

THE YORKER



York Neighborhood Annual Meeting and Chili Dinner

Wed., Jan 8,
6:30 pm

Garden Street United Methodist
Church,
1326 N Garden St

Chili Dinner 6:30 - 7 pm
Chili provided

Vegetarian, Beef, and more
**You can bring sides or dessert
and
an item for the food bank**

Program 7 pm:
**“Homelessness and Hunger
in our Community”**

Mike Cohen

Bellingham Food Bank

Greg Winter

Whatcom Homeless Services

Business meeting and 2014 YNA
Board elections will follow after
speakers

NELSON’S MARKET RECEIVES COMMUNITY BUILDING AWARD

By Don Hilty-Jones



Some of us were lucky enough to attend the 2013 Community Building Awards Recipients dinner on December 18, 2013. Amid food and music, 19 Bellingham citizens were given awards for contributing to and improving the social environment within our fair city. This year, our own Nelson’s Market was one of the Recipients.

Jon Otsby and Anne Mackie accepted the award for contributions to the Bellingham Community on behalf of Nelson’s Market.

In the words of event organizers: "Every neighborhood needs a corner store". For over 30 years Jon and Anne have worked very hard to create a welcoming space for residents of the York Neighborhood and the city of Bellingham alike.

Hearty congratulations to Nelson’s Market and to Jon Otsby and Anne Mackie who make it such a wonderful neighborhood hub.

MAKING MAGIC: IT COULD BE YOUR TURN

By Anne Mackie

If you’re new to the neighborhood, you’ve probably noticed that a lot goes on around here: caroling parties, horse wagon rides, picnics, farm projects, beautiful parks, clean-up projects, educational meetings, and historic pride. Maybe it’s magic that makes it all happen? Or, maybe it’s just people like you. *(continued on page 4)*



HOLIDAY PROGRESSIVE DINNER SPREADS CHEER FOR 10TH YEAR!

By Don Hilty-Jones

Congratulations to the York Garden Club for another excellent Holiday Progressive Dinner. This year marked the 10th anniversary of the York Holiday Progressive Dinner and it was a roaring success! From appetizers through desserts, Yorkers kicked off the holidays with fun, good will, and great food. The grand finale of the evening is the white elephant gift

exchange where this year Urania Shaklee scored an actual white elephant (watering can) wouldn't be too surprised to see it again some time! Thanks to all the many volunteers for the cooking and the planning, and special thanks to this year's hosts: Vivian Mazzola and Jerry Hruska, Ben Esget, and Byron Bagwell and Judy Wagner.

Urania Shaklee scores White Elephant at Gift Exchange

HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES AGAIN - CAROLERS RING OUT THE SEASON!

Pictures by Eric Baumgarten and Judy Hopkinson

Story By Judy Hopkinson



Paul Nelson of Rainbow Ranch holds the reins while riders climb aboard



Choir Director, Andy Marshall, members of the Squilicum High School Band, and Don Hilty-Jones leading the carols

Children and adults alike shared the joys of the season with caroling, cookies, hot cocoa and cider at the Annual York Neighborhood Horse drawn wagon ride and caroling party on December 14. It takes a lot of planning, a lot of volunteer time, and a generous donations from the community to bring the wagons back year after year. In times past, other neighborhoods in Bellingham sponsored similar holiday wagon rides. It hasn't been easy, but the York has steadfastly carried on the tradition. Visitors often marvel at the generous spirit and neighborly good will in evidence at the gathering. And the delighted faces of the children tell the wonderful
(continued on page 3)

Wagon Ride *(continued from page 2)*



Elena, Tim, Isaac, and Kayla Weins (visiting relatives in the York) are ready to ride



Richard Smith is decked out in style



Dave Hopkinson gets to hold baby Isaac

memories they will carry with them all their lives. Leading the carols this year were Andy Marshall and members of the Squalicum High School Band.

Many people work hard to make this event possible, and the York is deeply grateful. Special thanks to our business / financial sponsors this year: *Nelson's Market, Shuksan Healthcare Center, and On-site Computer Services.*

Hardworking volunteers were plentiful including

- The phenomenal Lisa and Cory Anderson
- York's amazing font of energy, Anne Mackie

- Behind the scenes deal maker Tom Scott
- Quartermasters Judy Hopkinson and Kirsti Charlton
- Up front helpers Jean Hamilton, Dondena and Sierra Scott
- Master of Music, Don Hilty-Jones
- And last, but not least - All you Dear Hearts and Gentle People of the York who not only brought fabulous cookies, but also donated over **60 pounds of non-perishable food items for the Bellingham Food Bank!**

HOMELESSNESS AND HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY *By Judy Hopkinson*

Two guests will be joining us at the January 8 Annual meeting. Greg Winter, Director of the Whatcom Homeless Service Center, will present "Putting a face to the Homeless, Anonymous *(continued on page 4)*

York Song Books Gone Missing!

After all the dust settled at the Wagon Ride this year, 15 of our song books were no where to be found! The booklets cost the YNA \$3.50 a piece to replace, so if one of the little rascals snuck home with you, please send it packing back to Nelson's Market so we will have them ready for next year's sing along.

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Magic *(continued from page 1)*

Each year at our annual meeting we elect a new board to create the magic in York. Here's your chance to be part of it.

Membership on the YNA Board is open to any resident or business owner in York who has attended at least two association meetings. The meeting coming up on Wed. Jan. 8 counts for one of those requirements, by the way.

The board usually has 8 to 15 members who meet bi-monthly. It's not a tremendous time commitment in meetings, but members must help out on one of our neighborhood projects and help to distribute this newsletter approximately four times a year.

By Anne Mackie

We hope to include a college student in our 2014 board membership, so if you are interested in that position, please come to the meeting Jan. 8.

Officers are elected at the board's first meeting of the year, Feb. 12. For more information about serving on the board, or to put your name forward or nominate someone else, contact President Don Hilty-Jones at:

president@yorkneighborhood.org.

We hope to see you at the Annual General Meeting, January 8th, 6:30pm, Garden St. Methodist Church, 1326 N. Garden. Let's make some magic.

Homelessness

(continued from page 3)

No More." He will provide recently collected data about our community's homeless, - who they are, and the progress Bellingham has made in making housing a number one priority.

The second speaker, Mike Cohen, will give a presentation on the Bellingham Food Bank with particular focus on changes that have occurred with the Great Recession.

Each talk will be followed with a question and answer period.

Regular business and election of board members will follow after the speakers.

YORKERS SHARE CHRISTMAS BBQ WITH CITY GATE NEIGHBORS

By Kirsti Charlton



celebration for City Gate residents thanks to collaborative efforts of York neighbors and City Gate staff. This year residents feasted on barbecued chicken and all the trimmings. Luckily, while the weather was cold, it didn't rain as the grill was set up outside.

York neighbors provide the feast in thanks for the many volunteer hours City Gate residents provide to the York community. Residents volunteer routinely for the STARS (Saturday Trash and RecyclerS) program and at the York Farm.

The chief architects of this Christmas eve event were Bob Pescowitz, Mary Loquvam, and Greg Peterson. Greg returned to his former domicile to participate in bringing City Gate residents a happy Christmas. Bob was the BBQ chef and monitored the chicken carefully (see photo). Mary and Greg arranged for the side dishes and desserts. Kirsti Charlton and Pam Kahn pitched in to help and attended the event. Judy Hopkinson prepared a little something extra - home made cookie gift packages for each guest.

For the 2nd year in a row, Christmas Eve was a time of

GREAT NEWS FROM THE FARM!

By Byron Bagwell

I have some exciting news to share with Yorkers. The York Farm has partnered with NW Agriculture Business Center, a federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. They will become York Farm's fiscal sponsor

starting in 2014. This merger will allow the Farm to pursue larger capital grants from organizations like the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation and others that require 501(c)(3) status for grant applicants. We are hopeful that

the partnership will allow us to increase intern funding as well as open avenues for funds sufficient to make the York Farm a legitimate working urban farm.

WWU GEOLOGY STUDENT'S SERVICE LEARNING AT YORK FARM

By Thomas Evans

Nationally there is a push to involve undergraduate students in scientific research that directly benefits their communities. The hope is that these scholars will gain expertise and experience to improve their communities as adults. This model is called Service Learning, and it has been shown to improve both the quality of students' education and their interest in science. In addition, it provides measurable benefits for the communities in which they live. At WWU I teach Stratigraphy and Sedimentation (GEOL 415), a senior level geology course on sedimentary rock formation and interpretation. Each student in the class performs independent research. These projects are original, scientifically



rigorous, and beneficial to someone or something in the community. In developing this course I have partnered with local and national agencies to provide sites for research projects, including the Bellingham Public Works Department, the Petrified Forest National Park, and the York Farm.

The York Farm provides a marvelous opportunity for students to conduct research that benefits their own community. A variety of research

projects are available including soil analysis (soil pits and descriptions), and soil improvement or intervention studies (seeding beds with worms and tracking soil change over time is one example). Each of these projects aims to be scientifically useful and to improve farm yield, thus demonstrating to students the power of applied science.

In the future I hope to involve my students in many more service learning projects, at the York Farm and elsewhere, and I invite anyone with ideas to work with us. Because, by working together, we can simultaneously improve both the education of the next generation, and our communities.

In Loving Memory

We celebrate Ethel Nelson's life of 101 years and thank her for her love of the neighborhood. She and her late husband Lawrence, who died in 1967, owned Nelson's Market at 514 Potter St. from the mid-60s to 1984, when she sold it to Jon Ostby.

Even after Lawrence's death, Ethel lived above the store and kept it humming.

"Ethel was a great human being who had a smile, laugh and a story for everyone," Jon said. "She ran the store the old-fashioned way, letting families keep a charge tab running until pay day. She took care of the neighborhood, knew all the kids, and they loved her."

A Memorial Service will be held at Moles Bayview Chapel, 2465 Lakeway Dr., on Sat. Jan. 11 at 12:00pm.



*Ethel Alice (Acre) Nelson
9-20-1912 to 12-31-2013*

BAGWELL RECEIVES GOLDEN TROWEL AWARD



Byron Bagwell and Judy Wagner with the Golden Trowel Award

Festivities at the Holiday Progressive Dinner always include presentation of the Golden Trowel award for excellence in garden work. This year Byron Bagwell was recognized for his work at the York Farm. Byron engineered raised beds, fences, rain water catchment systems, the storage shed, and has more plans for next year! Congratulations Byron!

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WE SCARE HUNGER SCARES YORK

By Anne Mackie



Jocelynn VanWeerdhuizen (left) and Maya Helms (right) trick-or-treat to scare hunger at the home of John Wiley and Carolyne Milling on Halloween night.

Maybe you were one of the lucky neighbors who got tricked on Halloween Night by the “We Scare Hunger” campaign -- tricked into giving canned food instead of candy to trick-or-treaters from Sehome High School’s Social Action Club.

Club members who participated were Maya Helms, Jocelynn VanWeerdhuizen and Ava Baumgartner. The club wishes to thank York neighborhood for their donations.

“We collected 448 pounds of food and \$15 to donate to Bellingham’s Food Bank,” said Maya Helms, organizer. The high school ninth grader said they completely filled her dad’s van with many, many, many bags of food from generous neighbors who liked seeing them out trick-or-treating for food instead of the usual candy handout.

“It was really fun to ask for food instead of candy, and the kids we saw liked it too. We’ll be doing it again next year and hope to publicize on the radio and have a few drop-off locations in the neighborhood.”

The We Scare Hunger campaign is part of the Free the Children international organization whose mission states: “Young people are free to achieve their fullest potential as agents of change. We work to empower youth to

remove barriers that prevent them from being active local and global citizens.”

New in 2014

Maya and club members have begun work on a new project as part of Heifer International, which raises money to purchase farm animals for families. The animals provide families with both food and a reliable income through production of milk, eggs or honey, for example. She says the club hopes to organize a musical concert soon to help with fundraising.

To get involved or make a donation to the club’s activities, contact Maya Helms at maya.helms@yahoo.com.

York Neighborhood is proud of our young people who have such compassion for others. With this attitude our future is surely bright.



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YORK SIGN GETS FACELIFT



Have you noticed that Byron Bagwell's name is all over this newsletter? Well here he is again! This time we are recognizing him for the great job he did refurbishing the York Neighborhood sign. Thanks again from all your neighbors, Byron.



MARLINS'
cafe
 inside Nelson's Market

Daily Specials and Dinner Plates

Breakfast
 Wed - Fri.: 7 to 11:30 am
 Sat & Sun: 8 am to 2 pm

Lunch and Dinner
 Wed - Fri.: 11:30 am to 9 pm
 Sat & Sun: 2 to 9 pm

Happy Hour 4 to 6pm Daily
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Join us on the patio
 514 Potter St. · Call-in to Take-out 734-2448
"The Stationary Float in the Parade of Life"

**York Neighborhood Association
 Donation Form**

Membership Donation to the York Neighborhood Association:
 Money is used for newsletter printing, annual picnic, annual holiday party / horse drawn wagon rides / supplies and mailings.

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Students \$5.00
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 Business \$100.00
 (includes business-card size ad in each issue of The Yorker newsletter)

_____ Address

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Amount enclosed: _____

Indicate cash ___ or check ___

Make checks payable to
 York Neighborhood Association (YNA) Mail to:
 Lisa Anderson, YNA Treasurer, 520 Edwards St., Bellingham, WA 98225

York Calendar

January - February	Ongoing	Upcoming
<p>January 8, 2014 6:30 pm</p> <p>YNA Annual Meeting with Board Elections and Chili Dinner GSUMC 1326 N Garden St</p> <p>February 12, 2014 7 pm</p> <p>YNA Board Meeting and election of officers GSUMC 1326 N Garden St.</p>	<p>2nd Sat of each month</p> <p>Franklin Park work parties contact: VicePresident@ YorkNeighborhood.org</p> <p>1st and 3rd Sat, 10:30 am STARs contact STARs@YorkNeighborhood.org</p> <p>Periodic York Farm Work Parties contact Farm@YorkNeighborhood.org</p> <p>2nd Wed of most months, 7 pm YNA Board Meetings at GSUMC, 1326 N Garden St</p>	<p>March 12 General meeting and YNA Taco Dinner</p> <p>March 28 Spring Break: Free Ice cream for York Kids at Nelson’s Market</p> <p>TBA “Take Teddy to Tea” (York’s Historic Preservation event at Nelson’s Market)</p> <p>June 13 Summer Break: Free Ice cream for York Kids at Nelson’s Market</p> <p>June 21 York Farm Summer Solstice Celebration</p> <p>4th of July Party in the Park</p> <p>August 5 National Night Out Against Crime</p> <p>TBA General Meeting and YNA Spud Fest</p> <p>TBA Neighborhood Picnic</p> <p>TBA Harvest Fest / Fall Apple Press</p> <p>October 8 General Meeting and YNA Soup Supper</p> <p>Dec 6 Holiday Progressive Dinner</p> <p>Dec 13 Horse Drawn Wagon Rides and Caroling</p> <p>Jan 14, 2015 Annual Meeting and YNA Chili Dinner</p>
<p>Special Thanks to Applied Digital Imaging for Printing</p>		
<p>Mission Statement of the York Neighborhood Association: To</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>2013 York Neighborhood Association Officers <i>President: Don Hilty-Jones;</i> <i>Vice President: Mark Scholfield;</i> <i>Treasurer: Lisa Anderson;</i> <i>Secretary: Judy Hopkinson.</i> <i>Contact:</i> York Neighborhood Association c/o 1316 Franklin St Bellingham, WA 98225 website: www.YorkNeighborhood.org email: president@YorkNeighborhood.org</p>	
<p>For More information and updates on Neighborhood Events, join the York email list by sending your name and email to: Webmaster@yorkneighborhood.org</p>		