

THE YORKER



York Neighborhood Meeting

and

Taco Dinner

Wed., March 12,

6:30 pm

Garden Street United Methodist
Church,
1326 N Garden St

Tacos & Fixin's provided.
Please bring a dessert to share.

Program at 7 p.m.
**Meet New City Council
Member-At-Large
Roxanne Murphy**

Education Program:
**"Tips To
Kick-Start
Your Spring Garden"**
with **Julia Raider,**
Bellingham Food Bank,
and
Lisa Anderson,
York Gardener



Please bring your table service.
Child care provided.

Samish Way Task Force Organizes to Fight Crime



N. Samish Way, the most southern section of York, is the dividing line between York and Sehome neighborhoods.

York and Sehome neighborhoods are joining forces to reduce crime in the N. Samish Way area, which is an arterial that runs through both neighborhoods. The task force formed last month and will meet with Mayor Linville, city staff, and Bellingham Police to work together on finding solutions to the ongoing criminal activity in this area.

"We have had it with the drug sales, prostitution, violent crime and threats to citizens, businesses and police," said Lisa Anderson, YNA Treasurer and home owner who lives near N. Samish Way. "We're going to work together to move this part of Bellingham forward to be something we are all proud of," she said. This corridor is a gateway to the city, which has seen much better days when it was the historic Highway 99.

Anyone interested in working on this effort is invited to contact Lisa at: Treasurer@YorkNeighborhood.org

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President’s Message



By Don Hilty-Jones
YNA President

Starting up a second term as the YNA President, I wish to thank our super volunteers: Mark Schofield for continuing as Franklin Park Steward, Byron Bagwell for his work at the Farm and for repairing our “Welcome to York” sign; Lisa and Cory Anderson, Tom Scott,

and Judy Hopkinson for organizing a great holiday party and horse wagon ride; and again, Judy, for serving as Editor of the newsletter last year.

Thanks to Kirsti Charlton for leading the work of the STARS litter patrol, and to Tom Scott and Anne Mackie for representing York on the Mayor’s Neighborhood Advisory Commission. Yours truly had a hand in many of these activities, but it was all a team effort; and believe me, the combined hours of work contributed by these hard-core York neighbors has been amazing!

There are many opportunities this year for new volunteers, so don’t be shy. Carolyn Mulder and Cory Anderson will need help with Dumpster Day, planned for June 14. Please contact me if you want to become more involved in this, or any other neighborhood activities.

Bylaws Update

A Board priority this year is to do a little “house keeping” on organizational documents. The YNA Bylaws were last updated in 2007. They are being amended to include a section about committees. These amendments have been reviewed and approved by the city and will be put forward at the upcoming

March 12 YNA general meeting for the memberships’ approval.

Ensuring smooth operations and communications between committees and the Board, and implementing new policies and procedures for good governance and expense reporting are also being addressed in new Board guidelines.

Programs & Speakers

Each of our general meetings includes a neighborhood meal and captivating educational program. If you have a topic you’d like us to discuss or know a good speaker we might like to hear, please let me know. We hope to also conduct some small workshops in our parks this year, as the weather improves. My email is the best way to reach me:

president@yorkneighborhood.org.

Stay informed!
 Join York’s email
 distribution list.
 Send your name and
 email to:
Listmaster@yorkneighborhood.org

2014 York Neighborhood Association

Officers

President: Don Hilty-Jones
 Vice President: Mark Scholfield
 Treasurer: Lisa Anderson
 Secretary: Anne Mackie

Board Members

Cory Anderson, Byron Bagwell,
 Kirsti Charlton, Katie Dunne, Judy Hopkinson
 Brian Kennedy, Tom Scott

Contact:

York Neighborhood Association
 c/o 1316 Franklin St
 Bellingham, WA 98225
 website: www.YorkNeighborhood.org
 email: president@YorkNeighborhood.org

Mission Statement of the York Neighborhood Association:

- To reduce isolation among residents
- To enhance the quality of life in a low and moderate income urban neighborhood
- To create a sense of community
- To reduce or prevent crime; and
- To preserve the historic character of the neighborhood.



Celebrate Earth Day in Franklin Park, April 19

By Mark Schofield

Franklin Park Steward & YNA Vice President

Daylight lengthens. Temperatures warm. Pacific Madrona, Oregon grape and columbine flourish. And so do the weeds.

We're on the cusp of another growing season in Franklin Park. That means work parties – fueled by neighbors like you – to keep our park an inviting place for native plants and human visitors.

Come join us April 19 for a special park event as we celebrate Earth Day. We'll be weeding, mulching and generally maintaining the Franklin Street island on the north edge of the park. City of Bellingham will supply gloves, tools and support.

All other Franklin Park work parties will be on the *second* Saturday of each month, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. The first of the season is on March 8. All are welcome. If you've never come before, give it a try.



Volunteers weed along the Franklin Island Berm

For more info or to sign up for Franklin Park updates, email Mark at VicePresident@YorkNeighborhood.org or call 206-931-6382. Hope to see you there.

**Earth Day Work Party in Franklin Park
Saturday, April 19th, 10:00 a.m. - Noon**

Congratulations to one of York's own top organizers

Lisa McShane, Managing Partner at Lehman McShane Strategies, was honored at the 2014 Reed Awards in Washington, D.C., in February with a



trophy for *Overall Best Field Program of 2013*. She won for the campaign plan, field plan, and the mail program for the "Whatcom Wins" coordinated campaign in 2013's Whatcom County Council election.

The 2014 Reed Awards, named after *Campaigns & Elections* founder Stanley Foster Reed, embody excellence in political campaigning, campaign management, political consulting, and political design. They seek to reward the industry's best by honoring Republican and Democrat winners across 71 categories for television, radio, direct mail, phones, field, political technology, and online advertising.

Chosen from the largest and smallest organizations in the industry, winners represent the latest techniques and talent in political campaigning.

**"Just like football,
you don't win without
a strong team."**

Lisa McShane

Whatcom County's successful "Whatcom Wins" campaign was unusual in that it coordinated four candidate campaigns and swept the Whatcom County Council races, defeating two incumbents.

The field campaign worked with over 350 volunteers, made more than 47,000 phone calls and contacted more than 42,000 voters at their doors.

Also acknowledged were Whatcom Democrats Chair, Mike Estes, and Whatcom Conservation Voters board member, Alex Ramel, as well as Seattle-based consultant, Dean Nielsen.

Lisa and husband, Dan, have lived in the York Neighborhood for 25 years.

Neighborhood Faces

Meet York Board Members

Katie Dunne starts her second term on the York Board this year. A dog lover who likes hiking, camping and canning, Katie says she landed in York two and half years ago from Colorado and fell in love with the neighborhood and the community that comes together at Nelson's Market. This year she hopes to help with the neighborhood parks and rental landlord problems.

Welcome Brian Kennedy, who moved to Bellingham three years ago from Connecticut. He works for a local painting company. Brian says he "luckily" found himself in York. Three years and three houses later, all within a block radius, he found a home. More importantly, he says, "I found a neighborhood - one in which I want to contribute and be involved."

Brian imports and sells Guatemalan blankets from a small Mayan village to help promote their environmental



Brian Kennedy and Katie Dunne

economic, and social sustainability. He likes the idea behind the York Farm and wants to help keep the parks and neighborhood clean and beautiful. Slumlords and junkies are two problems he hopes to help work on this year as a Board member.

Meet Cory Anderson, new Board member, who has lived in Bellingham his whole life and in York for 17 years. You may have seen him helping run the holiday horse wagon ride, or grilling hot dogs at the annual picnic.

Perhaps you've seen him smashing old furniture at Dumpster Day, or handing out the newsletter and picking up litter.

Cory and his wife Lisa live in the southern section of York, near the Samish Way corridor. They are heading up the newly formed Samish Way task force with members of the Sehome Neighborhood. The first meeting was hosted at that home, which is one of York's finest turn-of-the-century specimens. They have hosted many Wine & Roses Garden Club parties there.

Gardening is one of Cory's hobbies that he shares with Lisa. Other interests include a 1964 Rambler and several 1960 Honda 90s.

York's historic homes, great neighbors, diverse population of students, young families, and retirees are some of the reasons Cory loves living here.

"I want to help keep it great."

"By joining the York Board, I want to help keep it great," he said. An employee of Whatcom County Public Works, Cory has many skills that come in handy for restoring their historic home, and skills that we have put to good use all over the neighborhood.

Thanks, Cory, for all you do!



Rental Safety and Students

By Samantha Goldblatt,
*Sehome Board Student Representative
 and Legal Information Center Coordinator,
 WWU Associated Students*

While rental licensing and inspection have been hot-button issues in the City of Bellingham for quite a long time, the voices of those who experience issues in their home have often been left out of the conversation. This is mostly due to scheduling City Council Planning Committee meetings when most renters are at school and work and the pervasive fear to speak out because of retaliation from landlords. In the Sehome Neighborhood, a large number of those renters with health and safety problems are students.

In addition to being a student, I also work for the Associated Students of WWU as the Coordinator of the Legal Information Center. When I tell people this, they often assume that I see students for minor-in-possession and drug charges all the time; but the truth is that a vast majority of the students who come into the office are there for landlord-tenant issues. While it is more common for me to see students who are having issues getting their landlord to make some crucial repair or return their security deposit, there are also a disturbing amount of people who come in, often audibly wheezing from black mold or worn-down from the effort of negotiating with their landlords, to report serious structural or health issues in their home.

Support for Students

How can we provide support to these students? When I tell them about the Bellingham code-violation system, most choose not to report their issues, in fear that they won't be able to find a new place to rent if their current living situation



Bellingham Firefighters work to save a rental house at 1100 N. Garden St. on Feb. 19. Five WWU student residents were all safe, or not at home at the time of the fire. The cause of the fire had not been announced at the time of The Yorker printing deadline. This photo is reprinted from The Western Front, with permission by Evan Abel, photographer.

is deemed uninhabitable. While there are many solutions that could be used with various degrees of effectiveness to improve conditions for renters in Bellingham, it is clear that the way things are going right now are not good for the working-class and student renters that make up a big part of our community.

If you are a student experiencing landlord-tenant, or any other legal issues, please contact me, Samantha Goldblatt, at as.legalinfo@wwu.edu.

Reprinted, in part, from the Sehome Neighborhood Newsletter, February 2014.

Thank you for your financial donations to the York Neighborhood Association:

(since the last newsletter) **Neighbors Vale & Abe Bates and Lisa & Cory Anderson;**
and to the Market on Lakeway Dr., no longer in business but while here their donations were appreciated.

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Business Profile

It's been a "Sweet 16" years in business for York's Candyman

By Anne Mackie

When Jerry Hruska opened the doors of his SweetArt candy shop in 1998 his artist wife Vivian Mazzola painted a mural of candy-maker elves on the wall. He warned her that if the new business venture didn't make it, she'd lose the mural if they closed.

That mural still hugs the wall after 16 great years of candy making in the same location at 1335 Railroad Ave. These York neighbors love living close to their downtown shop -- just a short walk.

Despite the recent break-in attempt at the shop, which left the front door glass shattered, Jerry thinks the Railroad Avenue area has improved in recent years.

"Crime doesn't bother me too much," he said. "I think things have gotten better with more regular

community people down in this neighborhood." There are several new shops and more residents, but none as sweet as Jerry. If you haven't tried one



of his chocolates, you've been missing out on Bellingham's Black Crows, Hidden Tigers, Mad Hatters and Queens of Heart. Vivian is the naming expert, as well as 2005 "Best in Show" artist in the county fair. Jerry's "Best in Show" winner a few years later was his

now famous English Toffee -- a sugar butter brickle, dipped in milk chocolate and rolled in chunky chopped almonds. It keeps the fans rolling in, as does Jerry's great spirit and unusual hobbies. He's collecting postcards mailed to him from all over the world. These are cards he gives you to pack along on your trip, then mail back with a personal sketch, sticker or note from abroad.

If you miss catching the shop open, you can always find Jerry at the Saturday Farmer's Market during its season. Yorkers have been enjoying Jerry's chocolates for years at the annual Wine & Roses Garden Club holiday progressive dinner parties. And you thought it was all about the wine!

If you'd like to see your business featured in this column, contact Anne Mackie at: YorkerEditor@yorkneighborhood.org

York Neighborhood Association Donation Form

- Students \$5.00 Household \$20.00
- Singles \$10.00
- Business \$100.00 - includes a business-card size ad for four issues.

Make check payable to the YNA
(York Neighborhood Association)

Name _____

Address _____

Ph# _____ Email _____

Return Form & Check to:
Lisa Anderson, YNA Treasurer,
520 Edwards St., Bellingham WA 98225

Heads Up for York's Dumpster Day, June 14

Going strong for 30+ years

- WHAT:** Annual neighborhood clean-up.
- WHEN:** Sat. June 14, 8:30 until dumpster is full.
- WHERE:** Nelson's Market parking lot, 514 Potter.
- BRING:** Junk, broken furniture, mattresses, old BBQ grills, broken equipment; help clean up our alleys.
- DO NOT BRING:** Paint cans, broken TVs, appliances or other toxic materials.
- CALL TO HELP:** Carolyn at 647-1642 or Kirsti at 393-7187 if you'd like to help out, or to request a truck for pick-up.

New Downtown Bellingham Plan Includes Visions for Western York

By Anne Mackie
Chair, YNA Planning Committee

A new Downtown Bellingham Plan will be presented to the Planning Commission at a Public Hearing on March 27, 7pm at City Hall. Eventually, the new plan will move forward to the City Council for its review and approval.

The draft plan is the culmination of about two years' work by City Planners, who have engaged neighborhoods, downtown businesses, and citizens to carve out a new vision for our downtown. One proposal is for "adaptive reuse of existing buildings as an incentive to invest in, and rehabilitate, historic housing stock."

Historic Preservation

This is a concept the YNA brought forward in 2009 when we successfully rezoned York's Area 9 along Ellis St., to

protect historic properties and allow new uses.

The proposed Downtown Plan is strongly committed to historic preservation. We are hopeful that with adoption of the Plan the western section of York will be considered for nomination as a National Historic District. This is the "Triangle Area" of York -- Western York -- bordered on the east by Ellis St., the south by Holly St., the west by N. State St., and the north by York St.

The YNA Planning Committee will continue to actively work with City Planners to strengthen some of YNA's previous concepts already in the new Plan, as well as retain other initiatives and decisions put forward by our general membership in the York amendments just a few years ago.

With approximately 40 turn-of-the-century structures, of which many have retained their historic architectural integrity, this area is a "jewel in the rough." Take a walk in the 1300 and 1400 blocks of N. Garden, N. Forest, Indian and High streets. It's an intact, residential neighborhood within a few blocks of

the city commercial center. How many cities have retained this kind of original residential zone in the heart of a city? Regrettably, many have not.

What's Old is New

The concept of single-family housing in a city's core is old and now new, again, as people strive to reduce car usage, walk to work or play, and move back in from the suburbs to enjoy a city's culture.

In addition to historic preservation, the proposed Plan has other exciting components such as transportation corridor enhancements, new public spaces, design guidelines and commercial-to-residential transition zones.

If you are interested in becoming involved with this kind of community activism, please contact me to be included in our upcoming committee meetings.

Send an email to:

PlanningChair@yorkneighborhood.org

We hope to see new faces!



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Fri. 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sat. & Sun. 8 a.m. to 9pm

YORK EVENTS CALENDAR

**March 8
Franklin Park
Work Party**

10 a.m. - Noon
contact: VicePresident@
YorkNeighborhood.org

**March 12
Taco Dinner 6:30 p.m.
YNA Meeting 7 p.m.**

at Garden St. United Methodist
1326 N. Garden St.

**March 28
Spring Break:
Free Ice cream**
for York kids at Nelson's Market

**April 9
YNA Board Meeting
7 p.m.**

at Garden St. United Methodist
Church 1326 N. Garden St.

**April 19
Earth Day Work Party
Franklin Park
10 a.m. - Noon**

**June 14
Dumpster Day
8:30 a.m. until full**
at Nelson's Market

Special Thanks to
Applied Digital Imaging
for printing this newsletter.