

THE YORKER



York Neighborhood Association

Circulation 1000

Winter 2007

online at <http://www.yorkneighborhood.org>

York Neighborhood General Meeting



Wednesday, February 28, 7pm
Garden Street United Methodist Church

Please join your neighbors at the next General Meeting to meet Jonathan Schilk of the Parks Department and Katie Franks of the City of Bellingham Planning and Community Development Department (PCDD). Jonathan and Katie will discuss how the York Neighborhood can interact with Parks and PCDD to **develop the Franklin Park Master Plan** and **best invest the \$150,000 Neighborhood Initiative Program Grant** we received in fall 2006 for park improvements. Part of the grant proposal is for the installation of a safe crosswalk on Lakeway Drive, to be located somewhere between Franklin and Grant Streets. This crosswalk would rejoin north and south York, make Franklin Park more accessible and help to create a walkable, bikable neighborhood. The General Meeting will be an opportunity for you to ask questions about the next steps.

At this meeting we will also review the **Neighborhood Plan Update** process that will begin this year and hear a report on the steps to designate parts of the York Neighborhood as historic at the state level.

In addition to discussing the improvements at Franklin Park and hearing the latest YNA committee reports, we will have **YNA board elections** for 2007. Please note the list of candidates on page 5.



Look inside for more "Postcards from York!"

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.

2006 - Another Great Year for the Neighborhood



by Anne Mackie, Vice President, YNA

No stone was left unturned as the YNA board plowed forward on numerous fronts in 2006: a rezone, historic preservation, crime reduction, park improvements, clean-up projects, and a lot of fun mixed in to continue to build the community spirit for which York is so famous. Highlights of 2006 include:

Rezone the Zone—The York Planning Subcommittee spearheaded an important rezone of the neighborhood from multi-family high density to single-family high density. This rezone will help to protect the single-family housing stock in our historic neighborhood.

This Old House—The Historic Preservation Committee held several successful meetings and helped to galvanize a city-wide coalition of other neighborhoods interested in historic preservation. The committee began to earnestly work toward becoming an Historic District.

York 911—Work with the WWU Campus Community Coalition and the City Attorney's office continued with York offering service opportunities to young adults cited for alcohol-related offenses committed in the York neighborhood. Again this year, door-knockers were distributed throughout the neighborhood welcoming students and encouraging responsible neighborly behavior by all. York also participated in the annual *Night Out Against Crime* in August.

Show Me the Money—The Franklin Park Renovation Project really took off and expanded to include a clean-up of the Franklin Street berm, for which York was awarded a City of Bellingham Small and Simple Grant. An additional Neighborhood Improvement Project grant was awarded to increase usage of Franklin Park and begin work on a proposal for a crosswalk across Lakeway Drive at Franklin Street, connecting the north and south sections of the neighborhood. (See additional articles this issue.)

Stop and Smell the Roses—Rock Hill Park continued to receive many hours of volunteer labor, and in March more butterfly-attracting plants were planted in the butterfly habit along the alley. Let's look for our flying friends this spring!

My Alley Is Cuter Than Your Alley—In early June we held the Annual Dumpster Day and Neighborhood Spring Clean-up at Nelson's Market – always a well-received project and a good way to clean up the alleys.

Hot-Diggity Dog—The Annual Picnic, held in Franklin Park September 23, was well attended. Neighbors ate Hempler's hot dogs, grooved to the music of local musicians and the kids enjoyed the "build your own house" craft.

Oh Little Town of Bellingham—The second annual Christmas caroling party with horse-drawn wagon had a huge turnout again this year. Thanks to the business sponsors who made this possible: **Bellingham Hearing Center, Nelson's Market, Glad Bag, On-Site Computer Services, and Signs By Tomorrow.**

Deck the Halls—The Garden Club sponsored its annual holiday progressive dinner concluding with a grand party and gift exchange at the Purple Church, corner of Gladstone and Franklin.

Get Around Get Around—York representatives continued to participate in the Mayor's Advisory Council, Association of Bellingham Neighborhoods, Community Development Advisory Board, the Campus Community Coalition, City-wide Historic Preservation Coalition, and the Whatcom Creek Task Force.

Yes, 2006 was a great year! Many new neighbors got involved with projects, a lot of hard work happened on weekends, and the generous financial support from York residents helped to make it all possible. On behalf of the York Board, I want to thank everyone who donated money this year, and I encourage you to renew your donation for 2007 so that we can continue working to improve our neighborhood!

2006 Franklin Park Projects and Volunteers, with Appreciation

by Helen Jackson, YNA Treasurer and Franklin Park Coordinator

All who use or live close to Franklin Park have noticed the difference 2006 brought. Use is on the rise and misuse is seldom seen. (Even dog litter seems less frequent!) The major factor is the tremendous volunteer effort put into five different projects. Over 600 hours were logged by York volunteers on Franklin Park and Franklin Street island improvements in 2006. The Parks Dept. and volunteers contributed endless support and many additional hours.

Hillside Project

Volunteers removed truck loads of invasive ivy, holly and blackberries and dead trees; mulched the entire hillside; built a nature trail from Whatcom to Franklin Streets.

Special Thanks to:

- Ron Barnett, Our Trail Blazing Hero;
- Rae Edwards (Parks Dept.) and Crew for guidance, energy and mountains of support

The Franklin Park Market Fundraiser, June 3,

found the park lined with booths of crafts and tables of wares and scrumptious treats. The York Neighborhood Association raised almost \$450 for park projects and had fun doing it.

Special Thanks to:

- Cathy Repogle for the idea, hours of creativity and her positive attitude;
- Cindy, Lynn, Ron and Kristina for all their help.



Nearly 20 volunteers worked in Franklin Park on Jan. 13

Franklin Street Island Project

Under all the trash, weeds, dead and gnarly apple trees, we found a street island. This is a three year project. 2006 was spent removing trash, debris, invasives; mulching and pruning trees. In 2007 we will weed, remove invasives, mulch and establish a trail. In 2008 we will install benches and landscape with plants and trees.

Special Thanks to:

- Cindy Kaufman for tackling those ‘darn’ blackberries, moving mulch and researching landscaping;
- Weed-eating, ever-contributing Melanie Pacific;
- “The hardest worker we’ve ever seen” Ruben Anaya;
- Veteran grant writer Anne Mackie;
- The city of Bellingham for the \$2500 Grant and side-arm mower.

New Playground

The design is complete for a whole new playground in the park. It will be built at the same time as the other improvements, projected to be late 2008.

Special Thanks to:

- Jonathan Schilk, Park’s architect, who listened to our ideas at many quitting-time meetings;
- Abby Franklin and the Loving Space staff and kids, who visited Bellingham parks to choose kid-friendly elements in our playground.

Neighborhood Initiative Program Grant

York Neighborhood received the \$150,000 NIP block grant for Improvements to Franklin Park.

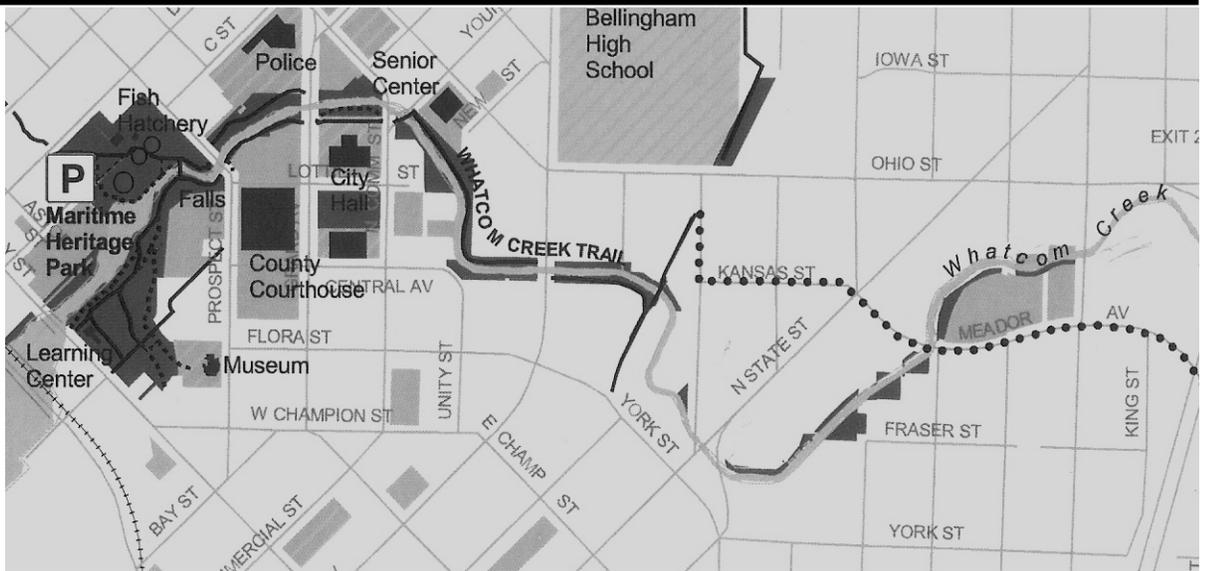
Special Thanks to:

- Katie Franks (PCCD), for her knowledge, skill and encouragement;

Whatcom Creek Trail comes to York

by Nick Hill

The York Neighborhood is not yet connected to the Greenways trails, but there are firm plans that will resolve this. The Whatcom Creek Trail Steering Committee led by Gina Gobo (Parks and Recreation Design



and Development Division) was formed in July 2006; it meets monthly to discuss the design of trail extending from the western end of the existing trail (Racine St.) to Ellis Street. As anyone who has walked west from Whatcom Falls Park will know, the trail on the northern side of the creek now ends abruptly at Racine Street in an industrial area.

The York Neighborhood will be well served in its access to Whatcom Falls Park to the west. The trail will be accessible at the foot (north end) of Humboldt Street. Two routes will be available. Walkers can either go along a creek-side trail through a natural riparian corridor to a pedestrian I-5 tunnel or they will be able to reach the tunnel by a more substantial trail that will start on the south of Meador and cross to the north of the street at James. Before the Meador-I-5 underpass, walkers would then go north along a narrow corridor, currently a bramble thicket, to reach this tunnel. Thereafter, a single trail will follow the creek to a bridge that will be constructed to connect the trail to the existing trail at Racine Street.

Unfortunately, there is no good solution available to link York Neighborhood to the Greenways trail that ultimately follows the creek to the bay. It was determined too difficult for land ownership reasons, to find a way east along the creek at the bridge near Meador and Humboldt. Instead, the trail will go an urban route along Meador to Kansas to Ellis Street. The trail will reconnect with the creek as the creek changes direction from south to north.



Construction of the trail may begin in summer 2007, “pending environmental permitting approval and finalization of a lease agreement with WSDOT for the trail segment within the Interstate 5 right-of-way” (Gina Gobo: Whatcom Creek Trail Fact Sheet). Funding is in place for all aspects of this new trail connection with the exception of street improvements required along Meador, Kansas and Ellis.

BELLINGHAM



COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

As of early January, the York Neighborhood only needed 33 new Green Power customers to win the neighborhood challenge. Winning will mean \$1000 for planting trees in our neighborhood.

For more information and to sign up, go to:
http://www.pse.com/solutions/home_greenPower.asp
 or <http://www.sconnect.org/greenpower/>
 or call Puget Sound Energy at 1-888-225-5773

York Neighborhood Association Board Elections

YNA Board Elections will take place at the General Meeting on **Wednesday, February 28 at 7pm** at Garden Street United Methodist Church. All neighbors are invited to come and cast a vote.

Below is a listing of current candidates and the positions they are running for:

Tom Scott—President
 Anne Mackie—Vice President
 Libby Stark—Secretary
 Helen Jackson—Treasurer, Franklin Park Coordinator
 Jessica Bandstra—Newsletter Editor
 Elliot Smith—Student Representative
 Barbara Davenport—Historic Preservation Committee Coordinator
 Amelia Lunde—Garden Club Coordinator

Jeff Bates—At-large
 Sarah Bates—At-large
 Seth Cool—At-large
 Leslie Hill—At-large
 Nick Hill—At-large
 George Liepart—At-large
 Lisa McShane—At-large
 Carolyn Mulder—At-large

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



More "Postcards from York." It's been a busy year!

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A Report from the York Historic Preservation Committee

by **Barbara Davenport, Chair**

The past few months have been an exciting and productive time for preservation of our York Neighborhood historic houses. We are preparing to apply for National Historic Neighborhood designation. York neighborhood has a higher percentage of older homes than any other neighborhood in the city. We hope to keep it that way by encouraging owners to preserve the original character of their houses, particularly the fronts by keeping or replacing windows and porches with the same style as the original. This would apply to any home built more than 50 years ago.

Our primary focus and goal is for part of York to become a **National Historic District**. The “district” would include the following boundaries: to the south, Lakeway; north, Fraser; east, Iron Street alley; west, Ellis.

- ✓ We are in the process of inventorying (that is, classifying each house by age, owners, type of structure, and obtaining digital photos) Humboldt and Franklin Streets, with the help of Toni Nagel, Whatcom Museum photo archivist, and WWU professors and students.
- ✓ We have inventoried houses on Ellis and the “triangle” (the area west of Ellis going toward WWU).
- ✓ We will be developing a website to showcase our neighborhood’s history and its buildings, modeled after a historic district in Spokane.
- ✓ We are also considering making a video, “Looking Back,” about our neighborhood’s historic roots, a study of diverse, hard working immigrants that provided the labor backbone of Bellingham.

Other current activities include:

- ✓ Collecting oral histories from folks who lived in the neighborhood 50-plus years ago. For example, Clarence Johnson, age 92, long-time member of Norway Hall, contributed not only memories, but a fabulous recipe for banana cream pie which he has made for years for Norway Hall events.
- ✓ Gathering names of folks who attended Franklin and Lincoln schools in preparation for a school reunion this summer.

Our Preservation committee meets the **second Tuesday of the month from 7-8pm at Nelson’s Market**. All are welcome. We have a dozen active members and many others with interests in learning more about preserving their own homes and researching their history.

If you know anyone who would like to interviewed, attended Franklin or Lincoln schools, or has old photos of our neighborhood, please contact Barbara Davenport at 733-4883 or bcdaven@earthlink.net.



DAN MCSHANE
is running for Mayor
and the McShane Train
invites you to hop on board!

Join TEAM MCSHANE
for a community party!

Saturday, March 3rd, at 6:00 p.m.
Depot Market on Railroad & Chestnut

Enjoy music by the Atlantics!
Savor free Mallard's Ice Cream!
Tasty food by India Grill and others!

It's a new way forward for Bellingham!
Please join us for an evening of family fun,
celebration and good conversation.

Special thanks to
Garden Street United
Methodist Church, for
your continuing
donation of computer
usage and meeting space
to the YNA. Your
generous contributions
to our neighborhood
are greatly appreciated!



York Receives \$150,000 Grant...

and we need your input
on how to spend it!

by Helen Jackson, YNA Treasurer and Franklin Park Coordinator

Your opinion is needed as the shopping list grows. \$150,000 was awarded to the York Neighborhood for improvements to Franklin Park through the 2006 Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP) Grant. Thanks to the many folks who returned the survey from the winter newsletter with choices and generated creative ideas and new uses for the park. The Franklin Park Committee has put all these suggestions into an updated survey and a petition for a safe crosswalk on Lakeway Drive close to Franklin or Grant Streets.

WWU students will be knocking on your door in February and March, asking you to complete the new survey on Franklin Park Improvements and to sign the petition for the Lakeway crosswalk (petitions are also available at Nelson's Market). The survey will take around 5 to 10 minutes. We hope you'll allow this time to decide how we make our neighborhood a better place to live and play.

For volunteer opportunities, check the newsletter calendar or our informational group website: <http://groups.yahoo.com> (enter franklinparkvolunteers). Or call Helen at 656-5467.

Many thanks to the neighbors who donated to the YNA:

Carol Dixon
Richard Sands
Erin and Adam Schaffer
Kirsten and Alan Shore
Richard Smith
Elisabeth and Evan Stark
Ruth Vergin and Ann Russell

A special thank you to the wonderful landlords who have continuously and generously donated to support the YNA:

Judy Frane
Bob and Barbara Harnden

And, of course, to the businesses who graciously contributed to the YNA:

Bellingham Hearing Center
Nelson's Market
Northwestern Mortgage
On-Site Computer
Signs By Tomorrow
Glad Bag Arts and Crafts

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

A big and appreciative hand to our many newsletter volunteers! Thanks to the following for your commitment to YNA activities:

Jessica Bandstra
Tracy and Darrell Barnard
Sarah Bates
Vale Bates
Bob Bauck
Kirsti Charlton
Matt Charlton
Barbara Davenport
Carol Dixon
Lynn Gobush
Leslie and Nick Hill
Helen Jackson
Kathy and Dave Johnson
Dale Krieder
George Liepart
Amelia Lunde
Carolyn Milling and John Wiley
Carolyn Mulder and Eric Baumgarten
Katy and Brian Murphy
Michael Neville and Don Hilty-Jones
Amy and Adam Pfundt
Marissa Rosatti and Seth Cool
Elliott Smith
Patty Stewart
Joe Van Laeken
Laura and Rick Witt

York Neighborhood Association Donation

(Thanks for your support!)

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Students | \$5.00 | | Please indicate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household | \$20.00 | | <input type="checkbox"/> cash or |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singles | \$10.00 | | <input type="checkbox"/> check |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | \$100.00 (includes business-card sized ad in each issue of the <i>Yorker</i> Newsletter) | | |

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

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

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Return Form to
YNA Treasurer
1232 Franklin Street
Bellingham, WA
98225

Upcoming Events:

February 28, 7pm	YNA General Meeting at Garden Street United Methodist Church
February 28	Deadline to sign up for Green Energy Challenge and count toward winning \$1000 to plant trees in York
March 10, 9am-12pm	Planting Work Party at Franklin Park Hillside; Parks Department will bring new plants and volunteers

Monthly Events:

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



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