

THE YORKER



YORK ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC FUN FOR ALL AGES

Sunday, Sept. 23

3:00pm – 5:00pm – 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 side dish or salad. If your last name begins with M-Z, bring a dessert. Bring own table service (plate & forks) and your own chair.

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 Neighborhood activities.

Baby Photo: We'll be lining up York's

2011-12 babies for a group photo and taking a picture of ALL York kids from babies to high school. Don't miss out on this hysterical (oops) historic moment.

3rd Annual Harvest Festival Table

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

Want to Help Out?

Please consider volunteering your party-organizing talents to make this picnic our very best, yet. Contact Carolynne Milling at 671-6064, or millingwiley@comcast.net.

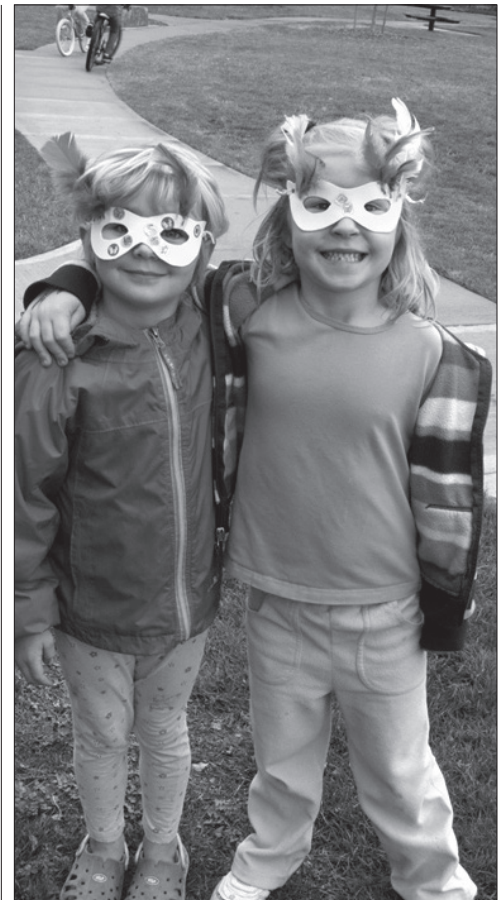


Photo by Jeff Bates

Join us for kids' activities at the York Annual Picnic.



Photo by Carolyn Mulder

York's Annual Harvest Festival Table features home-grown veggies, flowers, canning and more at the Annual Picnic. Bring your goodies to show and raffle off as prizes.

**York Neighborhood
General Meeting**

Save the date!
Wed., Oct. 10

At Garden St. United Methodist Church
1326 N. Garden St.

6:30pm – Social & Refreshments

7:00pm – Business Meeting

City plans for a more walkable future

By Mark Schofield

Among its many wonderful attributes, the York Neighborhood is walkable. With its relatively high density of housing, interesting parks and trails, well-designed crosswalks and close proximity to downtown and other amenities, this part of Bellingham invites walking for transport and pleasure.

Of course there is still plenty of opportunity for improvement, both in our neighborhood and across the city; and toward that end the City Council moved forward on a new Pedestrian Master Plan at its meeting August 6.

“This is our first ever mode-specific plan focused on creating a safe, well-connected and attractive walking environment for all members of our community,” said Kim Brown, Transportation Options Coordinator for the city. “It is much more than a plan for sidewalks and crosswalks. It specifies policies, design guidelines and programs that support and encourage walking and active, diverse transportation options.” To read the entire plan go to: www.cob.org/walk.

Plan Goals

- **Safety** – designing facilities to promote safe transportation behaviors;
- **Connectivity** – linking the places we live to the places we travel;
- **Health** – promoting a healthy environment and lifestyles through a pedestrian network;
- **Equity** – ensuring that the benefits of good pedestrian facilities are shared fairly across the city.

Projects

- Develop almost 80 miles of sidewalks;
- Improve 58 crossings over the next two decades.

In York Neighborhood this may include sidewalk infill on James St. (over Whatcom Creek) and Otis St., (near Samish Way); a grade separated crossing at I-5 and Abbott St.; and crossing improvements on Ohio St.

Beyond the emphasis on pedestrian infrastructure projects, the plan’s recommendations encompass creation of new programs and enhancement of existing programs to help people incorporate

more walking into daily life: Safe Routes to School, Neighborhood Walking Maps, Themed Walks and an Open Streets Event, which are temporary street closures creating park space for walking, bicycling, dancing, hula hooping, roller skating, etc. – a popular concept in the U.S. and internationally.

The plan was developed through a public process that included a community survey summary. York residents were one of the top participating neighborhoods and generally rated Bellingham walking conditions as “good,” but we also identified problems for walkers such as inadequate sidewalks or missing curb ramps in some places.

So, what can Yorkers do to advance Bellingham’s walkability?

According to Brown, “We all play a role by driving safely, teaching children safe walking and biking skills, identifying safety hazards, and walking more for transportation, exercise and connecting with our neighbors.”

What’s next for mobility in the city? Bellingham will be developing a Bicycle Master Plan. Put on your helmet, and stay tuned...

From York’s History Pages...

Take a walking tour of York’s historic churches

York’s rich architectural history is punctuated by a group of historic church buildings whose histories were compiled for the “York Neighborhood Historic Map and Walking Tour,” brochure published in 2004 by the York Neighborhood Association. Thanks to neighbor Laura Witt for her church research; excerpts are below. Copies of the brochure are still available at Nelson’s Market.

The former Norwegian Bellingham Bay Lutheran Church at 1430 N. Garden St. was built in 1903. Services were held in both Norwegian and English until 1928. In 1917 it merged with Zion Lutheran at 1518 Grant St.; later became American Central Lutheran; and in 1945, Central Lutheran. Today it hosts dance classes, art

studios and a private residence. For more on its history, go to: <http://www.central-lutheran.net/oldsite/history-grant/church-history.html>.

The Norwegian Free Lutheran Church at 1446 Franklin St. was built in 1904 by early Norwegian immigrants. This church was later known as Ebenezer’s Lutheran Church. Today it is a private residence.

The church at the corner of Gladstone and Franklin once housed the Norwegian Danish Methodist Episcopal Church built in 1906. From 1906-07 it was shared with the Norwegian Danish Baptists, who eventually moved up the street to 1349 Franklin. The church has been used by many groups over the years.

At 1349 Franklin St. is the original home of the Norwegian Danish Baptist Church, which later became a Unitarian Church, the Morca Dance Academy, and today is residential housing.

And finally, there’s the grand Garden St. United Methodist Church at the corner of N.Garden and Magnolia. In 1890, when this corner was still in the town of Sehome, Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church was built. In 1910 the old church was torn down and the brick Tudor Revival-style church was constructed. In 1917 Trinity merged with the First Methodist Episcopal Church of New Whatcom to form Garden Street Methodist Episcopal Church. The Methodist Church graciously donates free meeting space for York Neighborhood’s meetings.

Kid's Corner:

Kids' Art Postcard Swap at this Year's Annual Picnic!

By Klara Schwarz



This year at York's Annual Picnic, we would like to acknowledge and celebrate the creativity of the children of York. If you have a child/children in your household that enjoy exploring various art media, then they might just be interested in participating in a kids' art postcard swap at the picnic.

The guidelines for this swap are simple. Your child may choose any medium they wish to explore. Some examples are: collage, water colors, acrylic paints, crayons,

colored pencil, pencil, markers, cut paper. The postcard itself should be standard size, which according to the US Postal Service is 4"x6". Blank postcards can be purchased at a variety of locations around town, including Dakota Art and Fred Meyers.

You can also make your own blank postcards by cutting a 4" x 6" rectangle from a cereal box and then decorating the illustrated side. We will display the postcards during the first half of the picnic, and then arrange a swap of postcards amongst those who wish to trade. For more about how the postcard swap works and to see samples, go here: <http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/kids-artist-trading-card-swap-142846>.

PRESS RELEASE

Western students call on City Council for Safe Rental Housing

In order to protect students from safety hazards which have become connected with rental properties in Bellingham, the Associated Students of Western Washington University sent a letter to Bellingham Mayor Linville and the City Council in July asking them to work on a rental safety ordinance in order to resolve an issue which has consistently been of concern to students. The letter asks for real action to be taken by the Council and is supportive of a mandatory rental inspection program.

"While City Council decided last year not to take any action to ensure rental safety, students are still living in homes with faulty wiring, mold, and structural damage," said Patrick Stickney, Vice President for Governmental Affairs for the Associated Students. "It's not a bad apple problem. Landlords have the power, meaning that students have to make their homes in substandard living conditions. We hope that, with new leadership on the Council, action will be taken on this issue."

Whatcom County has the lowest rental vacancy rate in the state, disadvantaging students and harming their ability to fairly deal with landlords. A recent study conducted by the Campus Community Coalition and a Human Services major at Western found that 28% of students who responded had mold in their homes, and 18% percent had structural problems in their rental unit. The same number had faulty fixtures and electrical outlets. Mold in houses has been found to cause a variety of health concerns in their inhabitants.

"Students make Bellingham their home for four or more years, and they should not have to deal with conditions which affect their quality of life in order to obtain an education," said Stickney. "Students also don't know their rights as tenants or get labeled as 'high-maintenance tenants' if they try to exert them. This issue doesn't just affect students, but all residents of Bellingham who live in rental houses."

A rental safety program would license a

Sehome & York joined forces for National Night Out Against Crime

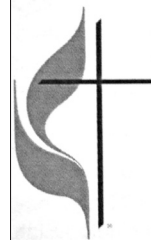
A pizza party was held August 7 at the WECU Educational Center on Holly St. as York and Sehome neighborhoods co-sponsored the National Night Out Against Crime. Police Officer Katherine Dearborn presented information about how to organize a Block Watch program. Pizza was donated by McKay's Tap House, prizes for a drawing were donated by Ace Hardware (motion detector light) and Nelson's Market (Marlins' Café gift certificate).

*Fall classes
begin Oct. 1*

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rental just like any other business. Rental properties would be inspected every few years in order to make sure they are up to existing code and allow already existing law to be enforced. Rental safety will be a priority of the Associated Students throughout the year.

For more information, contact the AS Communications and Marketing Office at 360-650-4648 or at as.communications@wwu.edu.

Welcome to York!

If you're new to the York Neighborhood – welcome! We hope you'll join in the fun. There are many ways to get to know your neighbors, volunteer your time, and socialize. A few are listed here.

York's Neighborhood Association start-

ed in the mid-1970s as a means to raise money and gain support to purchase land for our two neighborhood parks, Franklin and Rock Hill. For the next 37-plus years, we expanded our interests and horizons and hope you'll want to help move us into the future.

York's Committees & Work Groups

- **Annual Picnic** – contact Carolyne Milling millingwiley@comcast.net
- **Board of Directors** – contact Kirsti Charlton president@yorkneighborhood.org
- **Dumpster Day** – Scheduled for June 2013; contact Carolyn Mulder Ace98@comcast.net.
- **Franklin Park Work Parties** – see the schedule for upcoming work parties listed in the Calendar of Events, page 8. Contact Park Stewards Mark Schofield schofima@hotmail.com or Helen Jackson helenjnackson@gmail.com
- **Fundraising** – Lisa Anderson Treasurer er@yorkneighborhood.org

- **Historic Preservation** – Anne Mackie mackieaf@gmail.com
- **Holiday Party & Caroling Horse Wagon Ride** – Tom Scott TomRScott@On-SiteComputer.com.
- **Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission (MNAC), York Rep** -- mnacrep@yorkneighborhood.org
- **Orchard & Garden Committee** - Mary Loquvam maryloq@q.com
- **Rock Hill Park Work Parties** – contact Park Steward Devin Mount; RockHillParkSteward@yorkneighborhood.org
- **STARS – Saturday Trash and Recyclers** – Mary Loquvam marylog@q.com
- **Wine & Roses Garden Club; Annual**

Holiday Progressive Dinner Garden@YorkNeighborhood.org

• **Yorker Newsletter** – writing, photos, or advertising YorkerEditor@yorkneighborhood.org

VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE

• **Litter Control Officer:** BPD Officer Darren Sandstrom 778-8756; DSandstrom@cob.org

• **City Council Representatives:** Ward 3, north of Lakeway Dr. and west of Ellis St. – Cathy Lehman; clehman@cob.org; Ward 5, south of Lakeway Dr., Terry Bornemann, TBornemann@cob.org

Get to know your neighbors

The connections you make in your neighborhood can provide security, safety, friendships, and even job leads.

- Introduce yourself and exchange contact information.
- Take part in neighborhood activities.
- Keep your property looking good.
- Trim the lawn or call your landlord if it needs attention.
- Keep your yard free of litter and junk.

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.”

Franklin Park Work Parties: Give Back to Your Neighborhood

By Mark Schofield

One thing can be said about the vegetation in Franklin Park: it sure knows how to grow! These long days of sunshine and the occasional rain shower that nourish our favorite native plants, flowers and berries are also a boon for weeds. It's an ongoing challenge to keep the trails clear and the priority plants thriving.

If our York neighbors (yes, you!) could commit to an hour or two of effort this

fall, then we can keep Franklin Park and the Franklin Street Island in tip-top shape.

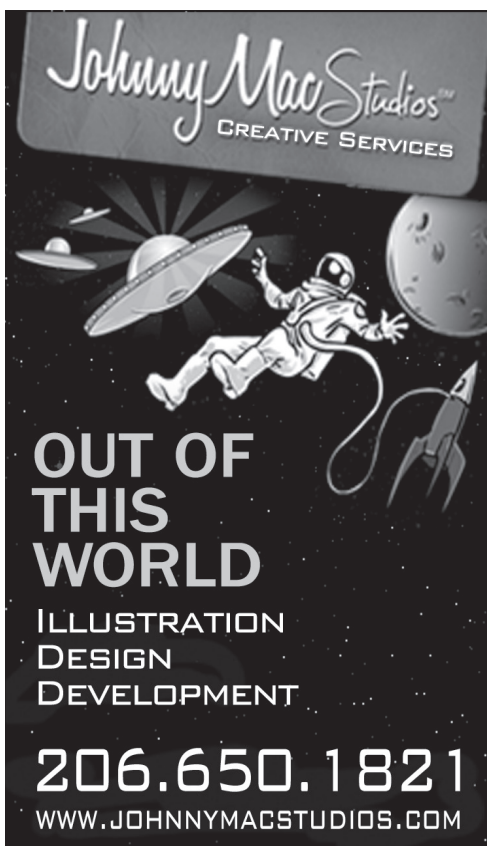
Please consider joining us for an upcoming Franklin Park work party:

Sat., Sept. 22 – 9:00am-12:00pm

Sat., Oct. 27 – 10am-12:00pm

Please bring gloves if you have them. Refreshments will be provided.

Questions? Contact Mark at schofima@hotmail.com; or Helen at helenjnackson@gmail.com.



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Photo by Anne Mackie

York's Annual Dumpster Day held June 9 was another roaring success with loads of junk picked up from alleys, yards and garages by a dedicated team of volunteers. Many thanks again this year to Sanitary Service Co., Inc., for the free dumpsters; Allied Waste / RDC for free dumpage; and Nelson's Market for use of their parking lot.



Photo by Carolyn Mulder

Hana Mast jubilates over winning a pie at the picnic pie raffle, 2011.

Welcome WWU Students

Many Western students love to rent homes in the York Neighborhood. Being a good neighbor is part of the York attitude and way-of-life.

Respect your neighbors

- Respect your neighbor's property – keep cars, pets, and visitors off your neighbor's yard and parking areas.
- Respect common areas – pick up after pets and park only in designated parking spots.
- Let your neighbors know before you have a party and ask them to tell you if it seems too noisy. No matter what time of day or night, your social life shouldn't be loud enough to annoy your neighbors, right?
- Remind party guests to leave quietly when they go.
- This is a neighborhood of families, retirees, young working people, old working people who wish they didn't have to work, and WWU students. We strive to live in harmony.

Thanks for being a good neighbor!

More information about living off campus and understanding rental agreements can be found at:

WWU: <http://www.offcampuswwu.com/>

City of Bellingham: <http://www.cob.org/services/human/housing/landlord-tenant-info.aspx>



Photo by Carolyn Mulder

York kids show off their decorated bikes in the 2011 Annual Picnic Parade.



Photo by Carolyn Mulder

Vivian Mazzola and Amy Caddigan prove that "Fun for All Ages" is truly the motto of York's Annual Picnic Parade.

Neighborhood Faces:

Norwegians cook Swedish pancakes, keep traditions alive

By Anne Mackie

So why do Norwegian cooks serve Swedish pancakes every month at Norway Hall? Perhaps they think folks wouldn't rush in for a plate of Lutefisk, that gelatinous blob that slithers down your throat and makes you wish you had opted for Cheerios instead. Perhaps it's because they've got the best Swedish pancakes in town, and they're having fun serving them up.

Once a month Norway Hall, located at 1419 N. Garden St., hosts a public Swedish pancake breakfast complete with Lingonberries, folk singers, dancers and kids galore. Served the third Saturday of every month, except during July and August, the costs are adults \$7, children \$7, and kids 10 and under \$3. The next breakfast is Saturday, September 15, 8 to 11am.

During the pancake breakfast a delightful selection of Nordic gifts are available: kitchen items, tableware, cards, sweaters, books, Lingonberry preserves and unique gift wraps.

Other activities at the hall include a monthly movie night, dance lessons and singing groups. For more information go to: <http://www.wergelandlodge.com>.

Norway Hall, officially called Wergeland Lodge of the Sons of Norway, has been part of Bellingham's ethnic scene and a gathering place for Scandinavian families for over 85 years. It helps to make York a great place to live!

Neighborhood Faces is a regular column of The Yorker. If you have an idea for a story, please let us know! Contact Yorkereditor@yorkneighborhood.org; or call Anne Mackie at 933-4369.

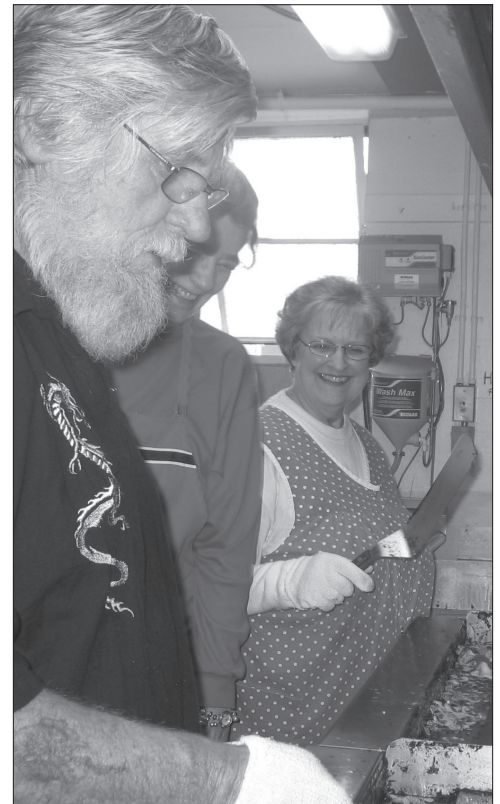


Photo by Anne Mackie

Volunteer cooks flip Swedish pancakes at Norway Hall's monthly community breakfast.

Serve Those Who Served Our Country Volunteer with Veteran Transportation

Volunteer Chore Program is looking for volunteer drivers to provide transportation for low-income, isolated veterans. Drivers transport veterans to essential services, such as medical appointments and the

grocery store. Volunteers are eligible for mileage reimbursement \$.55/mile

Contact Aly Horry, Volunteer Chore Program Director, to begin making a difference in a vet's life. 360-734-3055, or email: alysah@whatcomvolunteer.org.



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York Neighborhood orchard and garden project going strong!

By **Mary Loquvam**

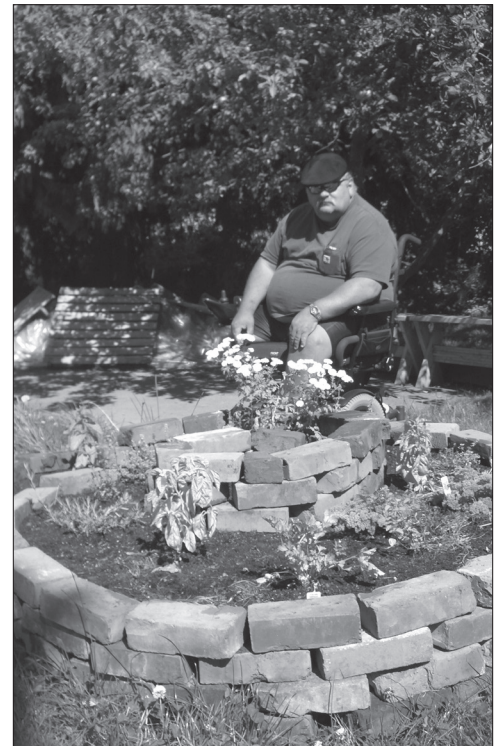
York's community orchard and garden are loving this sun! We did experience a setback in the orchard earlier this summer with the deer munching all the poor trees back to the quick. The team threw up some make-shift deer-proof fencing; the protected trees are recovering well. We do have one tree that still needs protective fencing, so if you have some extra fishnet or chicken wire you could donate to the cause, please contact me! (See contact info below).

In June the team -- at the recommendation and with the help of Susan, our Master Gardener courtesy of the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program -- installed a beautiful spiral herb garden at the Pottery Street Studio garden (pictured here). We scavenged bricks from the back alleys of York to create the spiral and used remaining funds from our WSU Extension grant to buy basil, parsley, mint, marjoram, rosemary, thyme, oregano, and lavender

to plant in the spiral. If you are interested in how we created this lovely landscape accent to replicate in your yard, give me a holler and I can show how we did it.

Looking forward, the orchard and garden committee has entered into a conversation with Washington DOT to determine if we might be able to use (and maintain) the DOT's property along the I-5 safety/sound wall between Potter and Gladstone streets as a community garden. Our goals for the York Neighborhood Community Orchard and Garden include producing food for our neighbors, generating pride of place, building our community, and celebrating our local harvest.

If you are interested in learning more about the orchard and garden initiative, or if you would like to join the committee and become more involved, please contact me at maryloq@q.com. Everyone is welcome!



York's new herb garden gets special attention from Dave, City Gate Apt. resident.

Mark your calendar for the York Neighborhood Backyard Harvest event on October 13th! Bring a potluck dish to share, using ingredients from your garden and/or bring fresh produce, home-made canned goods, preserves, flowers, etc to trade with your neighbors. Also, find out about getting a garden plot in our (hopefully) new community garden. For more information, please contact Greg Meyer at gregdskater@yahoo.com.

Neighborhood Business Profile:

Customize your ride with a Donkelope Bike

By **Anne Mackie**

Dreaming of that perfect bike? Need a better fender mount or want disc brakes? Right here in York, Donkelope Bikes business owner Greg Heath found the perfect place to pursue his passion for building specialty bikes.

"No two Donkelope bikes are the same," he says. "They're handmade and built to fit a rider's dimensions and riding style." After moving to Bellingham from Wisconsin in 2002 Greg set up shop.

Donkelope bikes are custom, using American-made steel frames, forks, stems and racks built by hand to suit a person's riding style. Lately, Greg has been building



Greg Heath, owner of Donkelope Bikes shows off one of his custom bikes while giving "Raz" a pat.

a lot of commuter/touring-type bikes.

"It's a really fun process talking with customers to figure out what they're after, and then building it for them," he says. Everything about a Donkelope is custom: tubing selection, dropout style, color, and purpose.

Donkelope Bikes gets its name from Greg's fond childhood memories of road

trips through the Black Hills where the "jackalopes" roam. Donkelope seemed like a natural name for expressing his love of riding adventures.

So as you travel about town and through the neighborhood, keep your eyes peeled for a glimpse of a Donkelope.

To contact Greg, call 360-920-0484, or email greg@donkelopebikes.com.

Neighborhood Calendar of Events

YNA Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 12
7pm Meeting
Garden St. United Methodist
Church

Franklin Park Work Party

Saturday, September 22
9:00am-12:00pm

YNA Annual Picnic & Harvest Festival

Sunday, September 23
Picnic: 3:00-5:00pm at Franklin Park

YNA General Meeting

Wednesday, October 10
6:30pm Social
7pm Meeting
Garden St. United Methodist Church
1326 N. Garden St.

Backyard Harvest Celebration

Saturday, Oct. 13, Mid-day
700 block of Gladstone St.

Franklin Park Work Party

Saturday, October 27
10am to noon

STARS - Saturday Trash and
Recyclers
First and third Saturdays
Meet at Nelson's Market, 8:45am

York Neighborhood Association Donation Form

MEMBERSHIP Donation to York Neighborhood Association:

Money is used for newsletter printing, annual picnic, annual holiday party/horse wagon ride, supplies and mailings.

Students \$5.00

Household \$20.00

Singles \$10.00

Business \$100.00

(includes business-card size ad in
each issue of The Yorker newsletter)

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