



York Neighborhood Meeting

Wednesday, February 15, 7pm

Garden Street United Methodist Church, Room B



Please join your neighbors at the next General Meeting to meet the Franklin Park playground architect, Jonathan Schilk of the Parks Department. He will discuss **plans for building a new playground at Franklin Park** and suggest ways for the YNA to interplay with the design. Here's an opportunity for you to give suggestions!

To view and play on some of Jonathan's other park designs, check out Whatcom Falls Park on Lakeway Drive, Sunnyland Park on Humboldt Street and Cornwall Park on Meridian.

Dr. Dale Kinsley, Superintendent of Schools, and Kelly Bashaw will give a presentation on the **upcoming school bond**. This \$67 million bond addresses the building of new elementary schools, the modernization of and seismic safety for multiple historic schools, as well as school preventative maintenance projects.

In addition to discussing the playground at Franklin Park and the School Bond Measure, we will have **YNA board elections for 2006**. Please note the list of candidates in this newsletter. We'll see you on Wednesday the 15th at 7pm!



See You On the Hillside Above Franklin Park

Work Party Number Two

Saturday, February 11, 10am to 12pm

Snacks, gloves and tools provided

For more information call Judy Bachman @ 714-1615 or Helen Jackson @ 656-5467

The Franklin Park Project

by Helen Jackson

The renovation of Franklin Park took a giant leap on January 19. Sixty volunteers joined on the hillside to remove invasive plants, dead trees and branches, plant indigenous plants, and mulch disturbed areas. Rae Edwards of the Parks Department coordinated volunteers, donations of indigenous plants and provided mulch from shredded, recycled Christmas trees. The Washington Conservation Corps, who worked all day on January 11 and 12, AmeriCorps, Parks Department volunteers and York residents worked in the rain and mud with a teamwork that somehow made it all fun, as well as a worthwhile community effort.

With more to do, the next hillside work party is scheduled on Saturday, February 11 from 10am to 12pm. York volunteers, the Parks Department and LEAD will continue removal of invasive plants and mulch.

Future work parties are scheduled. (See the calendar in this newsletter.) In lieu of energy or time, donations will be accepted for Franklin Park by the York Neighborhood Association.

This is the first stage of a design concept initiated by Judy Bachman, member of the YNA board, and Jennifer Bachman, park steward, to vitalize our park—making it safer, more usable and attractive for residents of all ages. The second stage will provide a new playground with updated equipment. In 2006, Jonathan Schilk, landscape architect for the Parks Department, will design this new playground for our children. He is requesting any suggestions for equipment or design. If you have ideas to contribute, they may be mailed or emailed to the York Neighborhood Association.

2005 – A Busy Year for Yorkers

The York Neighborhood Year in Review



by Anne Mackie

Picnics, parties, work crews, and caroling were highlights of a busy year gone by for York neighbors. During 2005 the York Neighborhood Association sponsored many educational meetings, fun times, and work crews that accomplished a lot for the neighborhood. Thanks for everyone's financial support and volunteer time to help make these events of 2005 possible:

- √ In March the Whatcom County Tax Assessor, Keith Willnauer, spoke at the YNA meeting on property tax assessments.
- √ In 2005 York initiated a pilot project with the City Attorney's office to provide neighborhood service work for alcohol-related offenses committed in the York neighborhood.
- √ In April YNA hosted a representative from the Department of Transportation to explain plans for the I-5 Sound Wall project.
- √ "How to research your home's history" was the topic of the May meeting with a speaker from the Whatcom Historical Society.
- √ Rock Hill Park got a massive clean-up in May with help from the Greenways Volunteers, WWU students, and Wine & Roses Garden Club members.
- √ On June 4 we held the Annual Dumpster Day and Neighborhood Spring Clean-up and collected enough garbage from the alleys to fill the dumpster by 10:30am.
- √ In September we held the annual picnic and "I-5 Sound Wall Christening" at Rock Hill Park with over 100 participants.
- √ On September 28 we hosted our first "Candidates Night" with candidates for City and County races.
- √ In October every landlord in the neighborhood was mailed a special letter from the YNA and Campus Community Coalition asking them to educate their tenants about City ordinances related to noise, parking, and garbage collection.
- √ YNA Board members attended mediation trainings sponsored by the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center, and the same organization provided a speaker for our November general meeting.
- √ In November a "Planning Subcommittee" formed and submitted a proposal to the City Council on zoning changes for the neighborhood that would protect its historic character.
- √ Funds from a City of Bellingham Small & Simple grant were used to install a masonry wall and arbor for a butterfly habitat at Rock Hill Park. Boy Scouts from Troop #19 helped in the construction with Eagle Scout Kelix Scott managing the work.
- √ Plans for renovations of Franklin Park's play equipment and a redesign of the park was initiated in 2005; work will continue in 2006. In late December a special meeting with the Bellingham Police Department was held to discuss safety improvements around Franklin Park.
- √ The big highlight of the year was the Christmas caroling party and horse-drawn carriage ride through the neighborhood in December.
- √ The Wine & Roses Garden Club hosted several potlucks and home garden tours in the neighborhood, culminating with a fun holiday dinner party attended by 25+ neighbors.
- √ York representatives continued to participate in the Mayor's Advisory Council and the Association of Bellingham Neighborhoods; and in 2005, we added a representative to the Community Development Advisory Board.

Thanks to everyone for all your support and hard work!

BHC

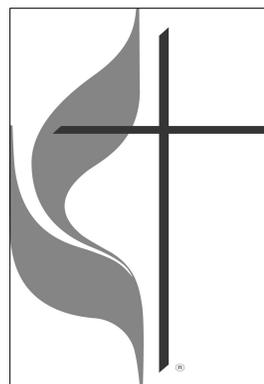
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Garden Street UMC

1326 North Garden Street
360-733-7440

Sunday Services

8:30am and 10:30am

Come and visit for all are welcome!!!
Check us out on the web—

www.gardenstreetumc.org

2006 York Neighborhood Board Elections

Below is a listing of current candidates and the YNA Board positions they are seeking.

Elections will take place at the General Meeting on Wednesday, February 15 at 7pm at Garden Street United Methodist Church.

Tom Scott—President
Anne Mackie—Vice President
Libby Stark—Secretary
Helen Jackson—Treasurer
Judy Bachman—Franklin Park Renovation Project Coordinator
Elliot Smith—Student Rep.
Barbara Davenport—Historical Preservation Committee Coordinator
Amelia Lunde—Wine and Roses Club Coordinator
Jessica Bandstra—Newsletter Editor
Carolyn Mulder—At-large
David Wainwright—At-large
Greg Keeler—At-large
Oso Keeler—At-large

There are still open positions as interest meets availability. For more information about becoming a YNA Board member contact Tom via email at president@yorkneighborhood.org or 733-2874.

Helen Jackson is a newcomer to the York neighborhood, moving here from Sandpoint, Idaho in August 2005. After driving to and looking through all of her favorite Northwest places, she chose Bellingham as home. She joined the board in September and wishes to serve as treasurer of the York Neighborhood Association. She has worked with the board to update city zoning and the York Neighborhood Plan, and helped coordinate the Franklin Park Project. She was previously employed with the Bonner County Planning Department, specializing in code compliance and stormwater-erosion controls. Her diverse occupational history includes teaching, co-ownership of a small business enabling businesses to comply with government regulations, and owner of a stained glass studio. Helen intends to contribute to this active association by volunteering her experience and appreciation of community.



Elisabeth “Libby” Stark was elected to the Board as a member at-large in the fall of 2005. She is currently running for the secretary position. Libby has lived in the York Neighborhood for 26 years. This spring she will graduate from the University of Washington School of Social Work with a Master’s degree in Social Work. Libby helped organize the candidate forum in October and the holiday caroling party in December. She brings creativity, organization and a commitment to healthy communities to the York Neighborhood Association Board.

Rev. Barbara Davenport has been a resident of the York Neighborhood for seven years and renovated her 110 year-old house at 1623 Humboldt Street. Previously she lived in the Sunnyland Neighborhood for six years and redid a house there. Her life-long passion has been renovating old wood structures. She grew up on a working farm in Vermont where she got lots of experience. Professionally, she was a psychologist and mental health planner in Boston for 25 years. She attended Harvard Divinity School and became a Unitarian minister, moving to Bellingham in 1993 to serve two small congregations, one in Mt. Vernon and one in Surrey, B.C. She is currently attempting to retire (a.k.a. reinvent herself) with varying degrees of success. She is presently renovating another old house in Hoquiam, WA.

Judy Bachman has been on numerous boards for property development, non-profit agencies and profit companies. She has been on the York board for one year. She was recently appointed to the Community Development Advisory Board. She is a retired university medical instructor, writer, and medical system delivery consultant. Since moving into the York Neighborhood, she has become a do-it-yourself home remodeler and soon to be a “safe” house for a foster child.

Elliott Smith has been a resident of the York neighborhood for a year and a half. He is a WWU student with a double major in History and Canadian/American studies. He is President of WWU’s Canadian Studies Club and is an undergraduate teaching fellow. Elliott grew up in Kirkland and graduated from Lake Washington High School where he was the student body president. He also served as Co-chair of the Kirkland Youth Council and Chair of the Kirkland Youth Assets Task Force. Elliott’s experience in community work will be a valuable asset to the York board.

Anne Mackie has been a member of the York board for the past four years, serving as Secretary/Treasurer. In this capacity she has applied for and received three City Small & Simple grants that funded the York “Welcome” sign, the historic brochure and walking tour map, and the butterfly habitat at Rock Hill Park. She is a co-rep to the Assoc. of Bellingham Neighborhoods and the Campus Community Coalition. As Vice President, Anne is committed to continuing her fundraising efforts for the neighborhood. She is employed by a health insurance company and is married to Jon Ostby, owner of Nelson’s Market. Between them they have four adult children—three sons and one daughter.

Tom Scott has been active in the YNA for almost all of the 17 years he has lived in the neighborhood. Tom 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.

Continued on next page

Board Nominee Biographies Continued

Oso and Greg Keeler have been on the board for three years. They are the owners of Oyster Creek Canvas Co., a custom marine canvas and industrial sewing shop, located on State St. They have two sons ages two and half and six months. They try to find time for riding bikes, boating, diving, and working on their house. Greg plays in the semi-legendary band Jebbs.

David Wainwright has served on the board one year. He works at Garden Street United Methodist Church where he is custodian. This past year David helped with newsletter distribution, picnic arrangements, the dumpster clean-up, and meetings. David has two children and spends his free time serving as a trustee with Boy Scout Troop #2040, motor crossing with his son, traveling, hiking, enjoying music and reading.

Carolyn Mulder, along with her husband Eric Baumgarten, is hard at work restoring a turn-of-the-century house in York where they've lived for 18 years. She has served on the board for the past four years. Carolyn is active in the neighborhood garden club and is co-organizer of the annual dumpster day. She teaches pre-school at WWU's Child Development Center, and in her spare time she enjoys time with daughter, Ava, and the family sailing, camping, and cooking.

Amelia Lunde has served on the board for one year. She has been the Wine & Roses Garden Club coordinator and helped organize several club potlucks and garden tours this past year. She has continued to be a primary "weeder" at Rock Hill Park, helping to turn it into a special garden. Amelia has lived in York for 19 years and before her recent home remodel held claim to the smallest house in the neighborhood. 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.

Jessica Bandstra has lived on the first floor of Barbara Davenport's 110 year-old house on Humboldt Street for a little over a year. She is originally from New England, where she did a Master's program at Harvard Divinity School. She currently works as Administrative Assistant at Garden Street United Methodist Church and as a monthly poster-putter-upper for the Pickford Cinema. She and her husband, Aaron (a shipwright at Seaview North Boatyard in Squalicum Harbor) are expecting their first child in April.

York South Security Projects

by Judy Bachman

After a follow-up meeting with the Bellingham Police Department about the security issues around Franklin Park, another meeting was held to set goals and objectives for several projects. Despite fliers and emails, attendance was poor from neighbors that attended the Police Department meeting. For those of you who are interested in helping, please contact me because I think the emails may not have reached you (714-1615 or judybachman@kise1.org). Nevertheless, we followed up on your comments for projects to make some corrections.



Ideas include:

Acquire lighting at the playground and hill of Franklin Park. York Neighborhood Association is submitting a grant to the City for lighting. If we do not receive the grant, a task force will develop a plan, get donations and arrange installation of lights.

Develop a system for handling problem landlords. A task force is developing several template letters to landlords with a follow-up system. The task force will present the program, and it will be published in the summer issue of *The Yorker*. Your input will be helpful. We are thinking that the letters will come from the York Neighborhood Association, and we will have a follow-up call to the landlords. These letters will cover code violations, illegal situations, litter, etc. At the current time, landlords receive a letter from the Police Department following a call that results in a citation.

Develop a Block Watch program and continue to work with Police Department to move drug trade out of York. We need to form a task force and meet with the police for training. We need approximately 3-4 people per block. Contact me if you can help in the planning or participation in some way.

Develop information sheet on how to resolve issues. Another task force is preparing an information sheet that will be inserted in the summer issue of *The Yorker*. This will include how to report or resolve all kinds of problems related to security, safety, drug houses and landlord issues.

Take action on Otis Street Issues. At the meeting with the Police Department, neighbors described hiding places for drug trades that have been taking place. Within one week trade had moved further into the neighborhood as police followed-up. We will be meeting to make specific objectives to eliminate places of trade.

How to Research the History of Your Home

by Laura Witt

- 1. Establish the date your house was built:** Use the Whatcom County Assessor's Office – Real Property Search – online through www.cob.org; Title company- Abstract of Title; Whatcom County Auditor's Office – deeds from late 1800s.
- 2. Architectural Style:** Establishing the date your house was built will help determine your home's architectural style, such as Victorian, Craftsman or a Queen Anne cottage. Resources: *Field Guide to American Houses* by Virginia McAlester; *American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940* by Gottfried and Jennings; *What Style Is It? A Guide to American Architecture* by John Poppeliers.
- 3. Who Lived in your House?** City Directories provide names, addresses and occupations of the residents living in your house. Early directories for Whatcom County are available at the Bellingham Public Library and the 1890/91 Directories are online at USGebweb.org and the Whatcom Historical Society's website. Census Records provide family/household names, ages, occupations, street addresses, immigration dates. They can be searched from your home computer using the Heritage Quest database accessible at the Bellingham Public Library website. (Log in using your library card barcode.)
- 4. Community Profile:** Once you have some names to work with, it is time to begin exploring who these people were. Studying the history of your street, your neighborhood and your city will help "flesh out" the story of your home. Use church histories, newspapers, local history books and cemetery records from the Whatcom Genealogical Society.
- 5. Old Photographs:** Street scenes, aerial views, family scrapbooks, published local photo collections and other photographs are great sources for neighborhood history. **Contacts:** Whatcom History Museum – Jeff Jewel; Bellingham Public Library – Genealogy and Family History Section; Center for Pacific Northwest Studies at WWU (NW Regional Archives).
- 6. Maps:** Studying maps from different years may reveal changes to your property and show that your house previously went by a different address. **Resources:** Birdseye Views; City Plat Maps/Books; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps – outline structures block by block (1904, 1913, on microfilm at BPL). These maps can be very detailed. Bellingham Public Library, Whatcom History Museum, Center for Pacific Northwest Studies/WWU, Assessor's Office.
- 7. Newspapers:** Early newspapers include articles, announcements, advertisements and obituaries. Early Whatcom County papers include *The Reveille*, *Bellingham Bay Express*, *The Weekly Blade*. **Resources:** Bellingham Public Library – microfilm readers Center for Pacific Northwest Studies; [US Genweb.org/Whatcom History Society](http://USGenweb.org/WhatcomHistorySociety) website – newspaper transcriptions and obits.
- 8. Oral Histories:** Long time residents may have memories of your house, perhaps even facts that are not in the "written record." Relatives of former occupants may be willing to share old photographs of your house. So talk to your neighbors!



This York home located at 1400 Franklin St. was built in 1912 and is an example of the American Foursquare style of architecture. This post-Victorian style has a boxy shape which provides roomy interiors for homes on small city lots. It is characterized by two-and-a-half stories and a full-width porch with central stairs.



York Historic Preservation

Committee Report

by Rev. Barbara Davenport

The York Historic Preservation Committee held its first meeting of the year February 8 at Nelson's Market. Ten enthusiastic participants, living in houses ranging from 66 to 110 years old, are ready to begin work on several projects.

Committee member Elliott Smith, WWU history student, summarized a fascinating 37-page report he has compiled on York history (copies available; call 733-4883).

Katie Franks, from Bellingham's Planning and Community Development Department, talked with us about how York might obtain historic designation. Issues to consider regarding historic designation are the pros and cons of that status and whether national or local designation would better serve our goals and purposes.

On April 22 from 9am-4pm, the City of Bellingham and Whatcom Museum are co-hosting a day-long program about the City's ordinance for Historic Preservation. Training will be conducted on how to research the history of your home. The program is free and open to all.

The next meeting of the Historic Preservation Committee will be **Wednesday, March 8 at 7pm** at Nelson's Market.

Wine and Roses Garden Club



by **Amelia Lunde**

Do you love to garden, or just enjoy sitting in a well-tended garden? Then the Wine and Roses Garden Club is for you! WRGC tries to meet once a month, in late spring and summer, to visit other member's gardens. There is always delicious food to eat and a variety of wines to sip as we stroll the garden paths. We just celebrated our 3rd annual holiday progressive dinner. I think it was the best one yet, the crisp night air and delectable food made the evening.

Our main project is Rock Hill. For several years we have been battling the noxious weeds, I think we have slowed them down. This year our master grant writer, Anne Mackie, attained for us a City Small and Simple grant. With that grant, and with the help of a future Eagle Scout, we were able to install a retaining wall and an entrance arbor. It is our hope, with these things in place, that weeds will be easier to control, the edging will be trouble-free for the Parks Department, and the undesirable visitors will be discouraged.

Wine and Roses is a very low-pressure, but fun, club. It is a fabulous way to meet neighbors, walk their gardens, and get ideas. If you want to join or have any questions or ideas, contact Amelia Lunde at 734-6739.



Thank You!

Holiday Caroling Cookie Contributors

Many thanks go to the fabulous bakers in our neighborhood who donated a batch, or multiple batches, of delicious cookies for our First Annual Holiday Caroling Party!

Kirsti Charlton
Matt Charlton
Barbara Davenport
Kylie Gursky
Sandi Hess of Bellingham Hearing Center
Anne Mackie
Carolyn and Eric Mulder
Sierra Scott
Tom Scott
Madeline Sheplor
Libby Stark



All the carolers appreciated their baking talent and generosity. Thank you!

Candidate Forum for November 2005 Elections

Community Food Co-op
Haggen at Sehome Village

Thanks for providing tasty cookies and punch!
Thanks also to Garden Street United Methodist Church for the use of their basement!

Franklin Park Renovation Project Work Group on January 16

Starbucks for coffee on a rainy day
Whatcom County Parks Department, especially Rae Edwards and the hardworking volunteers
AmeriCorps
Washington Conservation Corps

Come by Franklin Park sometime and check out the hillside—it's beautiful!
This was one industrious and super work group!

Franklin Park Renovation Project Work Group on February 11

Fred Meyer on Lakeway for yummy goodies

Thanks to the following people for their YNA membership donations and renewals in recent months:

Jeff & Laurie Brown, Donald & Helen Dorn, Helen Jackson, John Wiley & Carolyn Milling, Greg Robanser, Richard Smith, David & Teresa Schmidt-Wiggs from Signs By Tomorrow (for banners), and On-Site Computers Inc. and Nelson's Market for sponsorship of the Christmas horse-drawn wagon.

Zoning in the York Neighborhood

by Lisa McShane

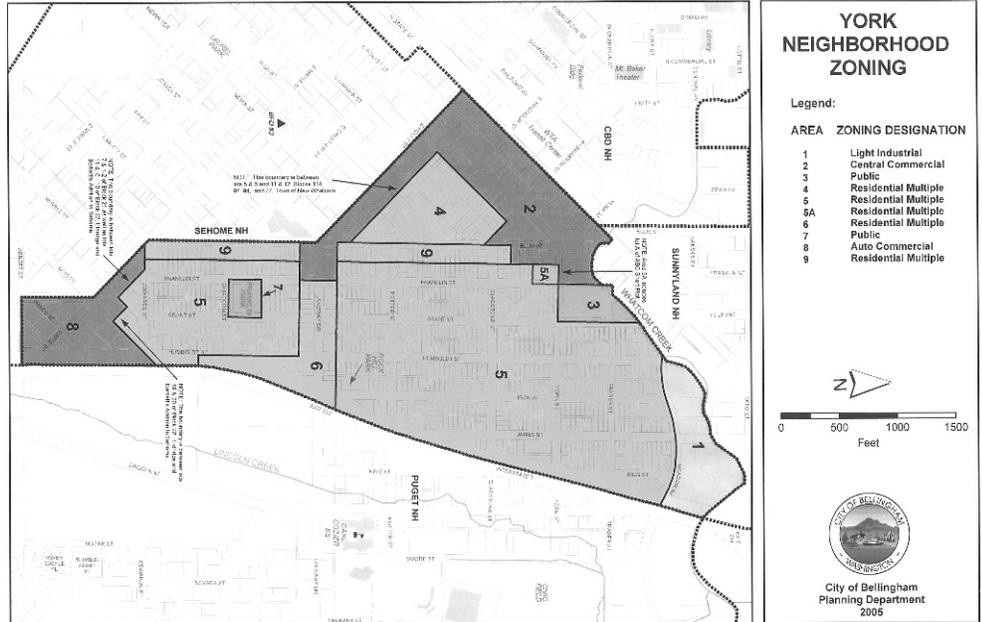
The York Neighborhood is one of Bellingham's most vibrant neighborhoods: a mix of historic homes, apartments and shops with people of all ages and income levels. We're a great example of a dense, livable neighborhood where people can walk downtown to shop and work. Yet along with our antique homes comes antiquated zoning.

At the time our neighborhood was last zoned, more than 30 years ago, there was an assumption that old neighborhoods in the urban core would be redeveloped to make way for large modern apartment buildings. Following the urban renewal thinking of the time, our neighborhood was zoned Multi-Residential High Density—high rises of any size are allowed. Fortunately that redevelopment never occurred and we remain as we've always been—a neighborhood of historic homes at the gateway to Bellingham.

Since our zoning was put in place the Growth Management Act was passed and Bellingham's Comprehensive Plan was written. However, our zoning wasn't updated to be consistent with the goals and requirements of the GMA nor with our existing homes. So this past November the York Neighborhood Association planning sub-committee wrote a letter to the city asking that our mismatched zoning be changed so that it is consistent with our neighborhood and with existing law.

We hope this zoning change will ensure that our neighborhood will remain largely as it is today for decades to come. What we see out our windows to the west—downtown and the waterfront—may change, but within our neighborhood, we'll have a future we can plan on and invest in.

Over the next year there will be several opportunities for neighbors to share their thoughts and hopes for our neighborhood. We hope to see all of you at the meetings to plan our zoning and our future!



York Neighborhood Association

Membership Donation (Thanks for your support!)

- Students \$5.00
- Household \$20.00
- Singles \$10.00
- Business \$100.00 (includes business-card sized ad in each issue of the Yorker Newsletter)

Please indicate
 cash or
 check

Projects Donation (to be used specifically for the project checked below)

- Franklin Park Amount \$ _____
- Rock Hill Park Amount \$ _____
- Historic Preservation Amount \$ _____

Name _____
 Phone _____
 Address _____
 Email _____

Return Form to
YNA Treasurer
c/o Nelson's Market
514 Potter St.
Bellingham, WA
98225

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 www.adich.com
 adich@msn.com

Spring Calendar of Events

Come join your neighbors at these upcoming events:

February 11, 10am-12pm	Franklin Park Renovation Project with goodies from Fred Meyer
February 12, 4pm	Planning Subcommittee on Zoning Issues at Nelson's Market
February 15, 7-8pm	YNA General Meeting, Garden Street United Methodist Church
February 16, 7pm	Bellingham Planning and Development Commission Meeting, City Council Chambers, 210 Lottie St.
February 22, 7-8pm	YNA Board Meeting at Nelson's Market
February 25, 12pm	Butterfly Habitat Plantings at Rock Hill Park
March 4, 9am-12pm	Franklin Park Renovation Project
March 8, 7pm	York Historic Preservation Committee Meeting, Nelson's Market
March 15, 7-8pm	YNA Board Meeting at Nelson's Market

Mark your calendars for the next few months with these dates:

1 st Saturday of every month, 9am-12pm	Franklin Park Renovation Project
3 rd Wednesday of every month, 7-8pm	York Neighborhood Association Board Meeting

York Neighborhood Association
1351 Humboldt Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
www.yorkneighborhood.org

