



York Neighborhood Association • www.yorkneighborhood.org

Neighborhood Plan Update Heats Up

by Anne Mackie

It may be cold outside, but work on York's Neighborhood Plan is heating up under the leadership of work groups set up to review each section of the plan. These work groups are analyzing and rewriting sub-sections of the plan that will later be brought to the whole neighborhood for input, review and approval in 2008.

If you are interested in helping out with one of the work groups, contact the group leader listed below:

Neighborhood Design – (Stina Olson: stinatron@hotmail.com)

This work group is reviewing York's distinctive character as defined by physical location, architecture, and small-village atmosphere. The group will draft design and development standards for the neighborhood plan.

Parks, Recreation, Open Space – (Helen Jackson: hjaxon817@yahoo.com)

This group will inventory York's parks and open space, identify deficiencies, and project future needs. The group will also investigate the potential for adding indoor and outdoor recreational space within the neighborhood.

Transportation & Traffic – (David Camp: Dav.camp@yahoo.com or Tom Scott: TomRScott@On-SiteComputer.com)

This group is focusing on the future needs for interconnectivity of the neighborhood within and to the surrounding city through transportation and pedestrian amenities. Alternative modes of transportation (walking, bicycling, and transit) will be investigated.

Housing – (Libby Stark: elisabeth.stark@gmail.com)

This group will create a statement of goals, policies, and objectives for the preservation and improvement of housing. It will address special issues of all economic segments of the neighborhood.

Land Use – Tom Scott: TomRScott@On-SiteComputer.com

This work group is focusing on policies dealing with land use in the York Neighborhood, including forecasts of population growth and demand for residential and commercial zoned land.

Get Involved! Please contact one of the work group leaders to get involved in helping to define the future of York. If you do not have email, call Anne Mackie, Planning Committee Chair, at 738-0542, to volunteer. We need your ideas!

Fill out the Survey!

If you have not filled out the York Planning Survey, please do so today. Go to www.yorkneighborhood.org to link to the survey, or pick up a paper copy at Nelson's Market, 514 Potter St.

Events

YNA Board meeting

Wednesday, December 19, 7 pm
Garden Street United Methodist Church

Carriage Ride

Saturday, December 15, 6 pm
Meet at Nelson's Market
First departure at 6:30, second departure at 7:30

Come join your neighbors and friends at Nelson's Market for a holiday wagon ride and caroling party! Cookies, cocoa and caroling books are included. Be sure to dress warmly, and bring a flashlight so you can see the words to the holiday tunes. This event is weather permitting; if it's too icy and unsafe for the horses we will walk instead. For questions or to volunteer, call Libby at 715-3728.

Disaster Preparedness Committee Meeting:

Wednesday, January 30 at 7 pm, see website for contact info

York RATS (Recycle and Trash Society):

Every other Saturday at 8:30 am beginning 12/8, meet at Nelson's Market

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 16

Garden Street United Methodist Church

The New Franklin Park Needs Your Help!

by Helen Jackson, Franklin Park Improvements Projects Coordinator, & Jeff Bates, YNA Board member

A design plan for a renewed Franklin Park is nearing completion and improvements will begin later in 2008. New playground equipment will go in, along with a now-developing plan to keep the grass drier in the winter, add more trees and recreation features, and retain open space. The changes will provide a mixed-usage park that can be enjoyed year-round by residents of all ages and abilities.

Based on input through surveys of York residents, the newly designed park might include:

- ▶ A covered shelter
- ▶ A circular pathway
- ▶ Thirty-seven new trees
- ▶ Better drainage
- ▶ Four benches
- ▶ Two large picnic tables
- ▶ New trash cans
- ▶ A new park sign
- ▶ Four bollards to keep traffic out of the park
- ▶ Berms and landscaping around the exterior edges
- ▶ New paving and stripping for the basketball court
- ▶ A new playground
- ▶ A donated skate bench

If all of this sounds too good to be true, it is. This is where your help is needed. We presently lack over \$50,000 in grant funds to implement many features of the park redevelopment in 2008.



Volunteers planted over 100 plants at a Franklin Park work party October 27th.



There are many ways you could help make this park vision a reality for work to begin in 2008:

1. You could make a monetary donation to Franklin Park. Just use the York Neighborhood Association Donation form in this newsletter and mark Franklin Park under projects donation. Mail your donation to YNA Treasurer, 1232 Franklin St., 98225
2. For the park shelter, we need a structural engineer to donate time to design plans. The most magical scenario would be for a local builder to donate building the shelter.
3. You could host a fund raiser and donate the funds.
4. Our committee will be contacting area businesses or individuals, and you could help out with this and/or let us know of anyone who might be interested in contributing.
5. You might be good at grant research or writing grants and we could definitely use your expertise!
6. Maybe you have some great ideas for fund raisers or projects that might generate funds?
7. Anything that you might think of doing?

This is an exciting opportunity for our neighborhood. With very little open space left in our historic, populated neighborhood, this beautiful and functional Franklin Park will add to York's livability and community feeling for years to come.

Please consider donating funds, time, and ideas to this worthwhile project! Contact: Helen Jackson, 1232 Franklin St., 98225, or phone: 656-5467

Start the holidays off on the right hoof at the

Annual York Carriage Ride

Saturday, December 15, 6 pm
Meet at Nelson's Market
First departure at 6:30, second departure at 7:30



Yorkers Jerry Hruska and Vivian Mazzola warm their hands with pocket hot potatoes while riding the caroling wagon

Cocoa, cookies and caroling! Join us as we ride a horse drawn carriage and entertain the neighborhood.



3M Authorized Dealer Applicator

(360) 671-7165

PROUD TO BE YOUR COMPANY

SignsPlus

THE IDEA COMPANY

1330 N. Forest St., Bellingham, WA 98225 • signsplusnw.com
Toll Free (U.S. & Canada): 1-877-298-4761 • Fax 360-671-0144

York Neighborhood Association Board Elections

Plenty of opportunity for involvement, January meeting selects next year's Board

Nominations are OPEN for the 2008 YNA Board, so please put your name forward if you are interested in participating in this hard working board. Nominations are open until the January general membership meeting, Wed. January 16. If you are interested in joining the board, contact Libby Stark, YNA Secretary, at elisabeth.stark@gmail.com or 715-3728

The following people have been nominated for the 2008 York Neighborhood Association Board.

Jeff and Sarah Bates moved to York in 2006 where they quickly got involved in Franklin Park work parties and the York Neighborhood Association. They own their home on Grant Street through Kulshan Community Land Trust. They have two children, Jessa and Cassin. Jeff has worked at WWU as a program coordinator for seventeen years. Sarah is an RN and is pursuing an advanced nursing degree at the University of Washington.

Kirsti Charlton and her husband Fred have lived in Bellingham for over 40 years, and moved to the York Neighborhood 28 years ago. Kirsti is active in several community organizations, including the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra, North Cascades Institute Mountain and Restoration Stewardship program, and church activities. She has actively participated in recent political campaigns.

Seth Cool lives with his wife Marissa on Gladstone St. He enjoys restoring his 1901 home and loves the historic, walkable character of the neighborhood. He hopes to someday see the trolleys return to downtown and the neighborhood.

Carol Dixon's loves are family, friends, and community. Through another love – books – she tries to increase her awareness and understanding of her country and the world so she can make the best possible decisions for herself and family, and when appropriate or asked for, friends and community.

Lynn Gobush and her husband **Ray** moved here almost 2 years ago from Sudden Valley. She is Midwestern born and bred, and picked Bellingham for retirement 9 years ago. She is interested in issues of neighborhood historic preservation, code enforcement, and long range planning.

Nick Hartrich moved to York in 2001 and has recently returned after a two year hiatus. He's back to relive the friendliness of York residents, diversity of neighbors, and walk-ability to downtown. That and a major roof repair. He currently works as Green Building program manager for Sustainable Connections and volunteers with several other local non-profits and community groups.

Helen Jackson moved to the York Neighborhood in 2005. She's served as treasurer, coordinator of the Franklin Park Improvement Projects and Grant, York representative to the Planning Academy, and has been proactive on the Planning Committee for the past 2 years.

Dan Joyner is a recent addition to the York Neighborhood, having moved in this summer. He is a senior at WWU studying Political Economy and active on the men's rugby team. Dan is a Bellingham native and graduate of Sehome High School. His parents and siblings all reside in Bellingham as well.

Jim Kling is a freelance science writer. He moved to the York neighborhood with his wife Ivy Yap in May 2007. He is interested in native plant gardening, among other pursuits. He hopes to become the new editor of The Yorker.

George Liepart and his wife have lived in the York neighborhood since 2005, and have remodeled their 1899 home. They both love Rock Hill Park, which prompted George

to become the park's steward. He also handles advertising for the York neighborhood newsletter. He is retired now and can often be found walking the neighborhood with his dog.

Anne Mackie is currently the York Neighborhood Association Vice President and chairs the York Planning Committee. York has been home for the past 18 years. She and husband, Jon Ostby, own and live at Nelson's Market. From her third floor she telecommutes to a job in health

insurance. Her passions are neighborhood improvement projects, time with her two adult children who live out of state, tropical vacations with her husband, and gardening.

Jeremy Nunnikhoven and his wife Jennifer moved to the York Neighborhood in 2005. They have 2 children, Jessica (4) and Jacob (2). He works for a small e-commerce business in Everson as the in-house I.T. / website / special projects person. He enjoys doing restoration work on his house, and is currently involved with the York Neighborhood Association Planning Committee.

Christina Olson has lived in Bellingham for ten years, and the York neighborhood for the past three and a half. She has been involved in the Planning Committee over the course of the last year, and has interests in housing, open space, and sustainable neighborhood redevelopment.

A big thanks to Tom Scott, who has served as the YNA President for the past two years. We appreciate the many hours of hard work and participation in citywide meetings he has performed representing York.



Kids' Corner

Our neighborhood is home to some famous trees called "sequoias." They are named after a famous Native American leader of the Cherokee tribe from the state of Tennessee who invented a special Cherokee alphabet. This chief was named Sequoyah.



A mature Sequoia

Sequoia trees are part of a family of trees that can grow to be the largest in the world. Here are hints to find one of the Sequoias living in the York neighborhood:

- Look for a very tall evergreen tree (it keeps its needles in the winter).
- The trunk is reddish-brown and very big around.
- Its branches start far up on the trunk and sweep downward toward the ground.

Look on Humboldt and Grant streets, and you might find one!

When you find a Sequoia tree, fill in the form with the address of the tree you find, and bring it to Nelson's Market, 514 Potter Street, for a FREE ice cream cone.

Sequoia Search
(15 and under)
Find a Sequoia and get a free cone

The address of the tree I found in the York neighborhood is:



A very old Giant Sequoia

SWEET ART
WORLDS FAMOUS
CHOCOLATE AND
FINE ART

360-714-1331
1335 Railroad Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225



FACE IT



SKIN CARE SOLUTIONS

for ladies and gents



NIBS CONSTRUCTION
Plaster Repair & Restoration Specialists

Licensed / Bonded / Insured
NIBSCC*949LL

Scott Alderson
owner

(360) 734-5868
nibsconstruction@comcast.net

Samish Urban Village Concept Takes Shape

by Anne Mackie

Imagine Samish Way with pedestrians, bicyclists, attractive multi-family residences, shops, and a "village" atmosphere. These are ideas fueling a master plan concept supported by the York Neighborhood for Samish Way.

Submitted by the Sehome Neighborhood in their neighborhood plan update, the Samish Way urban village concept was discussed at York's Planning Committee meeting, November 5th. Invitations were sent to property owners and businesses along the York portion of north Samish Way. Several of these neighbors attended the meeting and voiced their support for the urban village idea.

A letter supporting Sehome's proposed Samish Way urban village has been sent to the City from the York Board. When York rewrites its neighborhood plan in 2008, this new urban village idea will be included, as will other imaginative solutions for areas of the neighborhood that have under-utilized space with the potential of redevelopment. Samish Way is just one possibility that is part of that vision.

A big **THANK YOU** to Garden Street United Methodist Church for their continued support of the York Neighborhood Association!

Learn to be Green and Win Prizes!

by Anitra Accetturo

Interested in being part of a new reality show shot right here in Bellingham? Are you a family of three or more and a City of Bellingham water customer? Then we may be looking for you! We are seeking two families who aren't camera shy and are interested in learning more about living lighter on the planet and reducing their carbon footprint. Black Dog Productions is producing a new reality show to help viewers learn how to reduce their water and energy consumption. To be considered you must own your own home, be a flat-rate water customer (no water meter), and be willing to have cameras in your life on a regular basis for 3 months. Prizes and home improvement assistance will be provided to participants. Go to www.thegreenesthouse.com for more information and to download an application. Call 360-756-9379 for an appointment, or email info@blackdogproductions.com.

Mary Ann Newman
 • Licensed Skin Care Specialist •
 • Airbrush Tanning •
 1410 Ellis • Bellingham • 738.8368
 please call for an appointment

LOUIS AUTO GLASS

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1929

CALL US FIRST!

- To Process Your Insurance Claim
- For Courtesy Pickup & Delivery
- For New Windshields
- For All Your Auto Glass Needs
- For Instant Rock Chip Repair
- For Residential/Business Windows

We Work With All Insurance Companies!

FREE ESTIMATES

Specializing In

SAME DAY SERVICE



- Rick Adelstein, President & 3rd Generation Owner

IN SHOP OR MOBILE SERVICE

www.louisautoglass.com

2 Locations to Serve you in Whatcom County

HOURS : MON-FRI 8-5:30
SATURDAYS 9-NOON

(360) 734-3840

1512 N. State • BELLINGHAM

(360) 354-3232

407 - 19th St • LYNDEN

ALSO (360) 424-9759

1721 E. College Way • Mt. Vernon

Thanks to the wonderful volunteers who made our annual picnic and Franklin and Lincoln Schools reunion a huge success:

Lucy Autumn
Jessica and Aaron Bandstra
Jeff and Sarah Bates
Kirsti Charlton
Barbara Davenport
Carol Dixon
Abby Franklin of Loving Space
lynn Gobush
Katie and Bekka for doing makeup
Greg Keeler
Jill Kelly and Greg Heath
Dale Kreider
Karen Lazzar-Atwood
Anne Mackie and Jon Ostby
Carolyn Mulder and Eric Baumgarten
Mary Neuman
Jeremy and Jennifer Nunnikhoven
Marissa Rosatti
Elisabeth and Evan Stark
Lena Traenkenschuh

A warm thank you to the local businesses that generously contributed beverages and snacks to keep us going on Make A Difference Day in Franklin Park:

Starbucks Coffee Co,
Downtown at 132 E Holly St.
and
Avenue Bread & Café
Downtown at 1313 Railroad Ave.

Many thanks to the neighbors who donated to the York Neighborhood Association:

Lisa and Cory Anderson
Anonymous
Lucy Autumn
Marissa Cool
David and Yvonne Hall
Lesley Keenholts
Michael Neville and
Don Hilly-Jones
Melissa and John Shapiro
Darol Streib
Crystal Trunkey
Kyle and Kari Young

A special thank you to Judy Frane, the wonderful landlord who has continuously and generously donated to support the YNA. And, of course, to the businesses who graciously contributed to the YNA:

A A Anderson
John Major Painting
Lubemasters, Inc.
Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood
Sweetart

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

BARRY WENDLING



A. A. ANDERSON CO., INC.
HEATING • ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING
AND SERVICE

1409 FOREST STREET
BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

(360) 734-7710

WILSON MOTORS
TOYOTA • MERCEDES-BENZ • SCION

360-670-0600
WA STATE ONLY 800-634-1395
FAX 360-733-5744



405 EAST CHAMPION • P.O. BOX 1196 • BELLINGHAM, WA 98227-1196
www.wilsonmotors.com

**What's going on in your neighborhood?
www.yorkneighborhood.org**



Checkups, birth control, including emergency contraception, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy testing, HPV (cervical cancer) vaccine and more. High-quality, personal care at an affordable cost.

Planned Parenthood | www.mbpp.org
Talk to us in confidence. With confidence. 1530 Ellis Street
360-734-9095

Late Night Shuttle Bus Scuttlebutt

by Anne Mackie and Jeff Bates

In Fall WWU instituted a new Late Night Shuttle to provide safe, efficient transportation for students needing access to and from dorms, Western's library, downtown, and to the Lincoln Creek Park 'n Ride. Its hours are 11 p.m. to 3 a.m., six nights a week, and 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. on Sundays. Students saw it as a boon, but some York residents have been losing sleep over it.

Due to the shuttle, neighbors adjacent to the route have experienced consistent noise disturbances until 3 a.m., sometimes including loud parties and on one occasion public urination. These disruptions have spurred letters to the hill. YNA has begun meeting with Western administrators and student leaders to find a solution to the problem.

The bus is loud. It's an old Skagit Transit bus that makes lots of noise stopping and going along Potter and Humboldt streets until 3 a.m. These streets are designated residential, not arterials, and the bus stops and goes right next to slumbering homes. In October the York Board requested Western reroute the bus to Lakeway Drive, rather than going through the neighborhood. There was no immediate response.

The ridership in York during the shuttle's first months of operation has been far below Western's expectations, and this raises questions of how important a shuttle through York is at all. Furthermore, some feel free transportation circumnavigating campus, including passing by downtown bars then heading into York until 3 a.m. is a bad idea. Discouraging loud partying in York has been a goal for years, and some York neighbors feel a shuttle unloading large groups of students may exacerbate this issue.

At the November 20 YNA Board meeting Western Student Transportation and Associated Students representatives presented data demonstrating the lack of ridership and some potential route changes. They explained that they feel unable to change the route

immediately due to it being mid quarter and publications and signage are already distributed. They made a commitment that the route would change by the beginning of Winter quarter, but didn't say what that route would be.

BREAKING NEWS! - On December 5th WWU announced they will no longer be running the shuttle through York on Potter and Humboldt, opting instead to use arterials.

York – A Very Walkable Neighborhood

by Anitra Accetturo

According to WalkScore (www.walkscore.com), York is a "Very Walkable" neighborhood, or a "Walker's Paradise", depending on your address. But York residents likely already know that. But what you might not know is that quick half-mile drive to the grocery store or restaurant outside the neighborhood contributes significantly to the pounds of carbon dioxide that are emitted into the air each year. Driving your car the average 12-15,000 miles per year potentially produces an equal amount of carbon dioxide into the air. By driving just half as much, you can help fight global warming as well as save money on gas and maintenance – on top of all the health benefits you also get from walking or riding a bike.

What's your carbon footprint for driving? Check out TerraPass (www.terrapass.com) to learn more about reducing and balancing your carbon footprint.

MAJOR PAINTING SERVICE
 OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
 Serving All of Whatcom & Skagit Counties
WORK THAT LASTS

JOHN MAJOR • Owner
(360) 595-1088 CELL (360) 319-9120

LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED
 COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL • INTERIOR • EXTERIOR • REPAIRS
 ADDITIONS • NEW CONSTRUCTION • COLOR MATCHING EXPERT
majpps0279

WE BEND OVER BACKWARDS FOR YOU!

\$4.00 OFF COOLANT FLUSH
Manufacturers recommend every 2 years or 24,000 miles! (Reg \$49.99 most vehicles) *Extended Life coolant \$59.99
PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF ORDER Expires 9/30/07



Master Lube
 A Change For The Better

\$300 OFF OIL CHANGE
PLUS \$1.00 Off Car Wash
With purchase of full service oil change Reg. \$29.99 (most vehicles) Includes 5 qts. oil, new filter & 14 point check
PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF ORDER Expires 9/30/07

1111 E. Maple 733-4750

Open M-F 8-5:30
Saturday 8-4:30

Independently & Locally Owned

No Appointment Necessary!

\$300 OFF (Reg \$89.99) TRANSMISSION FLUID EXCHANGE
Includes flush transmission, and torque converter & cooler lines. With new ATF (up to 14 Qts.) Transmission filter extra if required. Synthetic fluids additional cost.
PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF ORDER Expires 9/30/07

27 Years Experience in the Industry

FREE Vacuuming • FREE Window Washing • FREE Installation with purchase of wiper blades

Tom Scott moved to York with his family, Dondena & Kelix, in 1989. Their twins, Sierra & Kyle, were born here in 1992. Tom has been active in the York Neighborhood Association since the early 1990s. He currently represents York at the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission and at the Association of Bellingham Neighborhoods. Tom is a soccer fanatic and also enjoys camping and paddling canoes and kayaks.

Elisabeth "Libby" Stark was elected to the Board as a member-at-large in the fall of 2005. She has served as secretary since January 2006. Libby is a social worker, and has lived in the York Neighborhood for 27 years. She brings creativity, organization and a commitment to healthy communities to the York Neighborhood Association Board.

Ivy Yap is a Tagalog translator and interpreter. She moved to the York Neighborhood with her husband Jim Kling in May 2007, and is interested in (preparing for) disasters. In her spare time she plays the piano, and spends too much time online.

Nominations for the YNA Board are open until the January general membership meeting Wednesday, January 16
Contact Libby Stark, YNA Secretary, at elisabeth.stark@gmail.com or 715-3728

Please support our advertisers and...



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

DR. MARK G. MCEATHRON
OPTOMETRIC PHYSICIAN

411 E. MAGNOLIA ST.
BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

MEMBER

AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

(360) 647-2020
WWW.BINYONVISION.COM

York Neighborhood Association 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)

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
1232 Franklin Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

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.

REAL ESTATE IS YOUR BEST INVESTMENT !

With the years of equity & appreciation built up in your home, together with today's low interest rates, I can help you upgrade for potentially the same mortgage payment.

Call me, I can help you **UPGRADE your life!**

Roberta Soares, REALTOR®
360-303-3898 cell
rssoares@netzero.net
www.RobertaSoares.com

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REAL ESTATE SERVICES
300 EAST COLLEGE WAY
MOUNT VERNON, WA 98275
CALL 327