

THE YORKER



YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2004
CIRCULATION: 1200

ZONING

YORK REZONE UPDATE

by Habiba Sial

At our York Neighborhood Meeting on January 28, the main discussion consisted of an upcoming application to rezone eight lots (Area 5B) on the south side of Lakeway. The proposed rezone would change current density to potentially allow up to 35 units on property that currently allows a maximum of eleven units.

That night in January, many residents voiced their opposition of the 5B Rezone. Questions were asked of Pat Carman, the representative from COB Planning Department: "How will the current infrastructure handle the increase in traffic?; What is the process for residents to weigh in on the proposal?; This sounds like a spot zone!; What will become of the historic homes already on the eight plots?"

At the subsequent YNA Board Meeting the ball got rolling in anticipation of the filing for the 5B Rezone. Your YNA Board brainstormed various ideas to tackle the issue, including letter writing events, forming a sub-committee to deal exclusively with the rezone, distributing copies of a recent *Whatcom Independent* article about the rezone, and working to update the York Neighborhood Comprehensive Plan (which was last updated in 1980).

The preliminary deadline of Friday, February 13th passed without the filing of the rezone application to the Planning Commission. We don't know why Mr. Muljat did not file the application, but perhaps it was

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NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

THURSDAY,
MAY 6TH

6:00 p.m. – dinner; 7:00 p.m. – meeting

LOCATION:

Garden Street Methodist Church
1326 N. Garden St. (corner of Magnolia and Garden)
meet in the basement. Potluck - bring a dish to share!
Nelson's Market will provide dessert.



AGENDA

- Plans for a Summer Neighborhood Fun Day •
- Spring Clean-Up Dumpster Day (Sat. May 15) •

YORKERS CLEAN HOUSE

by Carolyn Mulder

The annual York Neighborhood Spring Clean-Up is Saturday, May 15, from 8:30 a.m. until the dumpster is full! The dumpster, generously donated by Sanitary Service Corp, will be in the parking lot at Nelson's Market, 514 Potter St. Recomp has offered free dumping for this annual event for York residents (ONLY), so take advantage of a great opportunity dig deep, clean up that pesky rat's nest behind your garage or clear out the basement piles you've been avoiding. The dumpster fills up quickly (last year it was full at 10:30

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YORK REZONE UPDATE (CONT FROM P.1)

due to the tenacity of the Yorkers! Still, our neighborhood continues to face the problems of overpopulation and encroaching development.

One way the YNA Board strives to keep the lines of communication open is by organizing events like this month's potluck. By participating, volunteering for a committee, joining a group or just by checking out our neighborhood website at www.yorkneighborhood.org, we can keep the lines of communication open and develop a shared vision for our neighborhood. With a current and updated Neighborhood Plan, developers would be less likely to propose changes to our neighborhood resembling the 5B Rezone.

WINE AND ROSES GARDEN CLUB UPDATE

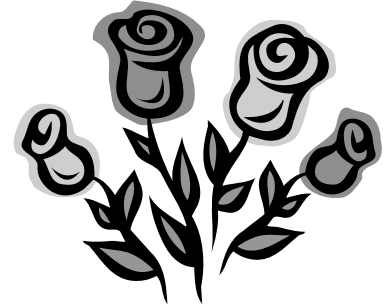
by Jan Driscoll

The York Neighborhood Wine and Roses Garden Club is ready to greet another Spring, and invites any and all Yorksters who would like to participate.

The garden club is mostly about gardening and socializing with neighbors who share that wonderful passion. Of course, the 'Wine' in the title gives a hint of our other interests!

We have monthly potluck gatherings at members' homes where we enjoy the gardens, exchange plants, have fun and grow our friendships and sense of community.

We are also stewards of **Rock Hill Park**. Our first meeting of the season will be held there on **Thursday, May 13 at 5:30 pm**. We'll discuss what we've done at the Park, decide what projects to pursue there this year, and maybe do some weeding—bring some garden tools just in case! At about 6:30 we will head to a neighbor's home (location to be announced). We will discuss the schedule for ongoing meetings of the club through the summer, and the new project to design and plant around our new neighborhood sign located at Ellis and Potter. For more info, contact **Jan Driscoll, Garden Club Chair**, at 676-9289.



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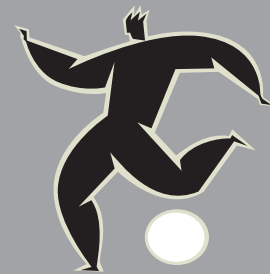
MANY THANKS

GREG HEFFRON for putting together this newsletter. If you need graphics, photography or website work, see his portfolio at www.midline.net or call 734-1950.

JON OSTBY, owner of Nelson's Market, for hosting our meetings and being the neighborhood hub.

KINKOS for all their help (and the discount!) with printing.

PICKUP KICKBALL!



Pick-up kickball game, third Sunday of every month in Franklin Park through the summer. Meet at 3-ish on May 16, June 20, July 18, Aug 22, and Sept 19.

Everyone welcome!

PRERSERVING THE HISTORIC YORK NEIGHBORHOOD

by *Teresa Schmidt*

Are you interested in the history of our neighborhood? Do you enjoy research and have some time to spare? Satisfy your need to know and help the York Neighborhood Historic Preservation Committee dig into our past. The Committee is now seeking new members for an exploratory discussion around applying for placement on the **National and Washington Historic Registers**.

The Sehome Neighborhood did it—and it only took them two years! Yes, two years. A great deal of information must be compiled in order for a neighborhood to be recognized. The process can be made less daunting by having enough interested people, and by making it a fun, long-term project—not another dreadful deadline!

Here is some information about the process, excerpted from Registering Your Neighborhood by **Aaron**

Tobiason, courtesy of the author and American Northwest Vintage Homes, www.americannorthwestvintagehomes.com. This website, edited by York's own **Greg Robanser**, is a fabulous resource, entertaining and beautifully designed and written. (You'll definitely want to check out the great article on Nelson's Market!) Tobiason writes,

“The National Historic Registry (NHR), delineates the cultural resources considered significant and worthy of keeping intact for future generations, including buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts ‘that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.’

For a property to be placed on the National Historic Register, it must meet at least one of four criteria that accord it “historic significance and integrity.” These are:

- Association with historic events or activities,
- Association with important persons,
- Distinctive design or physical characteristics, or
- Potential to provide important information about prehistory or history.

According to the National Park Service, the NHR contributes to the preservation of historic properties in four ways:

- Official recognition of a property's significance to the Nation, State, or local community,
- Consideration in the planning of federally assisted projects,
- Eligibility for tax benefits, and
- Qualification for assistance (in the form of grants) for historic preservation.

The Washington Historic Register (WHR) offers similar recognition at the state level; many neighborhood associations, in the hopes of protecting the quality of life of their residents, have successfully secured a place on these lists.”

So, the WHR is the first place to take a request for historic recognition. Our neighborhood would have to demonstrate how it meets one of the four above criteria. Of course, the first step for the YNHP Committee is to seek advice and find out from the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation whether this application or any of the associated research has been submitted already.



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YORKERS CLEAN HOUSE (CONT FROM P.1)

a.m.) so don't delay. Once it's full, it will be locked and no further dumping will be permitted.

York residents are encouraged to check the alley on your block for discarded items from long-gone residents, or to talk with your neighbors about any unsightly piles of trash you would like to see disappear. If approached with a friendly smile, you may find many of your neighbors are willing to clean up.

Please note the items that are NOT allowed, including yard waste, recyclables, toxic substances (motor oil, paint cans, etc), large appliances, and construction debris. However, Eric Swisher, York resident and owner of Vanishing Act Debris Removal and Hauling, will be available on the 15th to take scrap metal or salvageable material.

In years past, volunteers have driven the alleys in teams, collecting obviously discarded items and bringing them to the dumpster. This year, **volunteers are needed to contribute a little time (and a pick-up truck!)** to accomplish this important task. **If you're willing to help, groups will organize at Nelson's at 8:30.**

Volunteers are also needed to help at the dumpster in one-hour shifts, stacking items efficiently in order to make the best use of space, and to ensure that only acceptable materials go in. If you are able to donate an hour for this effort, please call Chris Neumann, 752-0836.

SPECIAL THANKS TO NELSON'S MARKET, VANISHING ACT DEBRIS REMOVAL AND HAULING, RECOMP, AND SANITARY SERVICE CORP. FOR THEIR GENEROSITY!

PRERESERVING THE HISTORIC YORK NEIGHBORHOOD (CONT FROM P.3)

According to Tobiasson, "If no such information exists, an extensive body of knowledge must be gathered about the neighborhood, past and present. This includes (but is by no means limited to):

- How the properties are products of their time, and when that time was,
- If the properties contain any archeological remains,
- What changes have been made over time and when,
- What the current condition of the properties are,
- Their historic and present uses, and
- Number of structures within the neighborhood."

It isn't just the individual homes, churches, and corner grocery stores that are considered. Rather, the entire neighborhood's history becomes most important. A gathering of available documentation, including photographs, diaries, newspaper articles, maps, deeds, and other official and personal records will tell the story of York: who built our homes? Why this plot of land?

Where did the first residents work?

Who were the famous and infamous residents throughout the past 110 years?

Concentrating on the unique qualities of the York neighborhood and collecting the data to back up the application is the key. The OAHP will then assist with completing the actual application.

If you are interested in attending the inaugural meeting of the York Historic Preservation Committee, please email me at teresaschmidt@comcast.net. Along with co-chair Laura Witt, I'll set a mutually agreeable date for us to talk over coffee.

For further information, see: Washington State Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation: <http://www.oed.wa.gov/info/lgd/oaHP/>

National Parks Service National Historic Register
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/index.htm>

American Northwest Vintage Homes
www.americannorthwestvintagehomes.com

