

THE YORKER



York Neighborhood Holiday Party

**Annual Horse Wagon Rides
and Caroling Party, Sat. Dec. 13th
5:00 - 8:30 p.m., at Nelson's Market**

Everyone is invited to join the fun at the 10th Annual Holiday Party, Sat. Dec. 13 at Nelson's Market. The fun begins at 5:00pm when the first horse wagon rides take off. The rides will continue until everyone has had a turn.

- The rides are free; we just ask that you **bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Food Bank**. Tickets will be issued for the rides so you can know approximately what time your ride will be.
- Bring a plate of **Christmas cookies** to share. Hot cocoa and cider is provided.
- Local high school choir members will lead our caroling at the party and along the wagon route. Song books provided.
- Sponsors for the event are the York Neighborhood Assoc., On-Site Computers, Shuksan Health Care Center, and Nelson's Market.

Stay Safe in the Neighborhood

By Mark Schofield

With the long dark nights of the season upon us, it's a good time to think about home security and safety. At a recent meeting of the York board, Sergeant Gutierrez from the Bellingham Police Department gave an update on York crime -- from gang graffiti tagging and car prowls to stolen bikes and computers. He recommends:

- Lock your home doors and windows.
- Lock car doors and close windows -- also, don't store valuables in cars.
- Make sure outdoor lights are on and light motion sensors are working; replace expired bulbs.
- Keep a record of bike serial numbers, and report missing or stolen bikes to 911.
- Promptly call 911 to report graffiti -- recent gang tags include "SLIM" and "ABEK."
- Don't hesitate to call 911 to report crimes or suspicious activity.

YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 14, 2015, 6:30 DESSERT SOCIAL; 7:00 MEETING

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

Guest Speaker: Mayor Kelli Linville

Business Meeting: Election of 2015 YNA Board Members*

Please bring a dessert item to share. Coffee provided.

* Interested in joining the YNA Board? See page 2 for more information.

ASSOCIATION NEWS : We CAN make difference!

Activists' work, plus City action move Samish Way improvements forward

“Aloha, to The Aloha (motel),” was the sentiment at the October 8 York Neighborhood Association meeting when YNA Board member Lisa Anderson was presented with a floral lei, thanking her for her work on the Samish Way Task Force.



Lisa Anderson

Last January York and Sehome neighborhood board members met to discuss the decline along Samish Way and began working with the Mayor’s office, reviewing statistical data, and pressing for city action. A lot has

happened in a relatively short amount of time.

On October 27 the City Council approved the Mayor’s request to move forward with condemnation proceedings against the Aloha Motel, where 11 rooms had been red-tagged by the Whatcom County Health Dept. for methamphetamine contamination. The Villa Inn, another Samish Way motel, had nine rooms red-tagged for meth contamination. The owners are planning to clean up the contamination, which is estimated to cost between \$48,000 to \$80,000.

“Even though we have had some major successes, there is work still to be done,” said Lisa Anderson, YNA Board member. “We will be monitoring to see if the other problematic motels continue to be an issue for the health and safety of our neighborhoods. Going forward, we hope our two neighborhoods can be involved with the redevelopment of the Aloha Motel property.”

York Board Elections Coming Up, Jan. 14th

Nominations are open for YNA Board memberships; elections will be held at the January 14 Annual Meeting. Board responsibilities include chairing a committee or coordinating an event such

as the annual picnic, Dumpster Day, or the holiday wagon ride. Board members also help to distribute *The Yorker* newsletter. If you are interested in learning more about board membership, putting your name forward, or nominating someone, please contact President Don Hilty-Jones, at: President@YorkNeighborhood.org.

Thank-you Volunteers

This newsletter has been delivered to your doorstep this year by these folks:

Paige and Josiah Anderson, Lisa and Cory Anderson, Ron Barnett, the Bandstra Family, the Bates Family, Dave and Vilma Camp, Sarah Campbell, Kirsti Charlton, Robb Correll, Barbara Davenport, Kate Dunne, Michael Neville and Don Hilty-Jones, Judy and Dave Hopkinson, Cindy Kaufman, Carolyn Mulder and Ava and Eric Baumgarten, Evan Jones, the Schwartz Family, Dale Kreider, Jean Layton, Amelia Lunde, the Marvin Family, Carolyne Milling and John Wiley, the Murphy Family, John McColloch, Michele McFarland, Tom Scott, Mark Schofield and Michelle Burkhart, Walter Turpin, Jon Ostby, and Editor Anne Mackie.

If you would like to help hand-out the newsletter on YOUR block, contact Don Hilty-Jones at: President@YorkNeighborhood.org

2014 York Neighborhood Association Officers

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

Board Members At-Large

Cory Anderson, Robb Correll, Kirsti Charlton, Tom Scott MNAC Rep

Contact:

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

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Join York’s email distribution list.
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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.

York's Rock Hill Park Gets Major Improvements

By Paige Anderson, Park Steward



The more the community becomes involved with this park, the more likely any improvements to infrastructure can be pursued.

Work began on removing invasive plants at Rock Hill Park earlier this fall with a large work party held November 8. Students from WWU's Environmental Stewardship Class (ENVS 496) organized the work party that attracted 40 volunteers.

Trash was collected, invasive plants were removed and replaced with sword ferns and other native plants. Our goal is to make the park more conducive to creating strong connections between people and their urban environment. Our guiding principles for the park improvements are:

- Provide a safe, green space for residents and visitors to enjoy.

- Ensure user safety and security through environmental Crime Prevention methods.
- Design an environmentally sustainable and efficient park with reduced maintenance and crime.
- Create a natural learning place including the butterfly garden and interpretive signs for native plants.
- Plan and execute weekly/monthly cleanup work parties and events to encourage use and liveliness of the park.
- Pursue improvements to the park's infrastructure.

I hope you will want to get involved in our projects at Rock Hill.

Contact me for information about upcoming work parties at: RockHillParkSteward@YorkNeighborhood.org.

Rock Hill Park
is located at the southern end of the 1300 block of Iron St. It is named for a large sandstone outcropping rock in the park.



WWU students participated in a work party at Rock Hill Park November 8. Invasive plants were weeded out and exchanged for new native plants.

Kids show off their talent at annual York picnic

York's first Kids' Talent

Show was the highlight of the Annual Picnic held at Franklin Park, Sept. 21. Featured were musical skills and athletic abilities - from soccer ball kicking and somersaults, to pogo-stick jumping. We lost count at 110 jumps in a row by Noah Bandstra. The talent show will be back next year.

Hot dogs were provided by the YNA, potluck dishes were fabulous, and the pie raffle was a success. The picnic competed with the Seahawks' game airing at the same time; but we had a great turnout and the Hawks beat the 49'ers!

Many thanks to Cory and Lisa Anderson for organizing the picnic.



Violinist Jessa Bates, age 8 (above) and guitarist Cassin Bates, age 7 (right) serenade the pleased crowd.



Photos by Jeff Bates



Photo by Mark Schofield

York Kids Annual Picnic Picture, 2014.

*Thank you
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for supporting this newsletter
and the York Neighborhood
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