



York Rezone Update

by Lisa McShane

Dear Neighbors,

Over the past year the York Neighborhood Association has been actively involved in considering and putting forward a rezone of our historic neighborhood that would better reflect our cherished neighborhood character. We've held several meetings and included information in our newsletters. The response was heartfelt and strong! We are thankful that so many of you took the time on beautiful summer evenings to come to neighborhood meetings at the library and share your thoughts about a rezone.

At the first meeting in July we heard loud and clear that the majority at the meeting held a rezone to single family zoning as their highest priority for the neighborhood. We took your recommendations to planning staff and drafted language to share with the neighborhood. In August we held a second neighborhood meeting at the library. Many of you took the time to attend and affirm what we'd heard at the first meeting and share additional ideas. We gave you ballots to fill out, which, when compiled, showed the highest score to be a rezone to single family zoning, with just a few neighbors opposed.

The York Neighborhood Association will make its recommendations to the Bellingham City Planning Commission based on what neighbors voiced at these meetings.

Rezone continued on page 3

don't miss the...

York Neighborhood
Annual Potluck Picnic
September 23, 3-6pm
at Franklin Park

highlights include:

- Hempler's hot dogs, provided by the York Neighborhood Association
- delicious potluck dishes, provided by you! (even numbered houses bring main dish; odd numbered houses bring sides or dessert)
- live music
- activities and crafts for kids
- a new bag dispenser for dog doo



*It'll be worth the life-threatening
Lakeway crossing
(for folks on the North side),
we promise!*

MISSION STATEMENT of the YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The mission of the York Neighborhood Association is to reduce isolation among residents, enhance the quality of life in a low and moderate income urban neighborhood, create a sense of community, reduce or prevent crime, and preserve the historic character of the neighborhood.

Neighbors Petition to Show Support for Protecting Historic York

by Anne Mackie

Faced with recent threats of tear-downs, demolition, overfill, and new construction that is out of sync with the neighborhood, concerned residents have organized a petition drive to show their support for protecting the historic character that defines the York Neighborhood.



Construction projects that have neighbors spittin' nails include:

*506 Potter Street—A proposal by the owner to demolish the single-family house (used as a five-plex) and replace it with a three-story, five-unit apartment building. Neighbors are concerned that the proposed structure is too large for the 4,480 sq. ft. lot, will be an eyesore amongst turn-of-the century homes, and will not provide the correct off-street parking and set backs as defined by code. Although the run-down building has been a blight on the corner for years, the owner must be held accountable, now, for his future plans for this site.

*1600 block of Iron Street—A new home constructed in the 1600 block of Iron St. has a garage facing the street, instead of the alley, which is not in keeping with the design of an historic neighborhood. Future construction projects should get the pro-active intervention by the Planning Department to guarantee alley access so that garages face the alley. An easement from neighboring properties might have been an alternative to the garage fronting the street.

*1315 High Street—A two-story house was moved into the backyard where a duplex already exists. This “overfill” is totally out of place with the neighborhood and brings to question how many units can legally be located on this lot. The house that has been moved in has been jacked up to allow for construction of a new first floor. While the house was once a beautiful historic structure, its new stance is an abomination.

Petition Drive Started

These three examples are what York residents fear will be the beginning of undoing our historic neighborhood. As a show of support for appropriate growth and planning management, neighbors came together to write the following petition. If you have not had the opportunity to sign it, please clip this statement out and return it to the address listed below.

We, the undersigned residents of the York Neighborhood, support preservation of the historic character of the neighborhood through the following guidelines:

- Implement design guidelines for new construction that are harmonious with historical architectural styles.
- Prevent demolition of historic housing stock in order to prevent being replaced with new multi-residential structures that are oversized for single-family lots.
- Enforce parking and setback requirements for new or replacement construction.
- Orient buildings and balconies toward the street and garages toward the alley.
- Enforce building code standards so that historic structures do not deteriorate beyond repair.
- Support the Rezone to single-family; maintain minimum lot sizes of 3,000 sq. ft.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Address

Mail to: Anne Mackie, 1351 Humboldt Street, Bellingham, WA 98225
or drop off at Nelson's Market, 514 Potter Street

A Report from the York Historic Preservation Committee

by Barbara Davenport

The York Historic Preservation Committee meets monthly. Our primary concerns have been:

(1) Research on our oldest historic houses. We continue to conduct research on individual homes with the help of Whatcom Museum and WWU. To date the houses on Ellis and the triangle area have been researched by these groups and several individuals have researched their own homes. Several of us have attended workshops on historic preservation and historical research.



(2) How to become a local historic district. We have met with members of the Bellingham Planning and Community Development Department to determine what steps are needed. We have not received clear answers to date.

3.) Collaborative efforts with other neighborhoods regarding historic preservation. York has hosted two meetings, one in July and one on August 31. At the August meeting, Director of Planning Tim Stewart spoke with us about the process of neighborhood local historic designation and answered a variety of questions. Key issues and concerns for all the neighborhoods involve cost of application, design standards, density, land use codes and neighborhood plans.

Our next meeting will be **Wednesday October 11 at 7pm** at Nelson's Market. All are welcome.

Rezone, continued from front page

York Rezone Recommendations:

1. Change the zoning of area 5 from multi-family to single family.
2. Keep the 3,000 square foot minimum per unit.
3. Zone Rock Hill Park to be a public land use zoning.
4. Require automobile access to be from the alley, unless environmentally constrained or economically unfeasible.
5. Allow garages to use tandem parking—one car in front of the other inside the garage—to minimize garage impacts.

Rezone Public Hearing
Thursday, October 5
7pm
Bellingham
City Council Chambers

*Please join us at the hearing!
 Your voice will definitely make a difference for the future of the York neighborhood.*

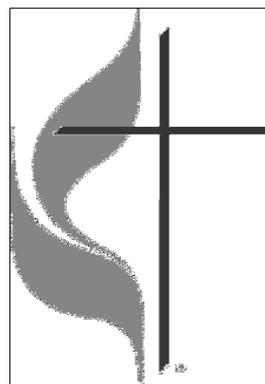
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www.gardenstreetumc.org

Franklin Park Renovation Project

by Helen Jackson

2006 has brought changes to Franklin Park with more scheduled for 2007. If you would like to find out more, come to the Work Party on **Saturday October 14 from 9am to 12pm**. We'll walk and talk the changes and what you could do to help out.



A new playground will be built in 2007. Jonathan Schilk, architect of the Parks Department, has completed a plan. The park stewards presented park users' suggestions, and Jonathan put these ideas together in a design that will provide a soft surface; age appropriate, innovative equipment; disabled accessibility; and a short bike path for young bikers. You are welcome at the YNA Board Meeting on **September 20 at 7pm** at Garden Street United Methodist Church, Room A, where he will present the plan.

The newest addition to the park is a dog station. Located near the basketball court, a canister holds plastic bags for dog owners to clean-up after their pets. Please fill up the canister periodically with your extra bags.

The Franklin Park Project needs volunteers!

You could...

- provide snacks and organize work parties
- pick up trash
- help to mulch, plant and establish a nature trail
- donate large rocks, treated lumber or railroad ties to be used for beds and trail building



Work parties are scheduled for the **second Saturday of every month**, but you are welcome to bring your gloves and tools anytime. Check the back board at Grant and Whatcom for times and dates. Please call Helen Jackson at 656-5467 with any questions and to sign up as a volunteer for Franklin Park.

York Neighborhood Association Donation

(Thanks for your support!)

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
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<input type="checkbox"/> cash or
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Singles | \$10.00 | |
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Projects Donation (to be used specifically for the project checked below)

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|--|-----------------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation | Amount \$ _____ |

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Many thanks to the neighbors who donated to the York Neighborhood Association since our last newsletter:

Laurie and Jeff Brown
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 George Liepart
 Amelia Lunde
 Anne Mackie and Jon Ostby
 Lisa and Dan McShane
 Carolyne Milling and John Wiley
 Michelle Moulds
 Carolyn Mulder and Eric Baumgarten
 Kirsten and Alan Mullen
 Katy and Brian Murphy
 Kris Nelson
 Mark Nuyens
 Melissa and John Shapiro
 Madeline Sheplor and Charlie Jabora
 Kirsten and Alan Shore
 Darol Streib
 Stina Olson and Chris Sunde
 Alice Swan
 Ian Thompson
 Lora and Walter Turpin
 Angie Vandenhaack and Brian Heinrich

A special thank you to the landlords who donated:

Carol Straughan
 Crystal Trunkey

And thanks to our business contributors for their generous support of the YNA:

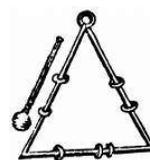
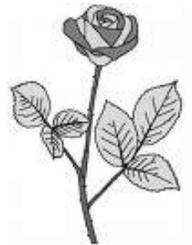
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Your donations contribute to neighborhood activities and create opportunities for Yorkers to come together and build community. Thank you for your support!

2006 York Neighborhood Association Board

Tom Scott—President
 Anne Mackie—Vice President
 Elisabeth Stark—Secretary
 Helen Jackson—Treasurer
 Elliot Smith—Student Representative
 Robert Hand—Student Representative
 Barbara Davenport—Historic Preservation Committee Coordinator
 Amelia Lunde—Garden Club Coordinator
 Jessica Bandstra—Newsletter Editor
 George Liepart—At-large
 Carolyn Mulder—At-large

The board would like to thank **Judy Bachman** who served for two years and was active in Franklin Park restoration projects. Judy will be moving to the Portland, Oregon area to be with her family.



Musicians wanted!

Do you play the cymbals, the banjo, the tambourine?

Would you enjoy sharing your music with an attentive audience of your closest neighbors?

Then bring your instruments, your voice and your goodwill to the York Neighborhood Potluck Picnic on **September 23** from 3-6pm at Franklin Park.

Anyone who plays music gets an extra Hempler's hot dog.

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Campus Community Coalition Promotes Neighboring in York

A Student Road Map to Neighborhood Living

The Campus Community Coalition continues to encourage WWU students be good neighbors through a variety of projects, including:

- A new website, *Off-Campus WWU: A Student Road Map to Neighborhood Living*, gives students valuable information on being good neighbors, keeping parties legal and safe, and renting laws and ordinances. Visit the site at www.OffCampuswwu.com and check out the video of student Leah Keohn talking about living in the York neighborhood!
- “Think Locally-Act Neighborly” educational doorknockers, distributed to York residences in the fall, include information on getting to know your neighbors, having safe and legal parties, and alcohol-related citations.
- The Neighborhood Mediation Program trained students and non-student neighbors together in conflict resolution as a way to increase the resources for addressing neighborhood conflicts caused by parking, loud parties/noise, or other neighborhood issues. Eight York residents participated in the free trainings provided by the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center and sponsored by the Coalition. For more information about resolution of neighborhood conflicts, please call the Dispute Resolution Center at 676-0122.

In addition to its neighborhood projects, the Coalition continues work with campus and community partners to provide late night activities on campus and consistent enforcement of alcohol and noise laws off campus.

For more information about the Campus Community Coalition and its projects, please contact Lara Welker, Coalition Coordinator, at 650-6863 or lara.welker@wwu.edu.

Rock Hill Park Updates

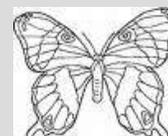
by Anne Mackie, Park Steward

Weeding and mulching have continued through the hot, dry summer months; and two neighbors deserve BIG kudos for their hard work: Amelia Lunde and George Liepart. A work party will be held **October 7, 10am-noon** to prepare the ground on the upper level for installation of a new bench and shade plants against the big rock.

The Parks Department has promised a new garbage can and bench for the lower level. Staff expressed concerns about the butterfly arbor’s stability and recommended it be reconfigured to span the entry way and be more structurally stable.

Meanwhile, the new plantings in the lower butterfly habitat have taken hold nicely, and by spring 2007 we hope to welcome a new gaggle of butterflies (or is that a “flock”??).

Neighbors interested in helping out at Rock Hill should contact Amelia Lunde, 734-6739, or Anne Mackie, 738-0542.



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Community Car Sharing Now Available in Bellingham

Community Car Share offers affordable car sharing to the Bellingham public and business community. Their first car became available on August 1. Their focus is on hybrid and bio-diesel vehicles, convenient locations, a not-for-profit motive, and a human touch.



"Wheels when you need them"

Car sharing is now available in many big cities throughout the United States, but until now was not available in a city as small as Bellingham. Says Lorraine Wilde, Community Car Share's General Manager, "It's been a personal dream of mine to bring car sharing to Bellingham for many years and I'm proud that we're doing it now as a non-profit."

Car sharing has overwhelming benefits. Individuals save money, get more exercise through walking and biking, and have less car hassle and responsibility. Car sharing reduces traffic, noise, and need for parking in communities. The environmental benefits of car sharing include better air quality, less water pollution, and fewer miles driven. For every car share vehicle, 6 to 23 cars are removed from the road, and 4 to 10 privately owned vehicles are replaced. In North America, the average car-sharing individual drove 44% fewer miles and reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by 40% to 50%.

Ms. Wilde exudes, "There are just too many good reasons to share a car, why wouldn't we all do it? And now it's here! We want people to take the bus, walk, and ride their bike often, only driving the shared vehicles when they really need them. Eventually, they can sell some or all of their own cars and use all that saved money for something else that's more important and enjoyable."

Community Car Share is now offering the use of a hybrid vehicle, and soon a Biodiesel vehicle, conveniently located at the Bellingham Public Market and on Railroad Avenue by the bus depot. They hope to add a small truck to the fleet soon and will expand to neighborhoods as membership increases.

Qualified individual members pay a low annual membership fee and then only pay for when they use the vehicle, \$4 per hour and \$0.25 per mile.

Community Car Share is also a great solution for small businesses. They offer affordable business packages with discounts for non-profits. Why pay to support a fleet when it's only used 20% of the time?

Applications are now being accepted and most drivers can begin driving regularly within a week.

Community Car Share's web site (www.communitycarshare.org) has all the details. Those interested can get a free one-on-one consultation to help them determine if car sharing is right for their situation (360.389.6551, lorraine@communitycarshare.org).



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Fall Events

September 23, 3-6pm	YNA Annual Potluck Picnic at Franklin Park
October 3, 7-8:30pm	YNA General Meeting at Garden Street United Methodist Church
October 5, 7pm	Planning Commission hearing on YNA's Area 5 Rezone at City Council Chambers, 210 Lottie Street
October 7, 10am-12pm	Work Party at Rock Hill Park
October 11, 7-8:30pm	Historic Preservation Committee meeting at Nelson's Market
October 18, 7-8:30pm	YNA Board Meeting at Nelson's Market
November 8, 7-8:30pm	Historic Preservation Committee meeting at Nelson's Market
November 11, 1-3pm	Franklin Park work party with Parks Department volunteers

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

2 nd Saturday of every month, 9am-12pm	Franklin Park Renovation Project Work Party
2 nd Wednesday of every month, 7-8:30pm	Historic Preservation Committee Meeting at Nelson's Market
3 rd Wednesday of every month, 7-8:30pm	YNA Board Meeting at Nelson's Market

York Neighborhood General Meeting

Tuesday, October 3, 7pm
 Garden Street United Methodist Church



Please join your neighbors at the next General Meeting to discuss the latest on the proposed rezone for Area 5 from multifamily residential to single family residential. The hearing with the Planning Commission will be on **Thursday, October 5 at 7 pm at City Council Chambers** so come to the general meeting to gear up for Thursday's hearing.

Also, a representative from the Healthy Bay Initiative will share what's new with the clean-up of Bellingham Bay; Alex Ramel will explain PSE's Green Energy Challenge and how we can raise money for the York Neighborhood Association; and a speaker from Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association will be on hand to discuss stream steward volunteer opportunities.

In addition to listening to our guest speakers and discussing the Area 5 Rezone, we will vote on proposed changes to the YNA by-laws.

Childcare will be provided.

We'll see you on Tuesday, October 3 at 7pm!