

THE YORKER



YORK NEIGHBORHOOD GENERAL MEETING

“Town and Gown: How Neighborhoods and Students Can Work Together”

Wed., March 9, 2016

6:30pm Taco Supper; Meeting 7pm

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

A panel presentation with:

Steve Swan, *Western Washington Univ. Vice Pres.,
Community Relations*

Nate Langstratt, *VP for Admin. Services, Whatcom Community College;*

Ben Larson, *York Board member and WWU student*

Followed by Questions and Discussion

For the Taco Supper: York Board Members are providing tacos and fixings; neighbors are asked to bring a salad or dessert. Please bring your tableware.

If you need child care at the meeting, please let us know a few days in advance so we can plan. Contact Tom Scott at: VicePresident@yorkneighborhood.org.

Hope to see you there!



York's Little Library Grows

By Kim Bogren Owen, Editor

Megan and Dan Gould live at the corner of York and Grant streets where they have installed a Little Library at the back of their side yard. It was a gift from their parents in memory of their grandmother. Made of re-purposed materials, the doors feature a painting of the grandmother's two Dachshunds – Charlie and Lucy.

Little Libraries have been popping up all around the city and have always made Megan smile, so now she's happy to have one of her own and to be able to share books with the neighborhood. Check it out! Take a book; leave a book. Books for all ages that are in good shape are always welcome, and it will be a great resource for kids doing reading challenges this summer. To find other registered Little Libraries, go to www.littlefreelibrary.org. Megan's and Dan's is listed on the world map!

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“A library is a hospital for the mind.”

Alvin Toffler, writer

Overall Crime is Down in York, but Auto Theft Speeds Up

By Anne Mackie

Out of 21 crime categories tracked by the Bellingham Police Dept. from 2012 to 2015, 11 categories showed a significant **decrease** in the York neighborhood; however, Auto Theft showed a big **increase** from four incidents in 2012 up to 11 in 2015 – the all-time high for the four-year period.

Community Policing Officer Eric Osterkamp shared the report at York's Annual Meeting held Jan. 13. He and Police Chief Clifford Cook were guest speakers.

Significant decreases were seen in alcohol offenses, felony assault, misdemeanor assault, residential burglaries, crimes against persons, crimes against property, drug offenses, malicious mischief, service calls, theft, and traffic complaints.

York's Statistics

- Alcohol offenses: 2014 = 43; 2015 = 12.
- Misdemeanor assault: 2012 = 20; 2015 = 7.
- Residential burglary: 2014 = 41; 2015 = 19.
- Drug offenses: 2014 = 13; 2015 = 4.
- Malicious mischief: 2014 = 87; 2015 = 29.
- Theft: 2014 = 125; 2015 = 96.

Driving Under the Influence increased from a low of 15 in 2013 to a high of 23 in 2015. Public Order complaints are trending upward from 123 in 2013 (the lowest); 180 in 2013 (the highest); 140 in 2014; and 151 in 2015.

Chief Cook addressed additional issues about use of body cameras for police officers beginning in June 2016; a new Bellingham Neighborhoods Together pilot program to increase awareness about neighborhood crime; predictive policing software; the Mental Health Court; a new prisoner relocation program that uses the Yakima jail to help relieve jail crowding; and the huge drop in criminal activity along Samish Way previously associated with the Aloha Motel that has been demolished. The full York crime statistics report and handouts for the meeting, are available online at www.YorkNeighborhood.org.

Thank you, Hearing Northwest!



An over-grown pine tree was obstructing the intersection at Ellis and Gladstone streets, creating a hazard for pedestrians and cars.

Hearing Northwest did the right thing by removing the tree and cutting back other vegetation. Thank you for being a GREAT NEIGHBOR!

Update on Ellis St. Crosswalk Safety

YNA Board members Lisa Anderson and Kim Owen met with the City Public Works staff late in 2015 to discuss neighborhood safety concerns at two York intersections: Ellis at Gladstone, and Ellis at Potter and Magnolia. A petition with over 100 names had been circulated in the neighborhood urging improvements to these intersections. Public Works recognizes there *are* issues of concern; but, unfortunately, there is no funding at this time to put in a crosswalk signal at Gladstone and Ellis. Speeding over the 25mph is a big problem on Ellis, which needs to be addressed by the Police Dept. A flashing device to alert drivers to their actual speed would help; but in the meantime, check your own speed to keep everyone safe.

Tenant Waste Taskforce Update

By Edward Tabor, Board Member

The most recent Tenant Waste Taskforce meeting was held to hear a WWU student presentation on surveys conducted of student renters and to brainstorm and vote on some possible solutions.

The presentation outlined that over 50 percent of renters polled had taken some form of free items off the street and would like to see recycling keep happening in the future, rather than just taking things to the dump. Also, 30 percent of renters reported that their landlords were either not cleaning out houses prior to move-in, or were refusing to help clear out remaining furniture.

A brainstorming session at the task force meeting produced a few ideas about hosting a furniture exchange program, distribution of renter rights information, and other possible approaches to fixing the tenant waste problems. Contact Edward Tabor for more information at:
 TenantWaste@yorkneighborhood.org



A wheelbarrow full of Bellingham Herald "Reviews."

News in the Streets?

By Anne Mackie, Secty/Treas

In just a few short hours in January a York student volunteer picked up a wheelbarrow full of soggy *Bellingham Herald* "Review" advertising packs. These were gathered from just a few blocks. Wrapped in plastic bags the package includes a few old news

stories and a bunch of advertising inserts. York volunteers have worked for many years to reduce litter with our litter patrol called RATS (Recycle And Trash Society), which evolved into STARS (Saturday Trash And Recyclers). Now, we are fighting the ongoing deluge by *The Herald*.

Seen driving through the neighborhood was a car from which the bags are hurled – sometimes landing in the street, the sidewalk, under shrubbery, but rarely on a front porch. We want *The Herald* to stop littering, so please - unless you are picking yours up to use – contact the Herald to ask them to stop! Call 676-2660, or go to their website: www.bellinghamheraldreview.com. This wheelbarrow photo on "Nextdoor" spawned an all-time high comment response of 36. A vast majority were people also annoyed by this corporate littering. Neighbors: Please do what you can to help clean up the mess along your block. Thanks.

2016 York Neighborhood Association Officers

President: Don Hilty-Jones

Vice President: Tom Scott

Treasurer/Secretary: Anne Mackie

Additional Board Members

Cory Anderson, Ben Larson, Kim Niederhauser, Kim Bogren Owen, Audrey Roberts, Mark Schofield, Edward Tabor

Contact:

York Neighborhood Association
 c/o 1316 Franklin 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.

KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH YORK NEWS!

- Send your name & email to: Listmaster@yorkneighborhood.org
- "Like" us on Facebook at: YorkNeighborhood Non-Profit
- Join the free social network Nextdoor York

Stay Connected, Know Your Neighbors!

Meet Our 2016 York Board

By Kim Bogren Owen, Editor

We are excited to announce that the York Board is growing!

Former York President, Lisa Anderson, was appointed by Mayor Linville to the City Planning Commission in February, so she has resigned her position on the York Board. Lisa will continue to volunteer for neighborhood events, so we aren't saying "goodbye" to her; but we are saying "Thank you" for serving as our President in 2015.

2016 Officers

Don Hilty-Jones, President, served as President in 2013 and 2014 and has been trapped again! He has lived in York for 10 years following his retirement from WSU in Pullman where he worked for 40 years. He wants to help lead the YNA to do its part in choosing how Bellingham will face its future. Don enjoys classical music, American history, and architecture.

Tom Scott, Vice President, is the webmaster for York's website and maintains our email list-serve. He has lived in York since 1989 and has been active on the board ever since, having served a few times as president. He is interested in land use planning and public safety. Tom is a computer consultant who enjoys soccer, hiking, and paddling.

Anne Mackie, Secretary/Treasurer, has lived in York for 31 years. She and her husband, Jon Ostby, own Nelson's Market and Marlins' Café. Anne loves doing historic research

about the neighborhood and enjoys working in the Rock Hill butterfly garden. Anne serves a York's Planning Committee Chair working on land use, housing, transportation, and open space issues.

Welcome New Board Members



Kim Niederhauser (pictured above with baby Hank) is a new board member. She, along with husband Mark and step-daughter Estella, moved into York in 2013. "First I fell in love with the house, then I fell in love with York." She joined the board because she is impressed by its accomplishments and wants to be an active, contributing member of the community. Kim is a Public Health Nurse in Communicable Disease with Whatcom County Health Department.

Ben Larson, another new board member (pictured at right) has lived in York for a year and a half. He



Studies political science and economics at WWU. Ben loves playing Ultimate Frisbee with the WWU club team and enjoys swing dancing. Ben grew up in the University District in Seattle where his parents were members of their neighborhood association. After going to YNA general meetings last year, he decided to take a more active role in the neighborhood and be a voice for many of the students living in the York.

Cory Anderson has lived in York 19 years and is back for his second year on the board because he enjoys helping with the picnic, Dumpster Day, and the holiday horse wagon ride. He never runs out of projects at his 107-year-old Victorian house, but finds time to squeeze in camping trips in his restored vintage travel trailer and time for grandchildren and gardening. Cory works in the Roads Division with Whatcom County Public Works.

York Board continued...

A diverse group of individuals, working together to create a better place to live!

Kim Owen has lived in York for a year and a half. She is a children’s book author and an Early Childhood consultant and trainer. She joined the board to help maintain the character of York and to represent families with children in the neighborhood. She is the newsletter editor. In her free time she enjoys gardening, hiking, and kayaking.

Audrey Roberts has lived in York since September 2015. Currently she is a student at WWU and works at the American Liver Foundation in social media marketing. She loves to play music, play outside, and paint. She says that being on the board brings her closer to letting the student voice of our neighborhood be represented. Audrey serves as the Rock Hill Park Steward.

Edward Tabor has lived in York since 2013. He is currently a third-year Geology student at WWU who joined the York Board last year because he wanted to meet people in the community and help make living here better for all of us. He serves on behalf of the board on the Tenant Waste Taskforce. Edward enjoys hiking, painting, and cooking a variety of dishes that have made their way to many York suppers.

Mark Schofield has lived in York since 2010. He coordinates conservation education and healthy homes programs for the Opportunity Council. Mark enjoys getting outside to run, hike, backpack, and cross-country ski. He also loves cooking, reading, politics, and gardening. But his new hobby is the best of all – parenting his new sweet baby boy with his wife. Mark is York’s Franklin Park Steward.

“A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.”
Henrik Ibsen, playwright and poet

Remembering Harriet Spanel

By Anne Mackie

York Neighborhood lost a friend and leader on Feb. 2 when Harriet Spanel died. Harriet most recently was the President of the Sehome Neighborhood, but she had previously served three terms in the Washington State Legislature for the 40th District, followed by four terms in the State Senate. She was passionate about environmental and natural resource protections, advocacy for women and children, and improvement in state transportation



systems. Most recently, Harriet brought her leadership skills to the neighborhood-based rental registration and safety movement that resulted in the city’s adoption of important new standards for rental housing.

Harriet worked closely with the York Neighborhood Board; and through this unity of purpose the two neighborhoods made important gains such as the removal of the Aloha Motel and its criminal presence, to be replaced in the future with much needed low-cost multi-family housing sponsored by Bellingham Whatcom Housing Authority.

Harriet was a “get it done” woman. When the city released a report stating that Sehome Neighborhood only had two Accessory Dwelling Units, Harriet walked the alleys and catalogued more than 20 garage units not listed on the books. In her footsteps we hope to carry on her important model of advocacy. Harriet will be greatly missed.

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The rock wall uncovered at Rock Hill Park

Rock Hill Park Update

The park is located at the south end of Iron St., by the freeway wall.

A large group of people came together on Sat., Feb. 10, to work on preparing Rock Hill Park for spring. Audrey Roberts and her team of volunteers cleared brush, uncovered an old rock wall, and pulled weeds as well as picked up litter to make the park a great place to hang out. Like to shoot basketballs? The park has a hoop.

Thank you to everyone who helped out!

Keep an eye out for the next work party at Rock Hill; and in the meantime, head over to check out the newly cleared rock wall or to spend some time enjoying the sun on the rock.

Franklin Park Work Party

Sat., April 16th

10:00am-12:00pm

Gear up for 2016 Earth Day* by getting your hands dirty in Franklin Park. We'll work with City of Bellingham Parks & Rec Dept. to enhance habitat and improve the walking trail on the Franklin Street island.

You bring yourself (and a friend). Meet at the Franklin Park picnic shelter - near Whatcom and Franklin streets. We'll provide gloves, tools, and refreshments.

Questions? Contact Mark at FranklinParkSteward@yorkneighborhood.org.

** National Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22. This annual day is held to demonstrate support for environmental protection. The concept of Earth Day was established in 1969.*



Early spring blooms carpet the butterfly garden beds at Rock Hill Park with Lenten Rose (Hellebore) and Snowdrops (Galanthus).

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KIDS' CORNER

By Kim Bogren Owen, Editor

As spring comes along, everyone is excited to get outside and do all their favorite activities. But sometimes reading a good book is one of the best things you can do in the outdoors, especially if it relates to what you are seeing or doing.

Spring is a great time to be on the lookout for whales. Perhaps take a trip to one of the San Juan Islands to see if you can find them. A beautiful book about a little girl who has her own adventure with whales is *Whale Song*, by Dylan Sheldon and Gary Blythe.

As spring nears, a lot of animals have their babies. Chickens begin to lay their eggs again. Did you know that chicken and birds aren't the only ones who lay eggs? Reptiles do too! Learn more in *Chickens Aren't the Only Ones*, by Ruth Heller.

Many animals' babies are born in the spring, because that is when there is plenty of food around for them; but plants also begin to grow again and many bloom in spring. Learn more about this in *The Reason for a Flower*, by Ruth Heller.

A few chapter books that have spring as a theme are *The Penderwicks in Spring*, by Jeanne Birdsall; *Clementine and the Spring Trip*, by Sara Pennypacker and Marla Frazee; *Junie B., First Grader: Dumb Bunny (Book 27)*, by Barbara Park and Denise Brunkus; and *Henry and Mudge in Puddle Trouble*, by Cynthia Rylant and Sucie Stevenson.

You can find these books at the Bellingham library, but did you also know we have our own Little Free Library right here in York? It is on York St. between Grant and Humboldt. *Whale Song* and *Chickens Aren't the Only Ones* are in the Little Free Library, as well as many other great books. Go check it out, find a book, and add one of your favorite spring books to share with other kids in the neighborhood.



Sun. March 13, 5:30 TO 7:30 PM
ST. PADDY'S PARTY



Live music with *The Porchlights*,
and a traditional Irish meal of
Corned Beef 'n Cabbage
Nelson's Market & Marlins' Café
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New Senior Housing Project Coming to York

The old Wilsons' Motors property on Ellis St. is proposed to be developed into a four-story, 80-unit, apartment complex serving low-income seniors. Mercy Housing Northwest is working to secure permits for the project, which is scheduled to begin in late summer 2016 with completion in fall 2017.



The former Wilsons' Motors site at the corner of Ellis and Champion

An information meeting about the project will be held on Tue. March 1, at 6pm, at the Sustainable Connections Meeting room, 1701 Ellis St. All are welcome to attend.

WANTED: Graphic Designer to help with production of *The Yorker*. It's a volunteer job, four times a year. Great opportunity for a student to build their portfolio.
 Contact: YorkerEditor@yorkneighborhood.org

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
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Return Form & Check to:
Don Hilty-Jones,
YNA Treasurer,
1316 Franklin St., Bellingham, WA 98225

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

YNA General Meeting Wed., March 9

At Garden St. United Methodist Church
 1326 N. Garden St.
6:30pm Taco Supper
7pm Speakers & Meeting

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YNA Board Meeting

Wed., April 13, 7pm
 At Garden St. United Methodist Church
 1326 N. Garden St.

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YNA General Meeting

Wed, May 11
 At Garden St. United Methodist Church
 1326 N. Garden St.
 6:30 pm Group Meal
 7pm Speakers & Meeting