

THE YORKER



York General Meeting

Wednesday, March 11th

Taco Dinner 6:30pm; Meeting 7pm

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

Speaker back by popular demand...

“Getting to Know the Air Inside Your Home”

7:00 p.m., Guest Speaker: Dave Blake,
Environmental Specialist, NW Clean Air Agency

- We typically spend 90% of our time inside where exposure to mold, carbon monoxide, asbestos, lead paint, building products’ off-gasses, and even methamphetamine contamination pose health hazards.
- **Learn how to detect problems and take steps to improve your home’s air quality.**
- Our guest speaker, Dave Blake, provides an entertaining multi-media presentation with handouts.

A brief BUSINESS MEETING follows the Educational Program.

6:30 p.m., TACO DINNER DETAILS

YNA Board members will provide taco meats, beans, and all the fixins’. Please bring a plate of cookies to share and your own place setting and a beverage. Coffee provided.

If you need child care at the meeting, please let us know by contacting VicePresident@yorkneighborhood.org so we can plan.

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yorkneighborhood.org

YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

c/o 520 Edwards St., Bellingham WA 98225

www.yorkneighborhood.org email: President@Yorkneighborhood.org

ASSOCIATION NEWS

2015 Board & Officers Elected

By Anne Mackie
YNA Secretary, Newsletter Editor

We'd like to thank **Don Hilty-Jones** who has ended his term as YNA President after serving two years. He will now represent York on the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission (MNAC) and serve as YNA Treasurer. In addition to overseeing the YNA's business for the past two years, Don kept us generally civil in the course of our work and helped organize a response to a neighbor's special needs.

Most recently when a neighbor was burned out of her home in a fire Don organized a collection to gather clothing, suitcase, food items and other donations to assist her. Always a leader and great friend to all, we thank you Don for your service and all the delicious gatherings at your home.

See the box below for a list of our new 2015 officers. New Board members are featured here:

Paige Anderson, who first joined the YNA Board in November 2014, is our Rock Hill Park Steward, a position she accepted after serving as an intern with Bellingham's Parks and Recreation Dept. She and her husband Josiah have lived in



New YNA Board members Paige Anderson, Edward Tabor and Kim Owen.

York for two-plus years. She is a WWU student majoring in multidisciplinary studies: Education and Politics of Environmental Issues with a minor in Geography. In her spare time Paige enjoys textile crafting and organic gardening.

Edward Tabor, also a WWU student, moved to York last fall from the north Seattle area. He is majoring in Geology.

"I would like to think I can bring a strong voice from campus and get more students involved in the neighborhood they live in," he said. "I simply love York's architectural styles, as well as the more than welcoming people who live in them." Edward is helping with York's Franklin Park work parties. He enjoys listening to music, hiking, camping, writing, and cooking -- always a great attribute to bring to the Board.

Kim Owen and her family of four plus three dogs are recent transplants from Colorado.

"We love being able to walk to so many things and be centrally located," she said about living in York. Kim brings a lot of grass roots organizing experience to the YNA. She has training in leadership and has worked on boards both as a volunteer and employee. Her background includes early childhood development work.

"I am interested in the problems of density and issues as they relate to children and families," she said. Beginning with the May edition of *The Yorker* newsletter, Kim will take over as Editor. The current Editor says "Whoo Hoo to that!!!"

Welcome to our three new York Board members.

2015 York Neighborhood Association Officers

President: Lisa Anderson
Vice President: Tom Scott
Treasurer: Don Hilty-Jones
Secretary: Anne Mackie

Additional Board Members

Cory Anderson, Paige Anderson, Robb Correll, Kirsti Charlton, Kim Owen, Mark Schofield, Edward Tabor

Contact:

York Neighborhood Association
c/o 520 Edwards St., Bellingham WA 98225
President@YorkNeighborhood.org
website: www.YorkNeighborhood.org
For advertising / business Donations, contact:
YorkerEditor@YorkNeighborhood.org

Donations to York Neighborhood Association are appreciated!

Thank you to these folks and businesses who made donations since the last publication of this newsletter: Tracy & Darrell Barnard, Kim Hankinson & Matt Niederhauser, Rowena Rainbolt, Ben & Urania Shaklee, Terpstra Family, and Flip Consignment LLC.

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.

Meet new Ward 3 City Councilman, Dan Hammill, former York President

By Anne Mackie,
YNA Secretary, Newsletter Editor

Dan Hammill and I first got to know one another while cleaning up an empty lot at the corner of Lakeway Dr. and Franklin St. in the York neighborhood. Trash, bottles, cans, needles and overgrown vegetation were a painful eyesore. That was in 1997.

Dan quickly moved on from trash pick-up to becoming President of York’s Neighborhood Association (YNA) in 1998-99. Now, 16 years later, he has been appointed to fill the vacant seat on City Council as Ward 3 representative. Part of York is included in that ward along with sections of the Sehome, Puget, Lettered Streets, Sunnyland, and Downtown neighborhoods.

“I can draw a straight line as a grassroots activist in York to where I am today,” Dan said. “I value what York stands for and its commitment to retaining historic character and a strong sense of community.” While serving as York’s President Dan oversaw neighborhood projects, and he obtained a \$4,000 grant from the Whatcom Community Foundation to purchase playground equipment for Rock Hill Park, pictured here.

After graduating from WWU with a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies, Dan moved to the Sunnyland neighborhood. In 2005 he became Program Director for the Whatcom Volunteer Center where he initiated the Homeless Connect annual event that now serves over 500 people. Another program he initiated is the “House 2 Home” furniture donation.

We crossed paths again as I was ending my term on the Community Development Advisory Board in 2010. I was recruiting new people to that board; Dan immediately came to mind. He applied, was appointed, and served on that board for four years ending his term when he was appointed to City Council in December 2014.



Dan Hammill at Rock Hill Park playground

Dan is the owner of Make It Rain Media & Events - a company that raises funds for a variety of non-profit organizations in our community.

Thank you, Dan, for your commitment and service and for jumping onto the City Council hot seat!

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RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

News from Around the Hood...

York's Annual Golden Trowel Award

The 2014 award goes to Kate Dunne and Brian Kennedy for their work as Rock Hill Park stewards in 2014. They kept the



Brian Kennedy and Kate Dunne with niece Alieah

weeds from taking over the butterfly garden, spread mulch, organized work parties, and trash clean-up. They moved to the Columbia neighborhood late last year. Our loss, Columbia's gain!

The Golden Trowel Award is presented each year to a neighbor who has made a special contribution to York's beautification through their volunteer work.

ADU's: To Be or Not to Be?

Discussions have begun with the City Planning Dept., Planning Commission, neighborhoods, and representatives of the building industry to discuss the issue of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) -- both attached and detached. A focus group of these stakeholders met Feb. 18 to review ADU "opportunities and benefits" and "concerns." York was represented.

ADUs are a secondary unit to a house that includes its own cooking and bathroom facility. Currently, York has three "legal" ADUs, according to a report issued by the Planning Dept. last month. A quick look in our alleys shows many more, plus there are those inside houses that cannot be seen.

Do we support the concept of ADUs, or not? How might those in existence become legalized? Who benefits from this type of housing? These questions and more will be discussed

at the York Board meeting April 8. If you have comments to share, please email President@Yorkneighborhood.org.

Upcoming meetings on the ADU topic:

- Planning Commission, March 5, 7pm at City Hall;
- Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission, April 15, 6:30pm, library conference room;
- Planning Commission Public Hearing (tentative), Thurs. May 14, 7pm, City Hall.

Welcome Community Police Officer, Eric Osterkamp

A new face that we're glad to see keeps showing up at York meetings: Police Officer Eric Osterkamp, York's new community policing officer. Eric attended York's January general meeting and February board meeting to share updates about crime in the neighborhood. Most recently he has been involved in a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CEPTD) analysis of Franklin and Rock Hill parks in York. More on this effort will be reported in the near future.

The new community policing program was initiated by Chief Clifford Cook, who was guest speaker at York's October 2014 general meeting. Chief Cook described the new program as a means to create better communications between citizens and the police and to work with the city to coordinate resources to solve issues.

York Historic District Street Signs

Take a quick look up at the street signs in the northern portion of the neighborhood, and you will see the green sign toppers that say: "*National Historic District, York Neighborhood.*" Thanks to York neighbor, John McColloch owner of JohnnyMac Studios, for the design.

We hope to install additional signs in the coming year for the Franklin Park area and area west of Ellis St. These signs will say, "Welcome to York Neighborhood" because, unfortunately, we have yet to attain historic district designation for these sections. But signs? Yep, we want more!

Got Litter or Garbage Problems?

Contact: **Claudia Vizcarra**, Bellingham Litter Control Officer at: cvizcarra@cob.org; or call 778-8756.

York's Parks Reports...**Rock Hill Park Invasives
Take a Serious Beating**

By Paige Anderson
Rock Hill Park Steward

If you have strolled through Rock Hill Park in the past few months, you have no doubt noticed some changes in the landscape. After invasive Himalayan Blackberry and English Ivy were removed, mulch and cribbing were applied to stabilize the west sloping hillside. Some native plants that were blocking visibility and inviting crime were also removed. While this currently may not look appealing or inviting, it is a blank slate ready for ecological improvement.

Thank you to the 50 volunteers who helped out at the work party on February 7 despite the severe rainstorm! The next Bellingham Parks & Recreation sponsored work party is Sat., May 9, 10am-Noon, rain or shine. There is something for every type of volunteer. We will be removing invasive species, trimming snowberry, mulching, and installing cribbing. All are welcome to come, no experience necessary! Tools, gloves, and instructions will be provided.

Butterfly volunteers

I am also looking for volunteers to help prune and weed Rock Hill's butterfly garden in the upcoming spring months. Please contact me at RockHillParkSteward@YorkNeighborhood.org for more information!

**Saturday, April 18, 9am -- Noon**

*Meet at the Franklin Park shelter,
near Whatcom & Franklin streets.*

Working with the Bellingham Parks Dept., we'll weed and mulch in the park, remove litter/recyclables, and possibly plant some native vegetation to enhance the habitat.

Tools, gloves, and refreshments
will be provided.

Last year we had dozens of volunteers prepping the park for spring visitors. Let's do it again this year! Have questions or want to pitch in at future Franklin Park work parties?

Contact Mark Schofield at
FranklinParkSteward@YorkNeighborhood.org

-- Mark Schofield, Franklin Park Steward

Neighborhood Business Profile**Welcome: Flip Kids & Maternity Consignment Store**

A new shop in York at 1512 Ellis St. has been open since June. It's called Flip Kids & Maternity Consignment Store -- a fun shopping spot for young families, expecting moms and grandparents who just can't resist cuteness. Clothes for newborns through early teens, shoes, baby equipment, blankets, and maternity clothes are the shop's specialties.

Owner Michele Tocatocan describes her shop as a "premier" consignment store because the selection is a mix of new items and gently used. Business hours are Mon. through Sat. 10am to 5:30pm and Sun. noon to 4pm. Check it out online at: www.flipbellingham.com, or stop by to say, "Hi!"



Bellingham's Premier Consignment Store
1512 Ellis St., 360.671.0954

Mon. - Sat. 10am to 5:30pm
Sun. Noon - 4pm

The better your items look, the more items we'll take, the more money you'll make!

Opinion Column

Overfill or Infill: What's the future for York?

By Anne Mackie
Editor and YNA Secretary

As the city begins its review of the Comprehensive Plan in March, questions about population growth and impact on neighborhoods will be addressed. York's residential zones are all "high density," with both multi-family and single-family areas.

Very few empty lots exist in York, where a typical lot is 4,400 sq. ft. As we look for opportunities to do infill, we have two choices: the Samish Way Urban Village, of which eight acres are located in York, or the former car lot at the corner of N. Garden and Ellis streets. A proposal to use that space for a low-income senior housing development is already being discussed.

Unfortunately, there may be a third choice that puts our historic neighborhood at risk; and that is the choice to tear down old houses and build new houses to replace them.

Affordable housing

As the discussion unfolds about infill in inner city neighborhoods like York, we need to be vigilant in protecting our historic housing. Towards that end, the YNA Board has requested that the City Council include protections for historic housing whenever new zoning proposals or affordable housing initiatives are introduced.

Where has the affordable housing gone? Much is locked up in the rental market with rates so high families cannot afford to live in older neighborhoods near downtown and the university. Support for affordable home ownership should not open the door to bulldozing existing housing that has been allowed to fall into disrepair. The City's affordable housing initiatives need to include protections for our existing neighborhoods, not just be a benefit to the building industry through incentives to build cheaper housing.

Greenest buildings

We have heard the saying, "The greenest building is the one that's already been built." Where does this idea come from? The National Trust for Historic Preservation has long been a proponent of this concept that views existing buildings as already having used raw materials that have been manufactured into building supplies and which have already been transported to the site. An historic building is essentially "storing" energy in its walls. This concept is called "embodied energy."

In an historic neighborhood like York, we have a lot of stored and embodied energy that we want to protect. Restoring and updating our homes and bringing many of the rundown rentals back into the affordable housing market for families to purchase should be part of our community discussion about affordable homes.

Infill or Overfill

To achieve infill and create affordable housing do we have to give up our historic character? Do we have to put more housing in our backyards? Do we have to accept even more density and the negative consequences of overcrowding?

Take a look at the property at 1315 High St. in York. These are on two lots, joined together to create enough square footage for the owner to have moved a third house onto the property. Is this an example of good infill or overfill?

continued on p. 7...

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Overfill or Infill, continued from p. 6...

Each house has multiple units. Are they all legal? Where has the green space gone? Where do all the cars get parked? Is this the future we want to see?

Please join in the discussion about housing affordability and growth management by attending the upcoming Open House hosted by the City to discuss growth and the Comprehensive Plan, Tues., March 17, 6 to 8pm at the Squalicum Boathouse, 2600 Harbor Loop, Zuanich Point Park.

We also will continue the discussion in York's Planning Committee, soon. If you are interested in participating, please contact me at: PlanningChair@Yorkneighborhood.org.

Count 'em: One, two, three houses squeezed onto two lots at 1315 Indian St.



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 YNA Treasurer, 1316 Franklin St., Bellingham
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Hey Kids...

**Free
ice cream
cones at
Nelson's
Market
last day of
school before
Spring Break,
Fri. April 3.**



**Join us for a neighborhood
St. Patrick's Day Party**

**Sunday, March 15
4:30 to 6:30pm**

Irish music with *The Porchlights*

A special Irish menu will be served.

***Check out our new
Kids' Menu***

CAFE HOURS: Mon. - Thurs., 7am - 8pm
Fri. 7am - 9pm; Sat. 8am - 9pm
Sun., 8am - 8pm

**514 Potter St., inside Nelson's Market
Call-in to Take-out, 724-2448**

YORK EVENTS CALENDAR

YORK GENERAL MEETING

Wed., March 11
Taco Dinner 6:30pm; Meeting 7pm
Garden St. United Methodist Church
1326 N. Garden St.

*Guest Speaker: Dave Blake,
NW Clean Air Agency*

OPEN HOUSE

Bellingham's Comprehensive Plan Update

Tues., March 17, 6 to 8pm
Hosted by City of Bellingham at
Squalicum Boathouse,
2600 Harbor Loop, Zuanich Point Park

Spring Break Free ICE CREAM for School Kids

Fri., April 3, at Nelson's Market

YNA BOARD MEETING

Wed., April 8, 7pm
Garden St. United Methodist Church
1326 N. Garden St.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION Franklin Park Work Party

Sat., April 18
9am-Noon

ROCK HILL PARK SPRING WORK PARTY

Sat., May 9
10am - Noon

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