

THE YORKER



YORK ANNUAL PICNIC FUN FOR ALL AGES

Sunday, Sept. 18

2pm

Gather at Rock Hill Park to decorate bikes, trikes, and buggies for the parade.

3pm

Parade from Rock Hill Park to Franklin Park with police escort across Lakeway Drive.

3:30pm – 5:30pm

PICNIC at Franklin Park. Free hot dogs & lemonade provided. YOU bring a potluck dish to share. How the potluck works:

If your last name begins with A-L, bring a dessert.

If your last name begins with M-Z, bring a side dish or salad.

Pie Raffle

Bring a pie to donate, and/or buy a \$2 ticket to win a pie.

Proceeds from the raffle will help fund York's new Historic District street signs.



A hopeful pie raffle contestant

2nd Annual Harvest Table

Bring an item from your garden harvest – fruits, veggies, flowers, home canning, etc. These will be displayed then given away as prizes.



Bountiful harvest table 2010

York Neighborhood General Meeting

Speaker Topic:

“Campus & Community Relations”

Wednesday, September 14th

6:30 p.m.

Social & Healthy Snacks

7:00 p.m.

Guest speaker Steve Swan, Vice President for University Relations at Western

.....
Discussion and business meeting to follow.

The York Neighborhood is close to Western's campus, and approximately 50 percent of our housing is rentals of which a large percentage is rented by Western's students. This means developing positive relationships between long-term home owners and student renters is beneficial to our overall neighborhood quality of life.

Bring your questions and ideas for how your neighborhood association and the university can foster a positive environment for all ages.

We hope to see you there!

Mission Statement of the York Neighborhood Association:

“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.”

York Neighborhood Association c/o
1410 Grant St., Bellingham, WA 98225

www.yorkneighborhood.org

call or text 393-7187
president@yorkneighborhood.org

Save those Receipts!

By Kirsti Charlton

When The Market at Lakeway recently opened the York Neighborhood Association was invited to participate in its community-wide, neighborhood based fund-raising program.

How the program works: When you've finished shopping (and are pretty sure you won't need your receipt for anything) simply pop the receipt into the "York" barrel located by the door on your way out. When the receipts are tallied, the YNA will receive a percentage of the total dollar amount deposited in the York barrel. Easy for shoppers and wonderful for the neighborhood.

The Market provides shoppers with many opportunities to "buy local." York now joins other neighborhoods where The Market grocery store is in a convenient location to the neighborhood. Happy Valley and Fairhaven, for example, have been involved for several years.

The York Neighborhood Association thanks The Market for this opportunity.

Sarah, Cassin and Jessa Bates helped take out the trash at Dumpster Day 2011.

Dumpster Days a huge success

Two dumpsters were made available to York residents in June to help clean up the neighborhood. On June 4 at Nelson's Market the dumpster was full to capacity in just an hour and a half. Thanks to SSC for providing the free dumpster, Allied Waste/RDC for free dumpage, and Jon Ostby at Nelson's for the parking lot use. Organizers for the event were Carolyn Mulder and Aaron Bandstra. Thanks to everyone who helped out that day.

New this year was a free dumpster at Franklin Park, from June 11-12, made available by the City and Western Washington University.

A page out of the history bin

Dumpster Day got started in the mid-1970s when the York Neighborhood was first organizing. John Rietz, long-time York resident, said the Air National Guard volunteered its trucks and drove up and down the streets and alleys collecting garbage a full weekend for the first Dumpster Day.

"That first Dumpster Day event was one of many ways we tried to build community ownership and pride," Rietz said. Among the projects at that time were efforts to acquire Rock Hill for a neighborhood park, preserve single-family residences, and raise money from home owners to pave the dirt alleys. York's pride continues 30+ years later.



Your Help Is Needed: Franklin Park Work Party Sat. Sept. 17, 10am-Noon

The Parks Volunteer Program, along with Viking Community Builders volunteers from WWU, will be coming to Franklin Park on Sat., Sept. 17 from 10am-12pm to work on the hillside at the park. Neighbors, please be there to help care for our Franklin Trail and open space.

Tools, gloves and snacks will be provided. We just need YOU!

WANTED: Dead or Alive, Old Computers

Old used/unwanted computers or laptops in need of repair are needed for City Gate Apartment's new Job Club. The club helps residents of the offender re-entry housing program learn how to use computers and become better prepared for the workforce. A City Gate resident knows how to repair computers, so can put them to good use. If you have a computer to donate, contact Joe Nagel, 927-6533 or email Joe.Nagel@p-h-s.com.

We're egg-static about York chickens

By Klara Schwarz

Photos by Carrie Schwarz

Have you noticed that recently a lot of people are getting chickens in the York Neighborhood? You might think this is new, but someone has had chickens a lot longer. Iron Street residents Carlyne Milling and her husband John have had chickens for about twenty years.



"It all started when my friend went away to the veterinarian school. We had to watch her little "Ernie" strut his stuff.

chicken 'Rue,'" Carlyne said. Carlyne's Modern Game rooster "Ernie" resembles the Microraptor - a tiny feathered dinosaur from the Cretaceous period.

"I've never met anyone who doesn't love 'Ernie,'" says Carlyne. If you ever have the pleasure to meet "Ernie" you'd feel the same way. Carlyne also has five hens. She has one Rhode Islander, one Black-Breasted Americana, two Standard Americanas, and Buff Americana.

Carlyne's hens are getting old, so she only gets about one egg a week. There are some difficulties of having chickens. "They mess up the straw around our [garden] boxes," says Carlyne. But there are also some advantages of having chickens, such as having fresh organic and, of course,



Carlyne Milling explains chicken raising to Yorker reporter, Klara Schwarz

really local eggs (you can't get more local than that). "I love hearing their sounds," Carlyne stated.

If you have any questions about rearing chickens, Carlyne Milling is a knowledgeable neighborhood resource! You can contact her at cmilling@comcast.net or call 671-6064.

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Freeway noise pollution: a perplexing racket

By Anne Mackie

Try having a conversation standing side-by-side in the 1000 block of Humboldt St. in York's southern section. You'll have to yell to be heard.

For years the neighborhood association has advocated for a safety and sound wall along Humboldt St. south of Lakeway Dr. to serve as a safety barrier to prevent vehicles from coming off the freeway into the neighborhood -- happened twice in 2008 -- and to reduce noise pollution. The Washington State Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT) has been asked for many years to conduct a noise study in this area; on August 16 the study was done at three locations in the 1100 and 1000 blocks of Humboldt St. by Larry Magnoni (WSDOT Acoustic, Vibration, Air Quality & Energy Specialist). YNA President Kirsti Charlton and Board members Helen Jackson and Anne Mackie observed the testing.

Decibel levels were recorded while a vehicle-count instrument was used on the freeway to determine number of vehicles in the study time period. Decibel readings were 61 at 1147 Humboldt, 64 at 1103 Humboldt, and 69 at 1029 Humboldt St. A reading of 66 is the decibel level at which noise is considered to be an impairment.

Public spaces like parks also can be considered as requiring noise abatement if they lie within 500 ft. of the freeway. Franklin Park is 400 feet from the freeway; so while one might assume that noise impact to this park should be a consideration for a freeway wall, noise evaluation alone isn't the only qualifier to get on the list for future wall construction projects.



YNA President Kirsti Charlton and Board member Helen Jackson talk with WSDOT's Larry Magnoni as he conducts a freeway noise study Aug. 16.

Photo by Anne Mackie

New cookbook from GSUMC: "Garden Street Cooks"

Ahh... memories from childhood of church potlucks where you got to eat something adventuresome that Mom hadn't made. Luscious desserts, casseroles, molded salad thingies – they're back!

Yes, the "Garden Street Cooks" cookbook from Garden St. United Methodist Church has 300 delicious recipes divided into sections of Appetizers, Soups and Salads, Side Dishes, Main Dishes, Desserts, and a mixed category labeled "This and That." Enhanced with original art work by Christine Jamet, the book is a collection of recipe favorites of the members and friends of the church. Cost is \$12 with all proceeds going to the mission fund of the United Methodist Women.

The church has done so much for the York Neighborhood over the years by providing free meeting space, now it's our chance to support them in their fundraising efforts. Copies of the cookbook will be available for sale at York's general meeting, Sept. 14; or you can stop by the church office Tuesday – Friday; or call Karen Schroeder, 756-6012 to order a copy. Checks should be made out to Garden St. UMW (United Methodist Women).

Magnoni said, "These sites would likely be considered in the Type II barrier program which may put the neighborhood on a list based on the sound level, the number of people that would benefit from the barrier, and the cost of the barrier among other criteria. The measured sound level based on current traffic volume, type, and speed would likely be adjusted to peak traffic volumes agreed on for analyzing sound level for all Type II sites state wide." Sounds complicated.

But stated more simply: If 66 is the decibel level at which a wall might be considered, the recent tests done on a summer afternoon when "peak" traffic may not have been occurring, point to that need. And, with the improved Lakeway Dr. on-ramp, will we see more truck traffic entering the freeway at this location, and thus more noise?

Going forward, the YNA needs to work with other impacted neighborhoods, like Sehome and Puget, and appeal to the State Legislature for their help in getting an adequate safety and noise wall installed along this section of I-5.

Neighborhood Faces

York-a-Dorks graduate!

By Anne Mackie

Being known as a “York-a-Dork” might sound like an insult, but for a group of recent high school graduates who grew up in the York Neighborhood the saying is about community pride and friendships.

The saying “York-a-Dork” first appeared on t-shirts back in the mid-90s when kids earned the shirts by helping out with Dumpster Day, weeding at the parks, or handing out the neighborhood newsletter. This generation of “York-a-Dorks” has grown up, graduated from high school, and is moving on to their futures. Here, they share memories about growing up in York.

“This place is special. It’s quirky, beautiful, endlessly fascinating and frequently bizarre,” said Sarah Dillard, who has headed to Macalester College in Saint Paul, MN, to pursue a double major in English and international studies with the hopes of eventually becoming a journalist. “I’m shocked that I’m going to be one of the crazy college kids that I grew up next to,” she said.

Will McShane, who grew up on Grant Street, has very early memories of pulling weeds at



Pictured from left to right: Sierra Scott, Sarah Dillard, Kyle Scott, Alan Sherman, Thomas Swan and Will McShane.

Rock Hill Park while working alongside his parents and other volunteers to create a small city park in the neighborhood north of Lakeway Drive. Will headed to Beloit College in Wisconsin last month.

Sierra and Kyle Scott also put in their sweat equity at Rock Hill and got “enlisted” by older brother Kelix to help build the lower garden rock wall, which was part of his Eagle Scout project. The neighborhood could always count on the Scott kids to get the newsletters handed out, too.

“Dad would promise it would only be one block to do, but then it would be two or three more,” Sierra said. And these are long blocks! Eventually, Sierra became the childcare provider for York’s neighborhood meetings.

Her advice to the neighborhood is to make sure kids from all over the neighborhood get a chance to play together. She and Sarah Dillard lived here their whole lives but didn’t meet until their sophomore year at Sehome High School. “Now we’re really good friends,” she said. “I wish we’d met earlier.” Sierra starts classes at Whatcom Community College this fall.

One year there were seven kids all turning seven in the 1400 block of Grant St. so a block party was organized. Kyle Scott remembers the epic struggle of “Capture the Flag” and causing lots of havoc with the other York-a-Dorks. He and Thomas Swan will attend WCC, do more skiing and hopefully find jobs, Kyle said. Alan Sherman did find a job this summer - fishing in Alaska.”

Congratulations to this group of grads, and thanks for being involved with your neighborhood - making it a better place for the new kids coming up.

(“Neighborhood Faces” is a regular column in The Yorker. If you have someone you’d like to see featured in a future issue, please write to president@yorkneighborhood.org)

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Signs Approved by City Arts Commission

By Don Hilty-Jones

At its August meeting, the Bellingham Arts Commission approved the design for York Neighborhood's Historic District street signs. Now it's "full steam ahead" to raise funds to get the signs made. The city Public Works Dept. will handle the installation. The area that is included in the York National Historic District is north of Lakeway Dr., bordered by Ellis St. on the west and the I-5 freeway on the east.

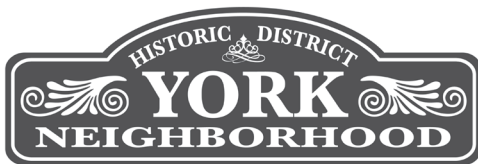
Our sign design was done by York neighbor, John McColloch, owner of Johnny MacStudios. Then the design was approved at the June 8 YNA meeting.

Fundraising Begins

Estimates from local sign-making companies are being obtained; and once we have a firm price, we will begin fundraising efforts to purchase signs for 29 intersections.

Additional Historic Districts to Come

Two additional historic districts will be applied for in the near future: one in the Franklin Park area and one east of Ellis Street. If you are interested in helping with this application project, contact Don Hilty-Jones at vicepresident@yorkneighborhood.org



John McColloch's approved design

Indian Street Pottery Teachers Receive Mayor's Arts Award

By Daniel Langager

Ené and Eugene Lewis, owners of Indian Street Pottery in the York Neighborhood, were awarded the Mayor's Arts Award for education in pottery at a ceremony held last April 13 at the Whatcom Museum. Their pottery shop, located at 1309 Indian Street, was opened in 1980.

The Indian Street studio features samples of their work: masks with long snouts and red cheeks, clay pots of varying sizes; and wood carvings of boats and animals are exhibited in the windows. The back room hosts two potter's wheels, assorted paints and tools to mold and engrave the clay. Eugene said their goal is to keep developing new ideas and creations.

"If we have a particular focus we work on that," Eugene said. "Otherwise, we try to disperse our energy between creating and teaching." At the Whatcom Community College pottery studio, the couple teaches current and former students, as well as community members. Ené said not all schools have programs like this.

"Students move up to independent status, have access to the studio and some become pretty proficient. Some are taught here on Indian Street," he said.

The Lewis' met at Alfred University in New York and opened their first studio in



Ené and Eugene Lewis

Brooklyn. They have two adult children and said they are thankful they also had time to raise a family.

"You can't do everything in one life, but you can try. There are only so many hours in a day," said Ené.

The Indian St. Pottery shop is open by appointment; call 671-6297.





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Out & About the Hood

“House 2 Home” Program Needs Your Donations

By Abby Lund

In July, volunteers for the House 2 Home Virtual Furniture Bank delivered 43 furniture items to individuals and families just moving out of homelessness. Come rain or shine, volunteers headed out in their trucks and picked up mattresses, dressers, dining sets and other furniture items for people just settling in to their new home.

House 2 Home Virtual Furniture Bank (H2H) began in 2009, as a program of Whatcom Volunteer Center. H2H formed in response to Whatcom County’s 10 year plan to end homelessness. An effort of rapid re-housing by the Whatcom Homeless Service Center found many people with shelter, but with little to furnish their new home with. H2H sought to fill that need. Since its inception volunteers have delivered over 900 furniture items.

H2H is a “virtual” furniture bank, in that there is no warehouse. Volunteers deliver items directly from the donor to the customer. H2H partners with numerous agencies in the community, including: Opportunity Council, Womenscare Shelter, Catholic Community Services and Lydia Place. Housing Case Managers refer individuals and families moving out of homelessness.

The success of H2H is due in large part to

its dedicated volunteers and generous donors. Volunteers complete 4-6 deliveries per week, sometimes more. Because of their efforts, someone has a bed to sleep on and a table to eat dinner at tonight.

H2H volunteers and donors have played one of the many roles in the broader effort to end homelessness. In Whatcom County there has been a strong collaboration of non-profit agencies, County and individual efforts, including H2H. In April, the Bellingham Herald reported the results of the Point in Time Homeless Count. Staff and volunteers from non-profits, schools, churches and local government worked throughout the County to count the number of homeless families and individuals. The number of people on the street and living in emergency shelters or transitional housing has decreased by 18%. It looks like the hard work of the community is beginning to show.

If you would like to volunteer or donate furniture, please contact Abby at: 360-224-7185 or abbyl@whatcomvolunteer.org

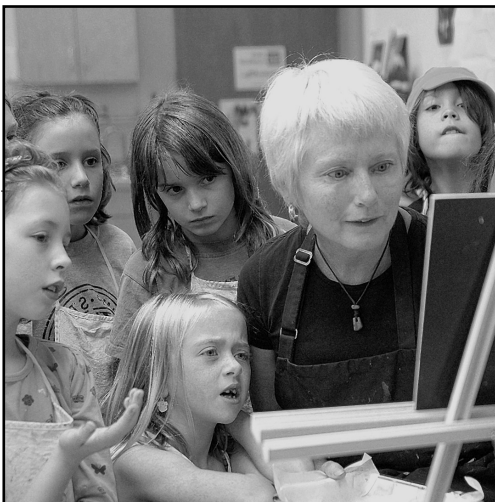


Volunteers enjoy the nice weather and get some furniture items to an H2H customer just moving in to their new home.

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About the York Neighborhood Association

YNA Officers

Kirsti Charlton, President & MNAC Rep,
president@yorkneighborhood.org

Don Hilty-Jones, Vice Pres.,
vicepresident@yorkneighborhood.org

Jessica Bandstra, Secretary,
secretary@yorkneighborhood.org

Lisa Anderson, Treasurer,
treasurer@yorkneighborhood.org

Membership

Any resident, property owner or business owner of the York Neighborhood who attends at least one meeting per calendar year is considered a member of the YNA. Membership donations to support the annual picnic, this newsletter and other association activities can be mailed to Lisa Anderson, YNA Treasurer, 520 Edwards St., Bellingham, WA 98225. Recommended donations: \$5 students; \$10 singles; \$20 households; businesses \$100 (includes a business card-size ad in the newsletter).

The Yorker Newsletter

This newsletter is a publication of the York Neighborhood Association. Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily the opinion of the association or its board. The newsletter is published approximately four times a year and hand-delivered to 700+ homes. If you would like to volunteer to help hand the newsletter out on your block, please contact Carolyn Mulder, 647-1642.

Advertising

Business-card size ad, \$30 or four issues \$110; quarter-page \$50 or \$175 four issues; half-column \$60 or four issues \$200; half-page \$100 or four issues \$375; full-page \$200 or four issues \$750.

YNA Online: www.yorkneighborhood.org

The Yorker, published by the York Neighborhood Association
c/o 1410 Grant St., Bellingham, WA 98225, 360-393-7187.

Contact president@yorkneighborhood.org for more information or how to advertise.

Board Members

Dave Hopkinson

Judy Hopkinson

Helen Jackson, Franklin Park Steward

Anne Mackie, Newsletter Editor

Bippy McMaster

Carolyne Milling

Carolyn Mulder, Newsletter Distribution

Carrie Schwarz, Rock Hill Park Steward

Tom Scott, MNAC Alternate

Neighborhood Calendar of Events

YNA General Meeting Wednesday, Sept. 14

6:30pm – Social; 7pm – Meeting
Garden St. United Methodist Church

Franklin Park Work Party

Saturday, Sept. 17,
10am-Noon

York Annual Picnic Sunday, Sept. 18,

2pm – 5pm
Parade starts at
Rock Hill Park, 3:00pm
Picnic starts at Franklin Park,
3:30pm

STARs

Saturday Trash and Recyclers
(formerly RATS)
Every first and third Saturday
of the month. Meet at Nelson's
Market (or other place as
announced), 8:45am

YNA Board Meeting Wed., Oct. 12, 7pm

Garden St. United Methodist Church

Seal, Trap, Clean— Get rid of rodent infestation in York

The recent discovery of a rat-infestation in the 1100 block of Grant St. is a nasty reminder that our neighborhood has a rat problem. Landlords, home owners, and renters need to help prevent rats from multiplying in York. (See <http://www.zonemaven.blogspot.com/> "Rats! It Is Rats Galore with No Rental Inspections")

Rats spread disease to humans directly through contact with rodent feces, urine, or saliva, or through rodent bites. Diseases car-

ried by rodents can also be spread to humans indirectly, through ticks, mites or fleas that have fed on an infected rodent.

- Seal up holes inside and outside the home to prevent entry by rodents.
- Trap rodents around the home to help reduce the rodent population.
- Clean up rodent food sources, including improperly used compost bins, and nesting sites.

If you see piles of garbage in the neighborhood, contact the Bellingham Police Neighborhood Code Compliance Officer, Darren Sandstrom, at 778-8623; or email dsandstrom@cob.org. Provide the street address of the garbage problem.



Garden Street UMC
1326 North Garden Street
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Sunday Services
8:30am and 10:30am
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