



## Annual Picnic to Celebrate York's Former Schools

by Anne Mackie

York Neighborhood's **September 22<sup>nd</sup>** annual picnic is a special event to bring together the current residents of the neighborhood with people who used to live in York and attended Lincoln or Franklin schools. Demolished years ago, the two schools were a vital part of the neighborhood, and we hope former students and teachers will join us for the celebration.

As part of York's historic preservation research, former Franklin and Lincoln school students will be interviewed at the picnic. Their school-days memories and recollections of life in the York Neighborhood will be recorded and included in a memory book to be published later.

Lincoln School, an early Bellingham landmark of the 1890s, located in the 1500 block of James Street, was torn down in 1951 making way for the new interstate freeway. The four-story brick monolith had a fifth-story bell tower. Today, the site is home to the Shuksan Healthcare Center.

Franklin Elementary School once stood at the current site of Franklin Park in the 1200 block of Grant Street, south of Lakeway Drive. This three-story brick school was built in 1904 and cost \$28,000. It was demolished in 1972.

"The school reunion picnic is combined with York's annual neighborhood picnic as a way to bring current residents of the neighborhood together with former residents," said Barbara Davenport, Chair of York's Historic Preservation Committee. "York Neighborhood is, and always has been, a diverse neighborhood of ordinary people – kind, hardworking, and honest. Too often we lose the stories of these ordinary folks who are the backbone of society. We want to preserve these life stories for future gen-

York Neighborhood invites you to a

# Lincoln and Franklin Schools REUNION PICNIC

An event to share school memories with old friends and preserve oral histories

**Saturday, September 22, 2007**  
**3 to 6 pm (rain or shine)**  
**Franklin Park**  
One block south of Lakeway Drive,  
between Grant and Franklin Streets,  
in the York Neighborhood

Sponsored by the York Neighborhood Association with funding provided through the City of Bellingham's Small and Simple Grant program.



Bring a picnic dish to share.  
Hot dogs and beverages will be provided.  
Music, old fashioned games, and fun for all ages!

erations. It's hard to know where you are going if you don't know where you've come from."

The school reunion picnic is sponsored by the York Neighborhood Association and is funded through a City of Bellingham Small and Simple Grant. If you wish to volunteer to help with the picnic, please call Anne Mackie at 738-0542.

### *MISSION STATEMENT of the YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION*

The mission of the York Neighborhood Association is to reduce isolation among residents, enhance the quality of life in a low and moderate income urban neighborhood, create a sense of community, reduce or prevent crime, and preserve the historic character of the neighborhood.

# Keeping the Dream Alive: Get Involved to Define Your Neighborhood

by Anne Mackie

**What is the “York Neighborhood Plan”?** It is one of 23 neighborhood plans that are part of the city’s Comprehensive Plan. Each neighborhood plan defines its neighborhood’s character and “vision” for the future. Envisioning the next 20 years, the plan defines policies that will strengthen livability and investment within York neighborhood.

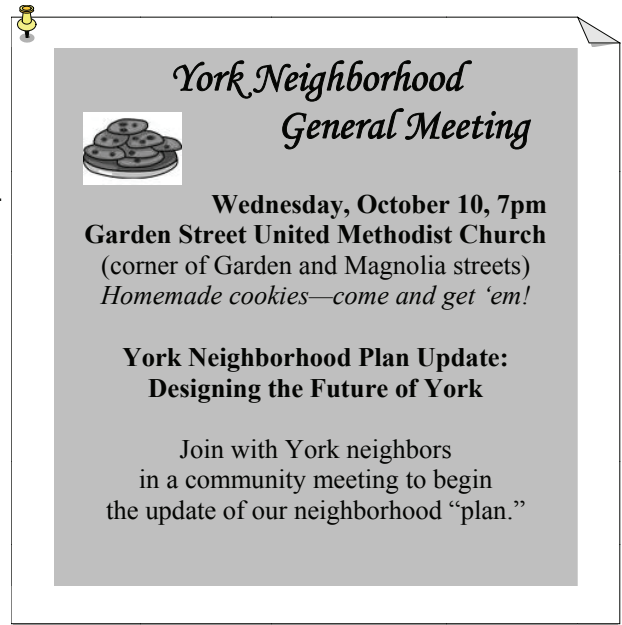
**Who should participate in the plan update?** Public participation by all residents, property owners, and business owners within the York neighborhood is needed. This is an opportunity for your voice to be heard about what you want for the future of your neighborhood.

**What topics are included in the plan?** Topics that may be included are: how land is used in the York neighborhood; how the unique historic neighborhood character may be retained while allowing for appropriate infill; how we can unify our neighborhood internally and externally through pathways, trails, parks, traffic-calming and crosswalks; how city codes might be enforced to benefit the majority of stakeholders within our neighborhood.

**How will the York Neighborhood Association include public input?** In addition to gathering input at the **October 10<sup>th</sup> general meeting**, a York planning survey is being conducted to gather public opinion. The survey is available to answer online through the [www.yorkneighborhood.org](http://www.yorkneighborhood.org) website, or copies of the survey can be picked up at Nelson’s Market, 514 Potter Street. The survey responses will be analyzed and shared at the October 10<sup>th</sup> general meeting.

**When will the plan be finalized?** By the end of 2008, the York Neighborhood Association will have completed its update of the plan and will submit it to the city for approval. If any rezones are proposed, they will need to be submitted in writing to the Planning Department by **December 1, 2008**.

**We hope to see many neighbors at the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.** This is your opportunity to provide your input on how you want the neighborhood to evolve. To view the current York Neighborhood Plan, go to the city’s website at [www.cob.org/documents/planning/york.pdf](http://www.cob.org/documents/planning/york.pdf).



**York Neighborhood  
General Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 10, 7pm**  
**Garden Street United Methodist Church**  
(corner of Garden and Magnolia streets)  
*Homemade cookies—come and get ‘em!*

**York Neighborhood Plan Update:  
Designing the Future of York**

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in a community meeting to begin  
the update of our neighborhood “plan.”

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# Neighbors Push Back and Win Against Oversized Redevelopment

by Anne Mackie

In her ruling August 8<sup>th</sup>, Bellingham's Hearing Examiner Dawn Sturwold placed important restrictions on the Conditional Use Permit granted to the owners of 506 Potter Street who plan to demolish the structure and replace it with a four-unit apartment complex.

The new structure must conform to the footprint, floor area and bulk of the existing structure. The ruling tossed out construction designs that would have expanded the size of the building. The ruling also mandates inclusion of several historic architectural features in the new building's design, and special effort must be made to preserve the large maple tree in the yard on Grant Street.

Many neighbors attended the August 8<sup>th</sup> hearing at City Hall and voiced concerns about allowing the 506 Potter Street owner to build an apartment complex that is too large for the lot and neighborhood. Built in the early 1900s as a single-family home, 506 Potter Street has been remodeled into five units. What was once probably a lovely Victorian home now stands out as a neglected eyesore.

The Hearing Examiner's ruling is a victory toward protecting York's historic character and an important precedent-setting decision that will help prevent future redevelopment that is oversized and out of character with the neighborhood.

Dear Reader,



**From the Editor**

This issue will conclude my two-year tenure as editor of the *Yorker*. I have appreciated helping to spread the news of all the amazing things you neighbors have done to keep this neighborhood fun, beautiful, engaging, safe, historically intact and community-minded. I love being a Yorker.

But the time has come for me to pass the red pen to the next *Yorker* editor. Might it be you? Are you proficient on *Pagemaker*, *Publisher* or some other design software? Do you have a bit of free time (for monthly board meetings and quarterly newsletters)? Do you appreciate the many uses of clipart? Do you need to beef up your resume? Do you feel compelled to serve your wonderful neighborhood but weren't sure how? Until now?

Then step up to the typewriter, sip your coffee and get to work! Well, first send me an email ([bandstras@mac.com](mailto:bandstras@mac.com)) so I can hand over all the top-secret *Yorker* files. And don't spill your coffee on the keyboard.

Warmly,

Jessica Bandstra

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# Neighborhood News and Notes

## ***Wine and Roses Garden Club***

The Wine and Roses Garden Club's next meeting will be **October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**. The host has yet to be determined. Items to be discussed are the December Holiday Progressive Dinner and volunteer recruitment. Please call Carol Dixon at 671-2955 or email [garden@yorkneighborhood.org](mailto:garden@yorkneighborhood.org) for more information.

## ***Rock Hill Park***

Rock Hill Park currently has a new bench and a new garbage can! The playground is well tended as leaves peacefully fall. Bring the family! Rock Hill Park is a great place for kids to play or for students to study. Please call George Liepart, Park Steward at 961-2528 for more information.



## ***Historic Preservation Committee***

The Historic Preservation Committee generally meets monthly, usually **the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm**. The meeting place is announced in advance each month. If you are interested in learning more please contact Barbara Davenport, Chair, at 733-4883 or [bcdaven@earthlink.net](mailto:bcdaven@earthlink.net).

The historic preservation committee is dedicated to preserving our community as a unique, diverse, vibrant and historic area, honoring our roots and moving into the future with prudent preservation.

We have three major long range goals:

- ~ Become a National and Local *Historic Neighborhood*
- ~ Produce a book about York's history
- ~ Develop design review criteria with common sense and sensitivity, respectful of the historic nature of the houses and the neighborhood.

**News:** York is one of three Bellingham neighborhoods that will receive technical assistance from a grant to compile data for our National Historic Application. We need your help with research of individual homes, interviewing folks who lived in the neighborhood, writing and filmmaking.

## ***Disaster Planning Committee***

*What would you do in a disaster?* If you and your family don't yet have a plan for a disaster, or even if you do but haven't made contact with your neighbors, consider participating in York's newest committee, the Disaster Planning Committee. This committee has been working with the City of Bellingham and other neighborhood associations in developing and strengthening our neighborhood's ability to deal with a major disaster.

Volunteers are needed to work with their immediate neighbors using a template provided by the Washington State Department of Emergency Management to map their concerns, assets and skills. This committee meets once a month. Please contact Elisabeth at 715-3728 or [preparednesschair@yorkneighborhood.org](mailto:preparednesschair@yorkneighborhood.org) for information on the next committee meeting or to volunteer.

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# Neighborhood News and Notes

## *Quality Improvement Committee*

The purpose of the York Quality Improvement Committee is to help neighbors resolve issues related to Municipal Code enforcement and violations. We will work with property owners, renters, WWU, and city officials to educate the neighborhood about the codes and provide a means to respond to neighbors' complaints when the codes are not upheld.

Meetings are currently being held the second Sunday of the month at 7pm at Nelson's Market. The first meeting of the newly formed committee was held in August, and our goal was to define our purpose and to identify some of the concerns that neighbors had related to municipal code violations. We discussed some proactive strategies to educate neighbors, new neighbors and rental property owners as to current municipal codes and code enforcement.

If you are interested in participating on this committee, please feel free to join us at our next meeting: **Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** at Nelson's Market. Contact Lesley Keenholts, Chair, at 647-7768 for more information.

## *Franklin Park Improvements Committee*

York residents submitted 567 volunteer hours for Franklin Park projects to the Parks Department Volunteer Program from January through July in 2007. City-wide parks volunteers coordinated through Rae Edwards and her staff contributed many more hours to the park endeavors. A great thank you to all the community-spirited York and city-wide residents that took time out of their busy personal lives to work on the hillside above the park, the emerging Whatcom Street to Lakeway Drive trail, the Franklin Street island and the design plan for Franklin Park improvements.

The Franklin Park Committee, with Jonathan Schilk, Parks Department landscape architect, and Katie Franks, Bellingham Planning and Development Department, continue discussion and research into developing a multi-use design plan for the \$150,000 city grant awarded for Franklin Park improvements.

We hope you will walk the wooded trail above the park, now completed from Whatcom Street to the Franklin Street intersection. Bird houses donated and filled by Melanie and Mary Pacific add additional interest for birds and walkers. We think you'll find the trail an enjoyable addition for our neighborhood.

## *ReUse Works Appliance Pickup*

ReUse Works, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote and support worker training, job creation and business development opportunities for low-income residents by using waste and discarded materials will **be coordinating a FREE appliance pick up day sometime next month**. Look for notices throughout the neighborhood and email announcements to find out which time and day pickups will be coordinated. All donations are tax deductible.

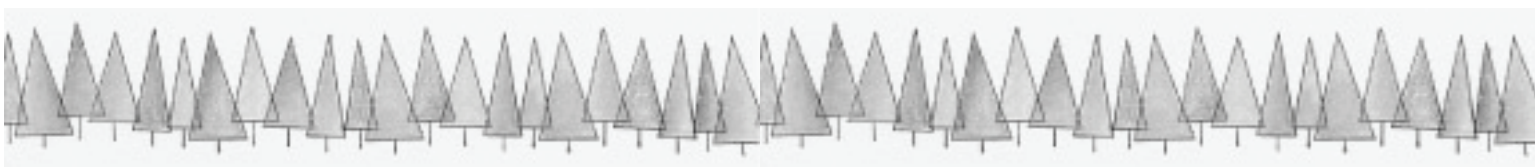


## *Tree Planting Grant*

The York Neighborhood secured \$1,200.00 in Small & Simple grant funds from the City of Bellingham to do tree planting throughout the neighborhood. Planning and volunteers are needed to coordinate this effort. If interested, please contact [annemackie@yorkneighborhood.org](mailto:annemackie@yorkneighborhood.org). Planting should begin sometime in **early November**.

## *Rock Hill Park Playgroup*

Join parents and preschoolers for a playgroup at lower Rock Hill Park on **Thursdays from 3:15 till 5:30pm**. Kids will appreciate the small playground and basketball court, and parents can chat and enjoy the beautifully landscaped hideaway.



# - Kids' Corner -

Hey Kids:

Did you know there are MONKEYS in the York neighborhood? That's right! These are Monkey Puzzle Trees — trees that have branches that LOOK like monkey tails.

Their tails are spiky and can hurt your fingers if you touch them, so watch out! These trees are native to Chile, a country in South America; but they are happy growing right here in Bellingham, too.



Can you find one of the Monkey Puzzle Trees in the York neighborhood? Fill in the form with the address of the tree you find, and bring it to Nelson's Market, 514 Potter Street, for a **FREE ice cream cone**.

Have fun hunting for the trees! There are at least three of them. But watch out...their tails might bite!

✂

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation | Amount \$ | _____ |

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*98225*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Email \_\_\_\_\_

**A big thank you to Garden Street United Methodist Church for their continued support of the York Neighborhood Association!**

**Many thanks to the neighbors who donated to the York Neighborhood Association:**

- Ken Barkley
- Jeff and Laurie Brown
- Fred and Kirsti Charlton
- Barbara Davenport
- Dan and Lisa McShane
- Martha Miller
- Carolyn Milling and John Wiley
- Carolyn Mulder and Eric Baumgarten
- Alan Mullen and Amy Caddigan
- Brian and Katy Murphy
- Mark Nuyens
- Stina Olson and Chris Sunde
- Brooke Stanton and Dieter Brandyberry
- Elisabeth and Evan Stark
- Walter and Loma Turpin

**A special thank you to the wonderful landlord who has continuously and generously donated to support the YNA:**

Judy Frane

**And, of course, to the business who graciously contributed to the YNA:**

- A. A. Anderson Co, Inc.
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## Upcoming Events:

September 22, 3-6pm	York Neighborhood Picnic and School Reunions Franklin Park
October 10, 7pm	York Neighborhood General Meeting Garden Street United Methodist Church
October 24, 7pm	Wine and Roses Garden Club Meeting

## Monthly Events:

Thursdays from 3:15-5:30pm	Preschool Playgroup Rock Hill Park
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month, 9am-12pm	Franklin Park Projects Work Party
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month, 7pm	Quality Improvement Committee Meeting
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month, 7-8:30pm	Historic Preservation Committee Meeting
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month, 7-8:30pm	YNA Board Meeting



### Dumpster Day Success!


Thanks again to SSC and ReComp of Washington for their generous donations in June of a dumpster and free dumping of a whopping 5,140 pounds of neighborhood trash!

BTV-10 came out to document the event, and you can watch the July 2007 episode online to see York in the spotlight!

<http://www.cob.org/btv10/inside-bellingham.htm>



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