

# THE YORKER

SUMMER 2019



FROM THE YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION—BRINGING THE YORK COMMUNITY TOGETHER

## York Annual Picnic

Saturday, August 17

3pm to 5pm

Harriet Spanel Park—corner of  
Whatcom and Franklin Streets



Party Trailer coming to York!

This year, York's Annual Picnic will have a **Block Party Trailer** provided by the City Parks Department. In addition to providing folding tables, chairs, canopies, and other party supplies, this means we'll have:

### GAMES for KIDS!

- Giant Connect Four • Giant Jenga
- Hula Hoops • Sidewalk Chalk • Footballs
- Cornhole Beanbag Toss

### PLUS:

- Free Hempler's Hot Dogs
- Kids Talent Show
- Piñata Smash
- Pie Raffle
- Great Potluck Dishes
- Meet Local Political Candidates  
(see page 7)

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A good time was had by all at the ice-cream social hosted by Nelson's Market for National Night Out Against Crime in early August.



Kids were happy to meet the firefighters and police representatives... and the K-9 unit, too!

## Voluntary Watering Schedule

From June 1 to September 15 annually, the City requests that residents with odd-numbered street addresses limit outdoor watering to Sundays, Wednesdays, or Fridays.

Residents with even-numbered addresses are asked to water only on Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays.

Mondays are nonwatering days, to allow reservoirs to recharge after the weekend.

For more info: [www.cob.org/conserv](http://www.cob.org/conserv)

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

[yorkneighborhood.org/newsletters](http://yorkneighborhood.org/newsletters)



## YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

c/o 336 36th St #370, Bellingham WA 98225

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



## News from the 'hood

The York Annual Meeting was held March 13, with a baked-potato supper provided by the York Neighborhood Association (YNA) Board.

### Care of York trees

Our guest speaker, Christopher Hunsaker from Earthworks Tree Service, provided information on tree care. In the Q&A which followed, a subject was raised that several residents have wondered about: who's responsible for the maintenance of trees planted along streets' parking strips?

The answer to that question is in the City of Bellingham's Street Tree Planting, Removal, and Maintenance Policy (PAR 06.00.01). According to this, "The abutting owner is responsible for the maintenance of street trees and other vegetation located on planting strips adjacent to streets not listed in the City maintenance responsibility list." That also applies to "vegetation other than street trees." So it's on us to ensure that trees and shrubs on our lots' parking strips don't impede vehicle or pedestrian traffic.

### Changing police liaison

Longtime liaison to the York neighborhood **Officer Eric Osterkamp** has been promoted to sergeant; his face will be missed at YNA meetings! **Officer Jon Knutsen** is now filling that role as part of the Neighborhood Police Officer Program for the south half of town, which includes York.

### Board news

In official business, the current Board members were reelected, and York resident **Daniel DiBartolo** volunteered to join. Thanks, Daniel, for helping to represent your neighbors at Board meetings and keep the neighborhood connected!

### YNA in action

Board member **Anne Mackie** reported on two activity fronts she's been heading up: the status of the school district's \$3.5-million bus barn renovation along Whatcom Creek (at



*Christopher Hunsaker talks trees at York's Annual Meeting, March 13*

York's north border) and a proposal to obtain funds from the Mayor's Small and Simple Grants opportunity to improve local signage supporting the neighborhood's identity.

With regard to the bus barn, Anne reported on efforts of the **Whatcom Creek Alliance** to protect the creek by defending the City's 2010 Comprehensive Plan for continuing to develop the site as a potential park alongside some affordable housing. On page 7, you can read the motion passed to reiterate YNA's 2010 Comprehensive Plan Amendment urging better use of this sensitive plot of land.

### The Mayor's Small and Simple Grant Program

A Neighborhood Wayfinding Signage Project proposal for a new "Welcome to York Neighborhood" sign (like the one at Ellis and Magnolia) to be located in the southern portion of York, welcoming street-sign toppers for the southern portion's intersections, new printed yard signs and wire holders for announcing neighborhood events (to replace our sadly beaten-up old remnants), and sandwich-board signs to direct foot traffic to such events. York was awarded a total of \$4,100 for the sign projects, which are underway this summer.

Board member **Ticker Ba-Aye** has also suggested that York would enjoy having some more neighbor-participatory artwork such as a mural on the I-5 sound wall or painting of city utility boxes that flank Harriet Spanel Park. If you'd like to help us develop such projects, get involved by contacting Ticker at [Treasurer@YorkNeighborhood.org](mailto:Treasurer@YorkNeighborhood.org)!

*Interested in joining the YNA Board? Let us know by contacting [President@YorkNeighborhood.org](mailto:President@YorkNeighborhood.org).*



## Thank you to our supporting businesses and neighbors!

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Mount Baker Planned Parenthood • Nelson's Market  
Rhythms of Life Wellness Studio • Skyline Physical Therapy

Judy and Dave Hopkinson • Chris Robinson and Amy Carder  
Tom Scott • Shannon Spears

### Changes to our bus service

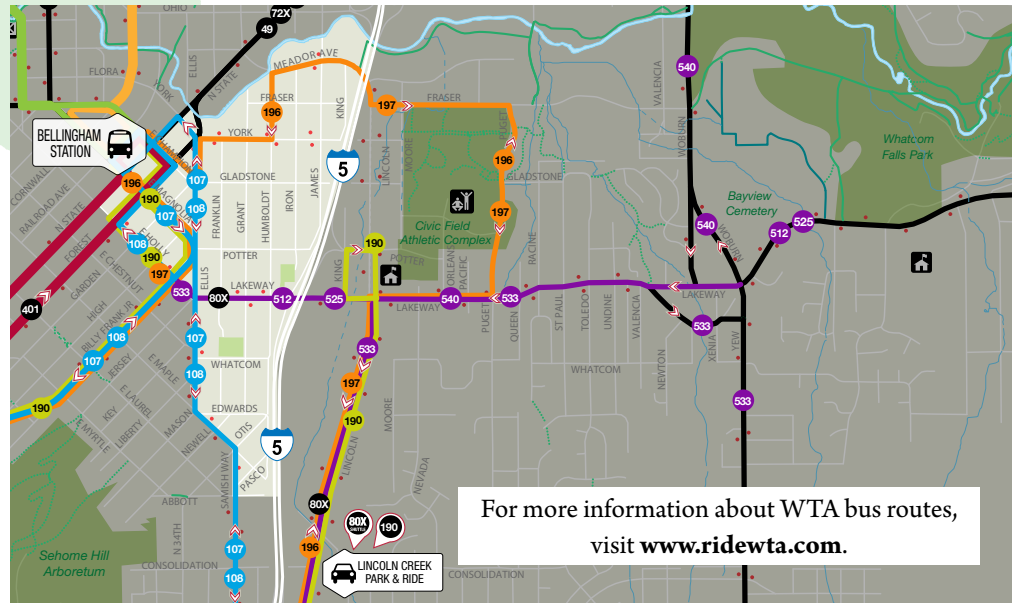
As you may be aware, **Whatcom Transportation Authority** recently eliminated **Route 92**, which provided service from bus stops on Potter Street to WWU. Riders will now need to catch the **Blue Line** (comprised of routes 105, 107, 108, 190, 196, and 197) to WWU at either Magnolia Street at High Street or Billy Frank Jr. Street at Holly Street. When WWU is in session, the **Blue Line** to WWU offers service every 15 minutes on weekdays and up to 10 buses per hour during the a.m. peak.

“We understand this will mean longer walks to the bus stop for some riders. However walking this extra distance gives riders access to more frequent service,” said Mary Anderson, Community Relations and Marketing Manager, WTA. “From a service delivery standpoint, WTA needed to consolidate some bus stops in order to meet the a.m. peak ridership demand with existing resources.”

**Route 5**, which connected the northern end of York with Fairhaven and Downtown, has also been eliminated, in theory being replaced by **Route 105**. But this new route reaches Fairhaven only after traveling up to and around the university.

Route 5 also connected the university with the Lincoln Street Park & Ride; that function is now to be served by **Route 196/197**, which runs hourly.

For more information, contact **Mary Anderson** at [marya@ridewta.com](mailto:marya@ridewta.com) or 360-788-9316.



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## Rocking Rock Hill Park!

On Saturday June 1 a hearty group of volunteers performed major surgery on Rock Hill Park in York to eradicate the invasive bindweed and spread mulch into the lower-level flower beds.

Thanks to WWU women's basketball and volleyball teams, Environmental Studies students, York neighbors, and Parks Department staff for their work. We even had one visiting student from Purdue University in Indiana.

The park will undergo additional work this summer to plant new native plants for attracting pollinators. A fun time was had by all. Check it out—up in the 1300 block of Iron Street.



Volunteers at Rock Hill Park, June 1

**What would you like us to feature in future Yorkers?**

**Let us know via email to [YorkerEditor@yorkneighborhood.org](mailto:YorkerEditor@yorkneighborhood.org)**

### Garden Street United Methodist Church

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### York Neighborhood Association Board

2019 Officers

President: **Tom Scott**  
Vice President: **Anne Mackie**  
Secretary: **Leigh Mcdiarmid**  
Treasurer: **Ticker Ba-Aye**

Members-at-Large

**Daniel DiBartolo • Emma Toth • Mark Ellis Walker**

Newsletter layout: **Mark Ellis Walker**

## Explore more of York's trees, 10 years on

by Anne Mackie

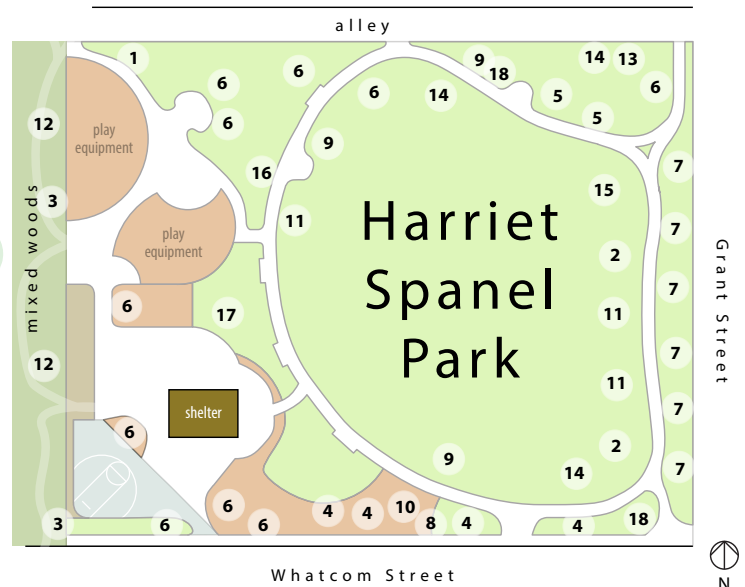
Have you taken a stroll through **Harriet Spanel Park** lately? The young trees planted 10 years ago are flourishing and hopefully will survive another dry summer. These trees were planted during the **Great Reconstruction Project of 2009**.

The redesign of what was formerly called **Franklin Park** was developed collaboratively with the Franklin Park Committee of the York Neighborhood Administration, working closely with landscape architect **Jonathan Schilk** of the City Parks Department. A new walking path, playground, picnic shelter, skate feature, basketball court, and more tables and benches were added.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held later in November 2009 at which 200 people celebrated the grand reopening of the park. Special thanks was given to the Loving Space School kids who researched their favorite playground equipment around the city and helped choose the new equipment. Their teachers **Abby Franklin** and **Erin Merenda** helped the kids plant native plants and bulbs.

The Franklin Park Committee was headed up by longtime York neighbors **Helen Jackson, Judy Hopkinson, Kirsti Charlton, Cindy Kaufman, Melanie Pacific, Cathy Repogle, Mark Schofield, Ron Barnett**, and many others who have since moved away. Also at the ceremony special thanks were given to **the family of Jeff Reed**, who provided \$1,000 for the skate feature and olive bench in honor of their son Jeff.

Take a summer stroll through the park and enjoy the fruits of your neighbors' hard work.



- |    |                                     |                                     |
|----|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1  | <b>Ginkgo</b>                       | <i>Ginkgo biloba</i>                |
| 2  | <b>Littleleaf Linden</b>            | <i>Tilia cordata</i>                |
| 3  | <b>Douglas Fir</b>                  | <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>        |
| 4  | <b>White Ash</b>                    | <i>Fraxinus americana</i>           |
| 5  | <b>Red Maple</b>                    | <i>Acer rubrum</i>                  |
| 6  | <b>Columnar Red Maple</b>           | <i>Acer rubrum 'Bowhall'</i>        |
| 7  | <b>Field Maple</b>                  | <i>Acer campestre</i>               |
| 8  | <b>Bigleaf Storax</b>               | <i>Styrax obassia</i>               |
| 9  | <b>Persian Ironwood</b>             | <i>Parrotia persica</i>             |
| 10 | <b>American Smoke Tree</b>          | <i>Cotinus obovatus</i>             |
| 11 | <b>Tupelo Tree or Sourgum</b>       | <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>              |
| 12 | <b>Black Cottonwood</b>             | <i>Populus trichocarpa</i>          |
| 13 | <b>Swamp Cypress</b>                | <i>Taxodium distichum</i>           |
| 14 | <b>Dawn Redwood</b>                 | <i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i> |
| 15 | <b>Katsura</b>                      | <i>Katsura japonica</i>             |
| 16 | <b>Crabapple "Golden Raindrops"</b> | <i>Malus 'Golden Raindrops'</i>     |
| 17 | <b>Dove Tree</b>                    | <i>Davidia involucrata</i>          |
| 18 | <b>Stewartia</b>                    | <i>Stewartia pseudocamellia</i>     |

*Big thanks to John Wesselink for providing us with the tree list and a map of their locations!*

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## Pulling together for less junk on our streets

### York's 41st Annual Dumpster Day

York volunteers closed up the packed dumpster by 10am Saturday, June 8. This was the 41st Annual Dumpster Day.

A big thank-you to (left to right) Eric Baumgartner, Kirsti Charlton, Lisa Anderson, Dumpster King Cory Anderson, Dumpster Queen Carolyn Mulder, and Zac Fustgaard.

Special thanks to Sanitary Services Corp. (SSC) for the free dumpster, RDS for free dumpage, and Nelson's Market for use of their parking lot.

### Move Out Madness

The following week, Western Washington University's Zero Waste Western, a program of the Office of Sustainability, in collaboration with the Campus Community Coalition, held *their* annual Move Out Madness, on Friday June 14th, at Harriet Spanel Park. Hope Peterson and Julia Burns, pictured at left, did a fantastic job managing the event. This program provides a free dumpster for students to get rid of unwanted items. Reusable furniture was donated to various local organizations.

Julia and her colleague Chris Roselli at the Alumni Association would like to remind people that "it is illegal to leave furniture in front of houses, even if there is a 'FREE' sign taped to it."

Check out Western's helpful guides to how to dispose of unwanted goods responsibly at this web page:

<https://offcampusliving.wvu.edu/garbage-recycling>

## 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.

### + Volunteers sought! +

The Office of Sustainability is planning to distribute informational door hangers throughout the neighborhood in late August, featuring resources for responsible disposal of everything from furniture to electronics and yard waste. Want to help out? Please contact Julia at [julia.burns@wwu.edu](mailto:julia.burns@wwu.edu), or call the office at 360-650-3000.

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## Let York be heard!

Bellingham and Whatcom County will have a Primary Election on Tuesday, August 6, and then a General Election on Tuesday, November 5. The YNA Board wants to make sure York residents' concerns for our neighborhood and city are heard, so we'll be making the various candidates aware of both current and ongoing York concerns.

**Let us know what those issues are!** Email them to [concerns@yorkneighborhood.org](mailto:concerns@yorkneighborhood.org), and we'll pass them along to the candidates...many of whom are expected to attend York's Annual Picnic on **Saturday, August 17** (at Harriet Spanel Park, named for a former State Senator). So come to the picnic and get your questions answered in person!

### Know your representation

**US:** 2nd Congressional District

**State:** 40th (mostly) and 42nd (northwest corner of York only) Legislative Districts

**County:** County Council District 1

**City:** 227th, 228th, and 247th Precincts, in Wards 3 and 5

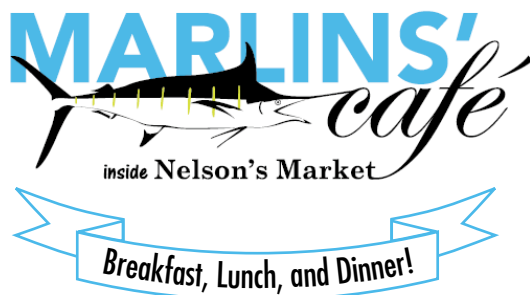
## York proposes stronger stand on Whatcom Creek protections

By Anne Mackie

Whatcom Creek runs along the northern boundary of the York Neighborhood, and since 2009 the neighborhood association has been on record as supporting relocation of the Bellingham School District's bus maintenance facility off the shores of the creek. This salmon habitat needs protection, yet the school district plans to invest \$3.5 million in an upgrade to their bus facility here rather than relocate its 70 diesel buses. Their official position is that they can't find another location.

In the hopes of continuing to bring public attention about this horrific misuse of shoreline property, the York Neighborhood Association submitted a Comprehensive Plan proposal that was voted on at its March 2019 annual meeting. Hopefully, the proposal will receive support by the City Council to be docketed for the upcoming 2020 Comp Plan review. Our request strengthens language in the York portion of the Plan in regards to protections for Whatcom Creek and reemphasizes what we've been advocating since 2009: **Move the buses off the creek!**

At a minimum, the school district should be engaged in restoration projects at this site where their property meets the creek. The bus facility moved to this location in the mid-1950s before stricter regulations were in place. It's time to do the right thing, Bellingham, and get the buses off the creek. Hopefully, York's efforts will gain momentum with the City Council in 2020, and we can join the rest of Washington state in salmon recovery for the orca population.



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## Calendar of York Events

August						
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

September						
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					

October						
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			

**YNA Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 14—7pm**  
 at Garden Street United Methodist Church  
 1326 North Garden Street

**York Annual Picnic**  
**Saturday, August 17—3pm to 5pm**  
 at Harriet Spanel Park  
 Whatcom and Franklin Streets

**YNA General Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 11—7pm**  
 at Garden Street United Methodist Church  
 1326 North Garden Street

**YNA Fall General Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 9**  
**Community Meal, 6pm; Meeting 6:30pm**  
 at Garden Street United Methodist Church  
 1326 North Garden Street

**Classes Begin:**

Bellingham Public Schools, grades 1 to 12  
**Wednesday, August 28**

Northwest Indian College  
**Monday, September 16**

Western Washington University  
**Monday, September 23**

Whatcom Community College &  
 Bellingham Technical College  
**Tuesday, September 24**

**City Council Regular Meetings**  
 the following Mondays: **August 19,**  
**August 26, September 9, September 23,**  
**October 7, October 23**  
 7pm, at City Hall—210 Lottie Street

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*Donations to the York Neighborhood Association are appreciated!*

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*suggested donation levels*

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