

THE YORKER



YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

FALL 2005
CIRCULATION: 800

TRY KNOCKING ON YOUR NEIGHBOR'S DOOR

By Anne Mackie

Knock Knock, Who's There?
Your Neighbor. Your Neighbor
Who? Your Neighbor who keeps
you up all night, or Your neighbor
who respects your rights?

I know which neighbor I want to live next to: the one who respects my rights. Conflict in this neighborhood between young and old, or student and non-student is nothing new. Our way of handling it is.

Collaborating with other community organizations, the York Neighborhood Association is working hard to create an atmosphere of inclusiveness and respect between neighbors. In this issue of the newsletter you'll read about a new Conflict Resolution training program -- a joint effort between the Campus Community Coalition (CCC), the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center, and neighborhoods like York.

Along with this newsletter you received a "door knocker" hanging on your door. It promotes the theme "Think Locally, Act Neighborly." It was published for the neighborhoods surrounding the university.

During the first week of classes, neighborhood representatives will participate in an Info Fair at WWU, introducing off-campus students to their various neighborhoods. The point being: these are neighborhoods, not blocks of party houses. Added up, these efforts represent a big commitment.

(CONT ON P.2)

1-5 SOUND WALL CHRISTENING ANNUAL YORK NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC & FUN DAY

*Sunday, September 18, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Rock Hill Park*

(at the southern end of Iron St, in the 1300 block)

Hot dogs & beverages provided by YNA.
Please bring a side dish to share and a chair.

Events

Wall Christening Ceremony: 400 p.m.,
Food served, 4:30 p.m.

Live music, kids' games, soccer,
basketball, dodge ball, and more!

Bring the family and meet your neighbors.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

*Wednesday, September 28, 7-9p.m.
(Garden Street United Methodist Church, 1330 N.
Garden, in Room B)*

TOPIC: Candidates' Night
Come hear what the candidates have to say.
Be prepared to ask your questions.

WINE & ROSES GARDEN CLUB NEWS

By Amelia Lunde

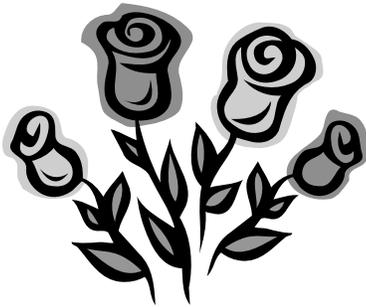
Would you enjoy the chance to view some of the neighborhood gardens? Do you like to eat and sip wine? Then the Wine & Roses Garden Club is for you!

The club meets once a month from April through October at a different York neighbor's garden each month, and then enjoys a progressive holiday dinner in December. The dinner is not to be missed; it's a gastro-nomic delight.

On the serious side, the club serves as Park Steward of the gardens at Rock Hill Park, located in the berm on the lower level near the basketball court. Rock Hill Park is at the southern end of Iron St.

Before the club took over, the perennial gardens were overrun with bird weed and burdock, two extremely invasive weeds. After two summers of consistent weeding, these weeds have less of a presence. This fall the garden club will work on the new butterfly habitat at the park. Watch for the changes.

Wine and Roses Garden Club is open to anyone who loves to garden and is ready for a good time. If you are interested, contact Amelia Lunde, 734-6739.



We are pleased to announce that Kelix Scott, neighborhood high school senior, is taking over as the leader for the Butterfly Habitat Project at Rock Hill Park. Kelix is working on this project for his Eagle Scout project. He will organize work parties, obtain materials and oversee the structural projects at the park, and lead activities for youngsters in building the butterfly houses, watering stations, and stepping stones for the habitat.

If you are interested in helping out with the project (young and old are encouraged to participate) contact Kelix at KelixRScott@On-SiteComputer.com; or call 733-2874.

By creating a haven for butterflies at Rock Hill Park, we are beginning an effort to make the park more wildlife-friendly. Located in the midst of an urban neighborhood, alongside the freeway, the butterfly habitat will offer a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate how urban gardens can become wildlife sanctuaries with a few simple amenities.

Butterflies are important as plant pollinators and as food for other animals (birds, mammals, spiders, and other insects). Butterflies are

also very sensitive to changes in the environment, and help warn us about unhealthy changes that are taking place.

The York Neighborhood received a grant of \$2500 from the City of Bellingham's Small & Simple grant funds for the butterfly project. The money is being used to purchase plants, retaining wall materials, an entrance arbor, viewing bench and signs. What we need now is more help.

How you can help

Prepare the grounds: Weeding, mulching, and pruning.

Build retaining walls: Help install the masonry blocks around the planting beds.

Install arbor: We have purchased a butterfly motif arbor for the entrance.

Plant butterfly "food": Plant host, or larval plants for butterflies to lay eggs on. Plant nectar-producing flowers to provide food for adult butterflies.

Establish watering stations: We will install ground level clay saucers to collect water.

Construct signs: The signs will explain the elements of a butterfly habitat.

TRY KNOCKING... (CONT FROM P.1)

ment by Western and its surrounding neighborhoods to create a sense of community and an atmosphere of cooperation and respect.

From its inception in 1977, the York Neighborhood Association has been dedicated to inclusiveness.

We are not a home owners' association. We are an association for anyone living in or owning property in the York neighborhood. Dues are not required; however, membership donations help to make things happen.

FRANKLIN PARK PROJECT NEEDS YOUR HELP

By Judy Bachman

Plans are underway for Franklin Park's restoration. The park, located at the corner of Grant and Whatcom streets south of Lakeway Dr., will undergo a huge make-over engineered by York neighbors working with the Parks Department. We need more volunteers to make this project a success.

After reviewing all the comments of the neighborhood and park users, we came up with a plan. There will be a circuit trail around the park for year-round walking. The slope above the park will have a nature trail for bird watching and wildlife. Viewing benches will be placed above the playground.

In the lower park, new native plants will be added in a U shape to take advantage of the South sun. The U will leave the active field for soccer and other active games as it is now. Larger nut trees will be in the back of the U, then fruit trees, and then herbs. Benches will be placed around the circuit trail for quiet activity. By using native and edible plants, the park can become a center for education of how to combine growing edible food and still use a park for recreation.

Across the area where the grass and hill are located, tables will be added for picnicking and table games. The plans for the playground require input from the Parks Department so there are no plans to make changes this year. Also, the active field will not be changed until the Parks Department determines if it needs to resurface the area or find another method to control water drainage.

(CONT ON P.8)

A SHORT HISTORY OF FRANKLIN PARK

By Jon Ostby

The story of Franklin Park is a story about neighbors stepping up to the plate to make their community a better place. Today, just as in years past, neighborhood volunteers Judy and Jennifer Bachman are working on restoration projects for Franklin Park. They, like many Yorkers before them, have a vision to create something of value for generations to come (see related

thing about the old playground equipment. A Neighborhood Improvement Program grant was submitted by Donna Graddock, block captain of 1100 Grant St, to acquire funding for park improvements.

The YNA collected hundreds of petition signatures in favor of the grant, which was awarded in 1991 providing \$8,000+ to purchase new playground equipment and pay for other improve-



Franklin School, built in 1904 and demolished in 1977

story in this issue of the newsletter).

A history of Franklin Park shows how neighbors coming together with a common goal can make a big impact.

Originally, the site was the old brick Franklin Elementary school, built in 1904 and demolished in 1972. In 1977, York neighbors attended public hearings of the Mayor's Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and Parks Bond issue meetings to speak in favor of making the Franklin School site a park. The neighborhood won Mayor Ken Hertz's support to create the park.

The City acquired the property from the school district in 1977. For the next 13 years the park was in use, but in 1990 it was time to do some-

ments. The neighborhood subsequently raised \$2,500 in funds, volunteer labor and materials.

Calling ourselves "Friends of Franklin Park," work parties raked out the rocks, hauled away debris, raked in gravel, and made the play field ready for planting grass. Other neighbors organized fund-raising events.

Each year from then on, as part of Earth Day, the YNA organized clean-up efforts at both Franklin and Rock Hill Parks.

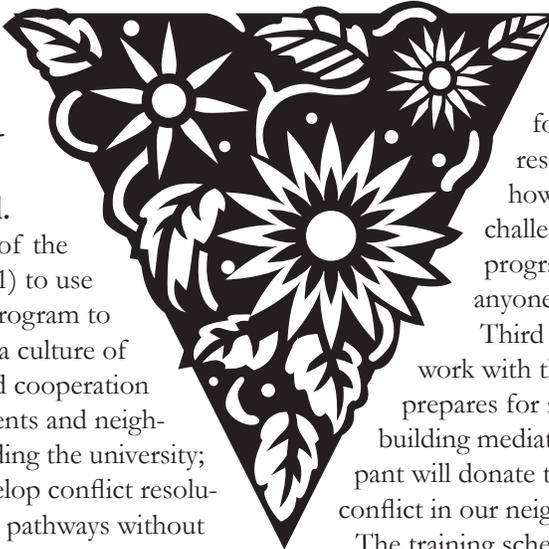
New ideas for Franklin Park are in the works today. These new plans will take the park forward and make it an important asset for the neighborhood in years to come. Again, as in its early beginning, Franklin Park needs our support.

MEDIATION PROGRAM PROMOTES NEIGHBORHOOD COOPERATION

By Judy Bachman

Western Washington University and the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center are facilitating better student-neighborhood relations through a grant funded mediation training program beginning this fall.

The goals of the program are: 1) to use a mediation program to contribute to a culture of friendship and cooperation between students and neighbors surrounding the university; and 2) to develop conflict resolution skills and pathways without law enforcement involvement or legal action. Students and neighbors will be taking the program together.



First Training: "Dealing with Conflict," 4 hours to be scheduled several times to accommodate different schedules; provides a foundation for conflict resolution and will be offered to anyone in the neighborhood.

Second Training: "Neighborhood Conflict Management," 12 hours; focuses on prevention; provides a foundation for conflict resolution; and explores how we can approach challenging situations. This program is also offered to anyone.

Third Training: "Mediation," 40 hours; certifies the attendee to work with the Dispute Resolution Center. This professional training prepares for mediating as a neutral party. The course focus is on skill-building mediation and practice experiences. Once certified, the participant will donate time to the Dispute Resolution Center to help mediate conflict in our neighborhood.

The training schedules will be posted on York Neighborhood web site, www.yorkneighborhood.org. If you are interested in participating in the mediation training, contact Judy Bachman, 714-1615, judybachman@kise1.org



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PARTY PATROLS HELP CALM NEIGHBORHOODS

By Lara Welker

This fall, the Campus Community Coalition is collaborating with the Bellingham Police Department to increase patrols to curb loud and disruptive parties in Bellingham's neighborhoods. York neighbors can help! Don't wait until several parties have already happened. Call 911 the first time a party is loud enough to be disruptive and provide the following information:

- Your name
- Approximate number of people at the party
- Presence of open alcohol containers outside

This information will help BPD to know how many officers to send to the location. It is very important to identify yourself when you call 911, otherwise BPD is not able to issue citations. While some neighbors are concerned about retaliation

if they identify themselves as the caller, BPD reports that retaliation happens very rarely, if at all.

Due to the volume and type of 911 calls, the Party Patrol may not arrive right away. Your patience is appreciated.

For more information contact Coalition Coordinator Lara Welker at 650-6863 or Lara.Welker@wwu.edu or Bellingham Police Department Crime Prevention at 676-6924.

MANY THANKS TO GREG HEFFRON for putting together this newsletter.

KEEP PREMISES LITTER FREE

In the City of Bellingham, garbage collection is mandatory. If you need to report a property that is in violation of the litter codes, contact the Litter Compliance Officer with the City of Bellingham Police Dept. Jayson Christopherson at 676-6859, or email him at jchristopherson@cob.org. Municipal code (10.60.130), states: "The owner or person in control of any private property shall at all times maintain the premises free of litter..."

RECYCLING HOTLINE

Answers to questions about waste reduction, recycling, composting and household hazardous waste: Call 676-5723 or 384-8040, weekdays 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

PARKING HEADACHES PLAGUE YORKERS

Too many cars and not enough parking spaces. That's the York neighborhood. If you have off-street parking behind your home use it so other residences without off-street parking have a place on the street to park. Have multiple vehicles per household? Consider making some off-street parking behind your house so that you aren't taking up all the spots in front of others' homes. Talk to your landlord about creating some parking behind your house.

PARKING ON LAWNS ILLEGAL

It is illegal in the City of Bellingham to park on the front lawns (City Municipal Code (11.33.185).



Zoe Wainwright sledge hammers an old couch to get it into the dumpster on the annual Dumpster Day held June 4 at Nelson's Market. Thanks to Litter Control Officer Jayson Christopherson for obtaining the free dumpster for the neighborhood; and, many thanks to the volunteers who helped clean-up the alleys and hauled the trash and broken furniture to the dumpster.

PUBLISHING TYPE WANTED TO HELP THE YNA

Due to increasing responsibilities directing the local Tibetan Buddhist group, working for a local nonprofit and starting teaching at Whatcom Community College, newsletter designer Greg Heffron needs someone to take over the production of the *Yorker Newsletter*. Have you published a newsletter for your church, club or at work? Familiar with using Pagemaker, InDesign or even just Microsoft Word? Want to contribute a valuable communication service to the

York Neighborhood Association? Please contact Greg at gheffron@midline.net. You'll be a YNA hero!

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MEET THE 2005 YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

Judy Bachman has resided in the neighborhood for two years and joined the board in 2004. She is a retired organizational development consultant to non-profit start-up companies and businesses. Currently, she focuses her time on remodeling and re-landscaping her York home. As a Board member she is facilitating changes and improvements for Franklin Park and is involved in the Garden and Historic committees. She is also coordinates York's involvement with the Mediation Training program, sponsored by the Campus Community Coalition. Judy has special interest in assisting anyone in planning low-cost improvements to their homes and landscape by helping them take advantage of the special programs offered to home owners.



Vale Bates joined the board in summer 2004 as a student representative. She will graduate this year from WWU with a degree in secondary education and plans to teach high school English, after completing her practice teaching in Spain. Vale works as assistant manager for a Bank of America branch office. She and her husband, Abe, bought their 1902-era York home two years ago and love working on home projects – inside and out. Vale says, “Being involved in the neighborhood creates a feeling of community with stronger ties.”

Oso and Greg Keeler joined the York board in 2003. Greg has lived in the neighborhood for eight years, Oso for five. They have a two-year-old son, with another baby due any day now. They own Oyster Creek Canvas Co., a custom marine canvas and industrial sewing shop, located on State St. across from Terra Organica. They enjoy living close to downtown, riding bikes, boating, diving, working on the house, and music. Greg plays in the semi-legendary band Jebz. Greg says they joined the board because, “We think community involvement can make a difference wherever you live. We have a growing family and want our kids to grow up in a positive, unique place. As population grows and urban sprawl results, neighborhoods with character and charm become more difficult to attain. We feel that the integrity of this neighborhood is important to preserve.”

Amelia Lunde was elected to the board at the March 2005 meeting. She serves as the Wine & Roses Garden Club coordinator.. In 2003

Amelia was awarded the “Golden Trowel” for her time spent weeding at Rock Hill Park; and her commitment to that project has continued with vigor. She has lived in the neighborhood for 18 years and challenges anyone to beat her claim as owner of the smallest house in the neighborhood, measuring 495 sq. feet. This claim is changing quickly, however, as her abode is going through a remodel. Amelia is employed by the Bellingham School District as a para-educator for children with special needs and enjoys spending time camping and gardening in her lovely yard filled with treasured plants and art.

Anne Mackie has lived in the neighborhood for 15 years and served as YNA president in the mid-90s. She has served as secretary/treasurer for past three years and has been responsible for obtaining three City grants for the “Welcome” sign, the historic brochure, and, most recently, the Rock Hill Park butterfly garden. She is a co-rep to the Association of Bellingham Neighborhoods, the Campus Community Coalition, and the Meth Action Team. Anne is employed by a health insurance company and is married to Jon Ostby, owner of Nelson’s Market. Between them they have four young adult “children” who are pursuing education, careers, travel, and – thankfully – employment.

Carolyn Mulder, board member for the past three years, has lived in the York neighborhood for 17 years and has been a landlord for 13 years. She lives in a turn-of-the-century home on Grant St. with her husband Eric Baumgarten and six-year

old daughter Ava. She is active in the neighborhood garden club and is co-organizer of the annual dumpster day. Carolyn teaches pre-school at WWU's Child Development Center. Her spare time is spent with the family sailing, camping, and cooking.

Tom Scott has lived in the neighborhood for 16 years and has served on the board for the past three. He was president of the Association in the early 1990s and is the current appointee to the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Council and a co-rep to the Association of Bellingham Neighborhoods. Tom is a computer consultant and network engineer with On-Site Computer Services, Inc. His family includes wife, Dondena, son Kelix and twins Sierra and Kyle. He is active in scouting and can often be seen out on a local field kicking a soccer ball when not "playing" with computers.

Joe Van Laeken joined the board in the spring of 2004 as one of the student representatives and attends the Campus Community Coalition meetings for York. Joe grew up in Woodinville and is studying secondary education with aspirations to teach high school history, current events, and/or art. He is currently working in a local restaurant, but in his spare time enjoys snow boarding and camping.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS

The neighborhood needs more volunteers for a variety of projects. By volunteering to help we can get more done on behalf of the neighborhood. You will be working with one member of the board to coordinate the work. If you are interested in helping with any of the following projects, contact Judy Bachman at 714-1615, judybachman@kise1.org.

1. Accounting Assistance – maintain donation list; help write thank-you letters;
2. Advertising Sales – help get ads for The Yorker newsletter;
3. Block Watch Program – Be a Block Watch Captain; help recruit new Block Watch Captains;
4. Butterfly Garden Project – Help create a butterfly habitat at Rock Hill Park;
5. Community-wide Meetings – be an alternate or a representative to a variety of community meetings (Assoc. of Bellingham Neighborhoods; Meth Action Network; Homeless Coalition; Campus Community Coalition);
6. Computer Assistance – email list maintenance; web page development and maintenance;
7. Franklin Park Project – Improve the park's vegetation, increase amenities for multiple uses; work with Park Steward on restoration project;
8. Garden Club & Beautification Projects – Help organize a tree planting project;
9. Historic Preservation Projects – join the Historic Preservation Committee and conduct research about the neighborhood. Work toward the goal of establishing York as a Historic District;
10. Meetings, Speakers, & Agendas – help organize general membership meetings; propose speakers; prepare agendas;
11. Mediation Training Program – Help to educate university-area neighborhoods about how to handle party houses, how to foster respectful relationships between neighbors, participate in the mediation training program provided by the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center;
12. Newsletter – write, edit, and shoot photos, for The Yorker;
13. Secretarial Assistance – take notes at meetings; maintain membership records.

David Wainwright was elected to the board in March after being nominated by his employer, Garden Street United Methodist Church where he is the custodian. David first got involved with the Association when he helped host the 2004 spring neighborhood potluck held at the church. He is married and has two children, ages 13 and 11. He spends

his free time serving as a trustee with Boy Scout Troop #2040, motor crossing with his son, traveling, hiking, enjoying music and reading. We're glad he has found some "extra" time to spend on the board!

FALL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, Sept. 18, 3-6p.m.	York Neighborhood Annual Picnic & Fun Day, Rock Hill Park
Monday, Sept. 19 Tuesday Sept. 20 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.	Neighborhoods Information Table, WWU Info Fair, Red Square
Sunday, Sept. 25, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m	Work party at Rock Hill Park
Wednesday, Sept. 28, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	General York Neighborhood Association meeting Garden Street United Methodist Church, 1330 N. Garden St.

FRANKLIN PARK PROJECT NEEDS... (CONT FROM P.3)

Park development will begin this fall with planting islands in a U shape. We will have expert assistance for composting each area, developing the trails, and planting native plants. The neighborhood will participate at several levels: develop the areas to be composted and start the circuit trail. Once the beds are ready, the plants from the Parks Department will need to be planted. Ongoing maintenance will be by volunteers as well as the Park's usual services of lawn and garbage maintenance.

The Parks Department named a park steward, Jennifer Bachman, because she is planning a similar garden at Whatcom Community Col-

lege. Neighbors living close to the park will assist in helping volunteers who want to work in the park on their own time. A schedule will be posted at the park for group projects.

Anyone interested in helping, please contact Judy Bachman, 714-1615; judybachman@kise1.org. There are a number of activities that do not require going to the park. These include fund raising, procurement of benches and art for the park, and contacting volunteers. We will utilize Whatcom Volunteers to announce and organize volunteer activities.

YORK NEIGHBORHOOD TREASURY GROWS, THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

By Anne Mackie, YNA Secretary/Treasurer

Two new \$100 business memberships from Adich Natural Health Center (1470 Ellis St.) and the Bellingham Hearing Center (303 Potter St.) have put the York treasury over \$1400. Thanks to these businesses and other neighbors who have made this year's fund raising effort such a big success.

Your membership donations help fund this newsletter, meeting announcement fliers, mailing costs, special projects such as the "Welcome to York Neighborhood" sign, the Historic Map and Walking Tour brochure, and park improvements, and the annual neighborhood picnic.

Since the last issue of The Yorker was published, we have received new membership donations from the following generous neighbors: Adich Natural Health Clinic, Cynthia Bach, Eric Baumgarten & Carolyn Mulder, Bellingham Hearing Center, Carol Dixon, Campus Community Coalition, Amelia Lunde, Dale Kreider, Lisa & Dan McShane, Elisabeth & Evan Stark, Mackenzie Straughan.

York Neighborhood Association

Membership Donation *(Thanks for your support!)*

- Students \$5.00 Indicate cash or check
- Household \$20.00
- Singles \$10.00
- Business \$100.00 (includes business-card size ad in each issue of The Yorker newsletter)

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