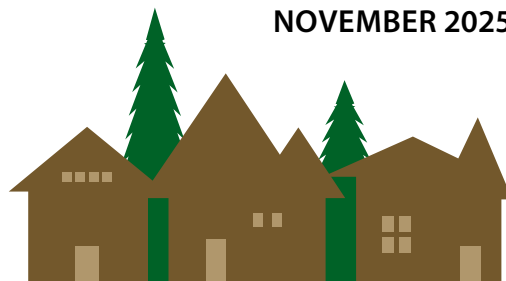


THE YORKER

NOVEMBER 2025



FROM THE YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION—BRINGING THE YORK COMMUNITY TOGETHER



Bring your good cheer, a flashlight, warm clothes (don't forget a hat and gloves), and/or a treat to share if you can. Holiday attire and costumes are encouraged!

Come enjoy local live music, shared seasonal goodies, and hot bevies. We will be caroling in the neighborhood and will try to get mostly families with younger children onto the first couple rides. There's room for close to 30 per wagon ride.*



* Wagon rides are provided by Cramer Classics of Willetta Farm, Lynden.

This event is weather-permitting; if it's too icy and unsafe for the horses, we will walk instead.

*Come join your neighbors and friends at Nelson's Market for our **Annual Holiday Wagon Ride and Caroling Party!** All are welcome!*

Saturday, December 13, 5–8 pm
at Nelson's Market—514 Potter Street



Wagon rides are FREE!
First departure at 5:00 pm*

We will again collect donations for the **Bellingham Food Bank** too, whether as funds or a nonperishable food item (or more). You can also donate digitally via the QR code which will be posted at the event.

We hope to see you there!

BENEFITING



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Let there be light!

Porch lights brighten up the neighborhood and deter unsavory behavior. An LED bulb will save tons of energy, alleviating the guilt of leaving outside lights on. And your mail carrier and delivery people will be grateful, too, for safer navigation to and from your door!



Prefer to read the Yorker in digital format?

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YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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President's Corner

By Colin Beazley, YNA President

As the days grow shorter and the festive lights begin to shine, we enter a time marked by joy and togetherness. Let's ensure York's tight knit community creates memorable moments for all of our neighbors. The York Neighborhood Association invites everyone to join in on one of York's most cherished traditions! The **Annual Holiday Horse Carriage and Caroling Party** will be held on **Saturday, December 13th** from 5–8 pm, in front of Nelson's Market on Potter Street. Details are on page 1. It's a wonderful way to connect with neighbors and spread holiday cheer.

A primary focus for the YNA the rest of the year is supporting those facing food insecurity. We are actively coordinating with the Bellingham Food Bank, which has seen an unprecedented increase in need. Your donations, whether non-perishable food items or monetary contributions, make a direct and immediate impact. Additionally, we encourage you to support other local charities, like the YWCA in York,

whose programs provide critical support, including holiday gifts for women and families with limited resources. Every act of kindness, large or small, helps knit a stronger safety net around those in need.

The YNA Board is committed to serving the needs and reflecting the values of all York residents. In addition to hosting a **Meet the Board event on November 20**, we want to hear from more of you on current neighborhood matters. Please email your feedback to president@yorkneighborhood.org by the end of the year to help us plan for next year. These are a couple issues we are looking for feedback on:

- **Rock Hill Park Refresh:** The City is finalizing updates for the **Rock Hill Park** playground and amenities. Concepts for the new playground equipment are headed to the contractor soon; are there any additional inputs for consideration?



- **Greenway & Sidewalk Safety:** York is working with the city to identify improvements for pedestrian safety. Are there problematic intersections or stretches of sidewalk/greenway in the neighborhood that need immediate attention? See the section on the **Community Streets program** update on the facing page for more on this.

- **Historic Preservation in a Changing City:** With Comprehensive Planning updates underway, how important is maintaining the historic character and unique architecture of York to you? What specific elements should the YNA prioritize protecting?

Let's finish the year strong by looking out for one another. I hope to see you all on December 13th!



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Housing and street-safety news from the City's Planning Department

Rental registration program updates

- The safety inspection quarter for the York neighborhood is tentatively scheduled for July-September 2026. You can learn more about the inspection process on the City's website.
- Did you know: Anyone who owns residential rental property within Bellingham city limits needs to register with the **Rental Registration and Safety Inspection Program**, with very few exceptions. This program is designed to ensure safe living conditions for tenants. Please contact rentals@cob.org with any questions.

Home share program

The City of Bellingham has a new program that connects homeowners with extra bedrooms with good-fit renters. The **Bellingham Home Sharing Program** allows homeowners to offer their extra bedrooms as rentals, providing much needed long-term housing options to the community in exchange for rent and, sometimes, chores.

cob.org/services/housing/housing-laws-tenant-and-landlord-support/bellingham-home-sharing-program

Public hearings for measures to increase housing options

October 20 kicked off the first of several Bellingham City Council public hearings for housing-related rule changes. The changes are intended to increase housing supply and the diversity of housing options available in Bellingham—especially increasing options for midprice options and size ranges currently lacking here. The proposed updates fulfill actions called for in Mayor Kim Lund's 2024 executive order on housing and would bring Bellingham into compliance with several newer state laws. You can sign up to speak at a public hearing on the City's website.

- **ADU code updates** public hearing, October 20: It's only been a couple of years since the city adjusted local rules to support development of accessory dwelling units (ADUs), but additional adjustments are needed to bring Bellingham into full compliance with new state laws. You can watch the hearing at <https://meetings.cob.org/>.
- **Parking reform interim ordinance extension** public hearing, November 3: Extending the **existing interim ordinance** for six months, during which staff will develop permanent regulations.
- **Design review interim ordinance** updates public hearing, tentatively scheduled for November 17: This ordinance would streamline housing development by updating the design review process and adopting zoning rules with easier, more objective design standards and guidelines.

Community Streets program update

The City of Bellingham launched the **Community Streets** program in 2025 to work directly with residents to address safety concerns on residential streets. These roadways are designed for direct access to homes, not through-traffic, and the program helps us identify and find solutions to make residential streets safer and more comfortable for everyone.

To make sure resources are distributed fairly, we've divided the city into four sections, with one section highlighted each year. **In 2026, the York neighborhood will be included in the Community Streets spotlight.** Between January and March, we'll be collecting residents' feedback on traffic safety concerns specific to York's residential streets.

Residents can expect to receive a Community Streets mailer early in the new year with details on how to share input.

To stay informed for updates on this project and other transportation initiatives, we encourage you to sign up for the **Public Works newsletter**.



- **Coliving housing ordinance adoption**—public hearing tentatively scheduled for November 17: Coliving housing (rooming and boarding) offers sleeping units that are independently rented and with shared kitchen facilities. This ordinance will allow coliving in multifamily zones and will bring Bellingham into compliance with state law.
- **Middle housing interim ordinance updates** public hearing tentatively scheduled for November 17: The City adopted an interim ordinance in May to allow more types of housing—like duplexes and townhomes—in more neighborhoods. Extending this ordinance for six months with modifications would bring Bellingham into full compliance with state laws.



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A superb September gathering

If you weren't at our annual picnic in early September, you should make a note to do so next year... because it was a really fun event! Attendance estimates range from 200 to 250, and this year the age representation was remarkably broad: families with kids, yes, but also an impressive showing of our resident college students, single folks, legacy neighbors, out-of-town visitors checking out the neighborhood, and more. We had two sets of sweet live music from our local Grateful Dead cover band **Wild Geese of the West**, the second of which ended with a crowd of 40-some of us dancing on the plaza around the skate jump.

Potluck fare supplied by neighbors was enthusiastically consumed, and we nearly ran out of free hot dogs provided by Nelson's Market for the occasion. The kids' annual piñata smash was surprisingly gripping, with some bat-swingers showing skills that local baseball scouts should take note of. There were games and picnic blankets serving as both anchors and magnets for neighborly interaction. **Greg Hope** was on hand to represent the City's Office of Emergency Management, and he engaged not just adults but also our youngsters in participatory understanding of how you and your home can be more ready to deal with unexpected events. And Bellingham City Council members **Lisa Anderson** and **Michael Lilliquist** were there too, along with a few candidates running in November's elections.



As the picnic came to its scheduled close around 7pm, though things didn't entirely end even then and neighbors continued to visit in the pleasant summer afternoon, there was a visible indication of local pride: several people bought the YNA's "York"-embroidered bill caps there and then and wore them right away. Our limited stock of them was nearly bought out! But we'll have more available at the Holiday Party on December 13, for \$25 each, all profits going to the YNA fund that makes hosting these events and this newsletter possible as an ongoing effort to keep our neighbors—both long- and short-term—not just aware of each other but interwoven as the fabric of York.



Help wanted?

If you're needing a little help around the house with housecleaning, babysitting, yardwork, or such, one way to get it is to post a notice on one of York's three **bulletin-board kiosks**—located outside Nelson's Market and at each of our parks (Harriet Spanel Park for those south of Lakeway, Rock Hill Park on the north side).

Another option now available is a nifty resource offered by Western Washington University (WWU): the **Work Study Center**, which connects community members with students (whether of WWU or of other local colleges) looking for part-time work. It's a mutually supportive arrangement: community supporting students, and students supporting community. Check it out at www.finaid.wvu.edu/studentjobs/employers.



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www.nelsonsmarket.com

Preparing for winter with this sensible checklist

by YNA Board Member Megan Doyle

The lazy days of summer have once again faded with the sunlight, and the Big Dark has returned to the PNW. The chill in the air, the ever-present damp, and the slow march towards spring has begun. While the days may be short (and spent mostly indoors), there's still plenty to do around the house to prepare for cooler weather and ensure a safe and cozy winter season. Check out these tips for keeping your home in tip-top shape to stay warm and comfortable while we count down the days until the sunshine returns!



1. Drain all garden hoses and store them in a dry place, install exterior faucet covers, and check pipe insulation in crawlspaces to prevent frozen pipes, burst hoses, and water leaks.
2. Old windows and doors can be drafty; well-fitting storm windows, draft guards under doors, and weather stripping can keep you toasty warm, as well as cutting down on expensive heating bills.
3. While snow is less common than rain in these parts, we can usually count on at least a few inches in late winter. Stock up now on a good shovel and deicer so that you're prepared ahead of time and not running out on icy roads at the last minute. Bonus points to those who shovel sidewalks and walkways for neighbors! Clearing snow quickly keeps pathways safe for pedestrians.
4. Annually inspecting heating units and HVAC systems can save time and money, allowing them to function more efficiently and avoiding system failure during cold snaps. Ensure all heaters are dust-free and in good working condition; replace furnace filters frequently for cleaner air and more heat. NEVER run a space heater on an extension cord; it's a fire hazard.
5. As beautiful as the autumn leaves look right now, they're not a pretty sight when they're clogging gutters. Clear out gutters and downspouts ahead of time to ensure proper drainage and avoid leaks that can damage siding and foundations. While you're up there, inspect the roof for moss growth and treat with a moss killing agent to extend the life of your roof.

Space heaters have been the cause of fires in our neighborhood, so we want to be sure to give you these tips about them from the **Bellingham Fire Department**:

Space heaters need at least three feet of space between the heater and combustibles like drapes, furniture and beds. Also, make sure small children cannot get near space heaters and suffer contact burns from touching them. As with any electrical appliance, check the cord to make sure it is not frayed or worn. **Extension cords should not be used with electric space heaters.**

Electric space heaters also are dangerous in the bathroom because of cramped space and radiated heat as well as the danger of electrical appliances and water. Never touch an electric space heater if your hands are wet or if you are in contact with water. Never leave a space heater on when you go to bed or leave the house.

We at the Yorker wish you all a safe, warm, and cozy winter season!



Jane Richardson PT, ScD, OCS, COMT

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Cooking the Seasons: a recipe for Apfel Kuchen

by YNA Board Member Erin Vonnahme

This simple quick apple bread is a filling and not-too-sweet bake that works great for an on-the-go breakfast or a sweetie lil' snack wherever your heart wants. It requires no special equipment, nor does it ask too much of your pantry. Modify to your liking! It's flexible and forgiving, as we all say we are (but this really is). Change the flavor profile by switching sweeteners or playing with spices like orange peel, ginger, or nutmeg. Add-ins like dried fruit never hurt anyone, either.

Ingredients:

1 large apple (or 3–4 small), shredded
or diced (peeled or not, to taste)

¼ c. maple syrup*

1 egg, beaten
(or egg substitute equivalent)

¼ c. neutral oil (I use melted
coconut oil)

1 tsp. vanilla extract

½ c. whole wheat flour (all-purpose works here, too;
just adjust a tbsp at a time if needed)

½ c. rolled oats

Liberal shake of cinnamon

¼ tsp of salt (approximately—eyeball a dash or so)

½ tsp baking soda

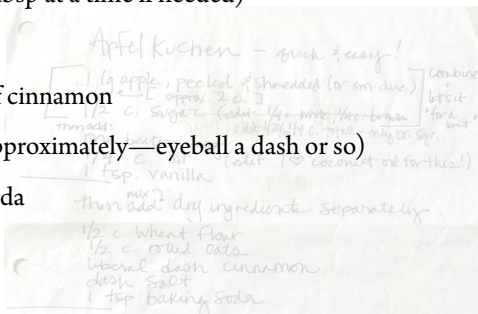
Notes:

* If using a dry sweetener like brown sugar, adjust liquids slightly by adding additional apple juice or sauce.

Add 1 tbsp of chia seeds for extra texture (and fiber and protein).

Adjust liquid as needed here, too.

*Stores well on the counter but
better (and longer) in the fridge.
Enjoy!*



Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Shred or finely dice apples. In a small bowl, combine them with sweetener and let the apples rest for a bit to pull out the juice. Add the egg and oil, and stir gently to combine.

In a larger bowl, combine the flour, oats, seasoning, and baking soda. Give a few good stirs to ensure the powders are blended then add wet ingredients to the dry.

Some more gentle stirring, and you're set. If the batter is thin enough to pour, it's too thin. Adjust flour to thicken 1 tbsp at a time. Batter should be medium consistency, mostly holding its shape on a spoon as you escort it into the pan.

Spoon the batter onto a parchment-lined loaf or jelly-roll pan (depending on the preference for slices or bars) or into muffin cups. Bake at 350°F for a minimum of 20 minutes, depending on the container you choose. Begin checking loaf/muffins at 18–20 minutes, depending on your oven's particularities, as well.



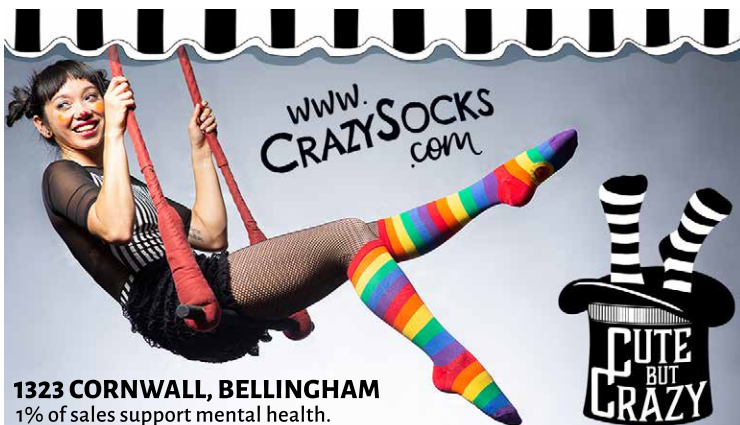
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All a-Board!

by YNA Board Secretary and Yorker publisher Mark Ellis Walker

How does the YNA make events such as the picnic and the holiday party happen? Since around 1976 it's through the combined efforts of local volunteers—a mixture of parents, students, retirees, business owners and employees, and many uncategorizable others. We meet once a month in the evening, usually at our cherished

Nelson's Market, to update each other on what's up in York: local news, neighbors' concerns and interests, city- and larger-level developments impacting our little neighborhood. And we cook all of that together with ideas for projects that can deliver results of our Mission Statement, fostering a true neighborhood representative of all its residents. York's neighborhood association is one of the most active three represented at City meetings, by the way, and we're the only one to produce a printed newsletter to reach its populace.

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.

The current roster of YNA Board members consists of 13, though some are more incidentally involved and others are determinedly present at meetings, plus there are some "Super Volunteers" such as past Board members Harriet Spanel Park Steward Mark Schofield and annual Dumpster Day "Dumpster Queen" Carolyn Mulder. Despite our impressive number of Board members, we really do want to have more York residents of any status come to the table and help us shape what happens here. By the way, this Board has historically had very mixed gender representation but is currently a little male-heavy; wanna fix that? Come join us!

Also, the four current officers of the Board (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary) have been serving in those roles for three years now, and while we love doing so it's a good idea to introduce new blood and allow for rotation that's not just internal shifts. But just jump in, for a start. We'd love to have you join us and know what you and your own neighbors have to say.

Questions? Email president@yorkneighborhood.org or secretary@yorkneighborhood.org.

York Neighborhood Association Board of Directors

2023–25 Officers

President: **Colin Beazley** • Vice President: **Chris Donaldson**
Treasurer: **Opie Knechtel** • Secretary: **Mark Ellis Walker**

Members-at-Large

Élan Engel • **Erin Vonnahme** • **Jeremy Ferrera** • **John DeOrio**
Kevin Cussen • **Megan Doyle** • **Paul D'Agnolo**
Todd Kleinbrook • **Tom Scott**

★ *College students: please consider joining us as a student rep!* ★

Newsletter Production: **Mark Ellis Walker**

Java—no jive!

Our neighborhood has been home to **Hammerhead Coffee's** flagship location, **The Coffee Shop**, across Holly Street from the Community Co-Op, since June 2023.

Open seven days a week, they cater to morning people and folks who prefer a slower start to the day equally well. However, theirs is a happy hour built for early birds, with three incentives available daily from 7–9am! Customers who buy a breakfast sandwich get a free 12oz. coffee and are eligible for double punches for drink and biscuits punch cards. Need an extra nudge into the land of the living? Get a free additional shot of espresso added to any drink, as well.

Find them at 405 E Holly Street from 7 am to 3 pm.

hammerheadcoffee.com



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Calendar of York Events

<i>Daylight Saving Time ends</i> <i>Sunday, November 2</i>	<i>WWU Winter Break</i> <i>December 13 to January 5</i>
<i>Election Day</i> <i>Tuesday, November 4</i>	<i>Whatcom Community College</i> <i>Winter Break</i> <i>December 13 to January 6</i>
<i>Veterans Day</i> <i>Tuesday, November 11</i>	<i>Winter Solstice</i> <i>Sunday, December 21</i>
<i>Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory</i> <i>Commission (MNAC) meeting</i> <i>Wednesday, November 19—6:30 to 8:30pm</i>	<i>Bellingham Public Schools</i> <i>Winter Break</i> <i>December 22 to January 2</i>
<i>York Neighborhood Association</i> <i>General Meeting</i> <i>Thursday, November 20, 6:15–8:00pm</i> Aslan Brewing Company—1330 North Forest Street	<i>Christmas Day</i> <i>Thursday, December 25</i>
<i>Thanksgiving Day</i> <i>Thursday, November 27</i>	<i>New Year's Day</i> <i>Thursday, January 1</i>
<i>Bellingham Technical College Winter Break</i> <i>December 8 to January 5</i>	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i> <i>Monday, January 19</i>
<i>York Neighborhood Annual Holiday Party</i> <i>Saturday, December 13, 5–8pm</i> Nelson's Market—514 Potter Street	<i>Treaty Day</i> <i>Thursday, January 22</i>



★
plus:
*Monday Game Nights at
Nelson's—6pm till Close!*
★

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York Neighborhood Annual Holiday Party
Saturday, December 13, 5–8pm
 Nelson's Market—514 Potter Street

Treaty Day
Thursday, January 22

Or donate via
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