINE & ROSES GARDEN CLUB

Date & Location TBA
 Contact Anne Mackie for info at:
 secretary@yorkneighborhood.org



YNA ANNUAL HORSE WAGON AND CAROLING HOLIDAY PARTY

Sat., Dec. 12
 Nelson's Market, 5:30 p.m.

KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH YORK NEWS!

- Send your name & email to:
Listmaster@yorkneighborhood.org
- Like us on Facebook at
 YorkNeighborhood Non-Profit Organization
- Join Nextdoor

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