

# THE YORKER



## YORK GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 11th

Supper 6:30pm; Meeting 7pm

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

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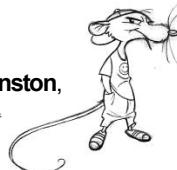
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## “The Three W’s of Urban Living: Water, Waste & Wrats”

**Bellingham’s Drinking Water:** Speaker, **Eric Johnston**,  
*Assistant Director, Bellingham Public Works Department*



**How safe is our water?**

With the water crisis in Flint, Michigan we need to know how Bellingham’s water quality is protected.

**Waste:** Speaker **Edward Tabor** *YNA Board member and representative on the Tenant Waste Task Force; Campus Community Coalition Coordinator*

**What’s the best way to dispose of unwanted household items?**

Learn more about the “**Don’t Trash Bellingham**” campaign.

**Wrats:** The rodent variety, that no one wants in their home or yard.  
**Learn how to prevent rat infestation**

## Spring Super Salad Supper, 6:30

A variety of delicious salads and home-made bread will be served by York board members.

**You are asked to bring a dessert to share.**

**Also bring your own table service.**

Our beverage will be Bellingham’s OWN delicious water.

Coffee provided by Nelson’s Market/Marlins’ Café.

## Annual Dumpster Day “To Clean Up York”

Sat., June 18 – 8:30am (not a minute earlier)  
until it is full (probably by 10am, so don’t be late!)

At Nelson’s Market, 514 Potter St.

**Details P.5**



## YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

c/o 1316 Franklin St., Bellingham WA 98225

www.yorkneighborhood.org email: President@Yorkneighborhood.org

*By Don Hilty-Jones*

## Let's Safely Move People, Not Just Cars



**Don Hilty-Jones**  
YNA President

**H**ave you noticed the river of traffic along Lakeway Drive flowing thicker and thicker, especially during “rush hour”? Safety concerns for pedestrians and bicyclists along this traffic-heavy arterial was the topic of the April 13 York Board meeting with guest Chris Comeau, City Transportation Planner.

Comeau presented information about Bellingham’s multi-modal transportation plan. Using video footage, WTA bus ridership studies, and vehicle traffic volume and speed information Comeau is overseeing an evalua-

tion of possible routes for new bikeways. Out of 186 possible projects Lakeway Drive, from Ellis St. in York to Queen St. in Puget neighborhood, is rated as #1 for “more study needed” and #2 for “prioritization.”

Does this mean we’ll soon see a bike lane on Lakeway Drive? No, Comeau said; first the city needs to acquire the grant funding. However, it does mean that Lakeway Drive is a high priority. Possible design options include separate bike lanes, shared lanes, or cycle tracks (lanes barricaded from vehicle lanes). Stay tuned for more information.

## Board Meetings Are Open, All Welcome

**O**ur board meets the second Wednesday of the month in the months that do not have a general meeting. Neighbors are always welcome to attend. If you have an issue you would like us to discuss, please let me know in advance at [President@yorkneighborhood.org](mailto:President@yorkneighborhood.org). Our next board meeting is Wed., June 8, 7pm at Garden St. Methodist Church, room B.

### Streetlights

**A** hot topic in York is streetlights, or lack thereof. We have long blocks with not enough lights and a lot of foot traffic back and forth to downtown in the evening. The older, wooden light poles are owned by Puget Sound Energy. Unfortunately, these won’t be replaced during the city’s new re-lighting campaign in which the city is replacing its metal pole light bulbs with LED fixtures. This is both a cost-savings and an improvement for brighter lights. An example of new city lighting can be seen on Meador Ave. by the school bus barn, along the northern border of the neighborhood near Whatcom Creek.

For some neighborhoods the new lights are controversial, however. In the Cornwall-Broadway Park area neighbors are unhappy with removal of soft-glow historic lamp lighting. In other neighborhoods people complain they can’t see the night sky if lights are installed. In York many think our streets are too dark; and we welcome better lighting, which the new LED fixtures provide. The new system also has an auto-adjust mechanism so that brightness can be turned up or down.

We’d like to hear more opinions on this topic, so please share your thoughts on York Neighborhood’s Facebook page or in an email to me at [President@yorkneighborhood.org](mailto:President@yorkneighborhood.org).

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**2016 York Neighborhood Association Officers**  
President: Don Hilty-Jones  
Vice President: Tom Scott  
Treasurer/Secretary: Anne Mackie  
**Additional Board Members**  
Cory Anderson, Ben Larson, Kim Niederhauser, Kim Bogren Owen, Audrey Roberts, Mark Schofield, Edward Tabor  
**Contact:**  
York Neighborhood Association  
c/o 1316 Franklin St., Bellingham WA 98225  
[President@YorkNeighborhood.org](mailto:President@YorkNeighborhood.org)  
website: [www.YorkNeighborhood.org](http://www.YorkNeighborhood.org)  
For advertising / business donations, contact:  
[YorkerEditor@YorkNeighborhood.org](mailto:YorkerEditor@YorkNeighborhood.org)

## Rental inspections to nail problem housing

By Tom Scott

YNA Vice President

**B**ellingham's new rental inspection program kicks-off June 1. Through a combined effort of multi-neighborhood organizations working for two years with the Associated Students of WWU, we garnered support in 2015 from the City Council for a new ordinance that requires rental owners to register their properties with the city and adhere to basic health and safety standards for their rentals.

Over the next three and half years 9,275 units of the total 18,836 rentals in the city will be inspected. 2,789 are exempt because they are publicly funded housing units that are already inspected and assumed in compliance; and an additional exempt number are part of multi-unit complexes, which will have sample inspections.

York has 575 registered rentals; however, additional properties may not have registered; their owners will receive fines for non-compliance. Because these properties represent approximately 50% of York's housing, we believe the neighborhood is highly impacted by deteriorating rental housing that was constructed in the early 1900s.

Unfortunately, the city's inspection schedule that was announced in April did not include York on the first year of inspections, postponing York until June 2017 or later.

The YNA Board objected to the proposed schedule and believes a more random approach provides the desired incentive for landlords to address any known remedial maintenance requirements rather than defer repairs for health and safety needs until the year that a given property becomes eligible for random inspection. At the very least, older houses close to the university with young residents who may be intimidated to complain for fear of retaliatory evictions or rent hikes, or who do not know how to file complaint forms, must be given a higher priority in the schedule.

The YNA Board wrote to Planning Director Rick Sepler on April 20th to request that York be included in the first years inspections. We are pleased that our objections were heard, and Mr. Sepler agreed to include York in the beginning of next month.

## Lobby Day Shed Light on Student Issues

By Ben Larson

YNA Board Member, WWU student

Students from Western met with Bellingham City Council and Whatcom County Council members on April 1 to lobby for issues affecting students at the local level. On the agenda was improving lighting and parking around campus and the city, free postage on ballots for all members of Whatcom County, affordable housing in Bellingham, and issues concerning tenant waste.

Increasing voter access with free ballot postage was a popular idea with some county council members saying they would be interested in anything that enhances the democratic process in our county. Concerns were shared about the cost, and some county council members suggested lobbying the state legislature to provide free postage for all mail-in ballots across Washington State.

Though Local Lobby Day has been an event in the past, this was the first time students had the chance to express their concerns with county leaders. City Council members were also happy to report that LED lights are replacing many streetlights, which are brighter and cheaper in the long run. Students highlighted many poorly lit areas across the city and were pleased local leaders were already addressing the issue.

*Garden Street United Methodist Church*  
1326 North Garden Street, Bellingham, WA 98225  
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# York Parks Update

## Franklin Park Trail gets blazed, again!

By Mark Schofield, Park Steward

A crew of about 30 enthusiastic volunteers recently celebrated Earth Day with an April 16 work party in Franklin Park. York neighbors were joined by WWU students, Wild Whatcom Explorers, and others in pulling blue bells and cherry tree shoots that are trying to crowd out other native plants along the trail in the 1200 block of Franklin St. Plenty of mulch was spread and good conversations had.

Special thanks to Rae Edwards and the City Parks Department for providing leadership and materials, Woods Coffee for a generous donation of coffee and baked goods, and Lisa Anderson for sharing delicious cupcakes.

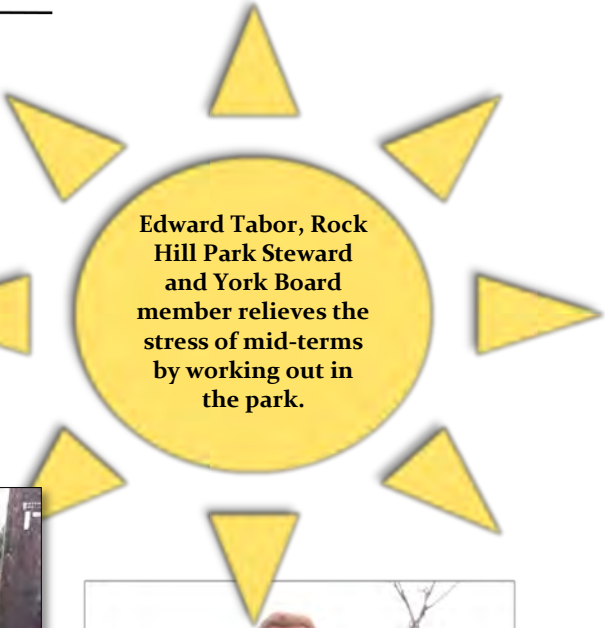
There's always more to do at the park! We'll hold a few smaller work parties this summer before another big one in the fall. If you can lend a hand contact Mark at [FranklinParkSteward@yorkneighborhood.org](mailto:FranklinParkSteward@yorkneighborhood.org).



### Hip Hip Hooray!!

#### For Salish Explorer Club

Thank-you to the volunteers from Salish Seals, a group within Wild Whatcom who helped remove invasive plants along the Franklin Island on April 16. Their enthusiasm for nature and teamwork is inspiring. Wild Whatcom is an organization that strives to: "foster lifelong connections to nature and community through outdoor exploration and service." For more information about the many opportunities for youth, contact [www.wildwhatcom.org](http://www.wildwhatcom.org).



Edward Tabor, Rock Hill Park Steward and York Board member relieves the stress of mid-terms by working out in the park.

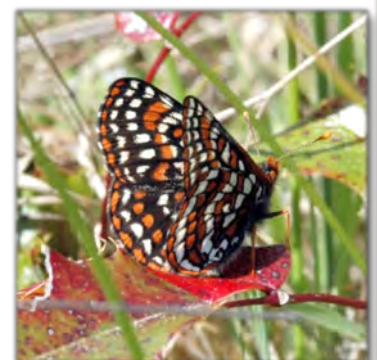


## Rock Hill Park Blooms

By Anne Mackie

The butterfly garden on the lower level of Rock Hill Park along the alley is coming into bloom with phlox, barberry, roses, lilac, and plum. We hope to add more butterfly-attracting plants this spring and in early summer. If you are willing to divide your plant starts from your home gardens we are looking for statice, lupine, monkey flower, bee balm, catmint, penstemon, black-eyed Susan, and pincushion. If you have plants to donate please contact me at [Secretary@yorkneighborhood.org](mailto:Secretary@yorkneighborhood.org).

Park Steward Edward Tabor is organizing a work party for later this spring. Watch for announcements on **York's Facebook** page and Next Door.





WWU students helped celebrate Earth Day by volunteering at Franklin Park's Island April 16

Long time York resident and volunteer, Jessa Bates, dumps a heavy load of mulch on the Franklin island berm



**B**ring household items that do not normally fit into your regular garbage.

DO NOT BRING: yard waste, chemical waste paint cans, fluorescent light tubes, hazardous substance;  
NO large appliances; NO construction debris.

New this year:

**You CAN bring electronic items such as old computers and TVs.** We will have a special truck for these. Volunteers are needed to help with the dumpster loading and to drive around the neighborhood picking up trash. If you can help out, or have a large item that needs to be picked up, contact Cory Anderson at: 303-0171.

This is York's 38th year hosting Dumpster Day. Special thanks to SSC for the free dumpster; Allied Waste/Republic Services for the free dumpage; Nelson's Market for the location; and our Dumpster King & Queen Cory Anderson and Carolyn Mulder.

**Dumpster Day**  
Continued from front page

**YOUR DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED!**

Thank-you to these neighbors and businesses for donations to the York Neighborhood Association (since the last printing of the newsletter):

Nina Chambers and Tucker Sparkman, Maureen Godwin, Barton Miller, Richard Smith, Shannon Spears, Jon Ostby and Anne Mackie, A.J. Kirkland and Rhythms of Life Wellness Studio.

Keep up to date with York news

Sign-up to receive York Neighborhood Assoc. announcements; email your contact info to [Listmaster@Yorkneighborhood.org](mailto:Listmaster@Yorkneighborhood.org)

Like our Facebook page: York Neighborhood Non-Profit Organization

Join Next Door York

Stay Connected, Know Your Neighbors

**York Neighborhood Association Donation Form**

- Students \$5.00     Household \$ 20.00
- Singles \$10.00     Other Amount
- Business \$100.00

*Includes a business-card size ad for four issues*

Make check payable to YNA  
(York Neighborhood Association)

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**Return Form & Check to:**  
Don Hilty – Jones  
YNA President

1316 Franklin St., Bellingham, WA 98225

## Calendar of Events

### YNA General Meeting

Wed., May 11

6:30pm Super Spring Salad Supper

7pm Speakers & Meeting

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

### YNA Board Meeting

Wed., June 8, 7pm

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

### Last Day of School

Free Ice Cream for York Kids

at Nelson's Market  
514 Potter St.

### Dumpster Day

Sat., June 18

8:30am to when it's full!  
Nelson's Market parking lot  
514 Potter St.



### YNA General Meeting

Wed., July 13

6:30pm Supper

7pm Speakers & Meeting

### YNA Board Meeting

Wed., August 10, 7pm

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

### York Annual Picnic

September – date to be announced  
at Franklin Park

## The Foundry says: “Come Make Stuff”

By Anne Mackie

YNA Secretary

Magic is happening with repurposed materials, tools, teachers, and technology in a re-purposed building that once was a car dealership garage. The Foundry at 1515 N. Forest St. in the York Neighborhood is alive with the “maker movement.”

Old mattress springs are reformed into a six-foot sculpture with lights encased in kitchen steel wool scrubbers. An old cabinet door tops a chair creating a new storage bench. Old lamps are given new life, and retirees teach young people how to fix stuff instead of tossing it to the landfill.

Co-Founder Mary Elliott Keane’s enthusiasm for reusing materials and creating an artistic exploratory lab is contagious. In her former profession as a pe-

diatric occupational therapist she frequently had to reconfigure equipment for her patients.

“Making a wheelchair work better for a child with Cerebral Palsy was something I learned to do,” she said. Now she has created a space where creative self-expression is exploding in a non-threatening lab of fun activity.

Laser cutters, 3-D printers, commercial sewing machines, an electronics lab, and wood shop are available for use to anyone who joins. “It’s kind of like a gym membership,” she explained. “A person can sign up for classes or just have use of our equipment.”

Find out more about this exciting addition to the York Neighborhood on The Foundry’s website at:



## The Bellingham Repair Café

Got broken lamps, household appliances, electronics? The Repair Café meets twice monthly at The Foundry with volunteers working on your broken stuff. Or, even better, you can learn to fix things yourself.

Don't have anything that needs fixing? Just stop by and learn, or socialize in a friendly atmosphere with a complimentary cup of tea or coffee and a pastry. It's a kid-friendly place, too, with a playroom so parents can focus on their work.

The Bellingham Café operates the first Wednesday of each month, 6pm to 9pm, and the first Sunday of each month, 3pm to 6pm. For more information call

360-310-8997, or check out their website at [www.bellinghamrc@icloud.com](http://www.bellinghamrc@icloud.com)

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## Let's keep Bellingham beautiful: Stop illegal dumping

By Anne Mackie  
YNA Secretary

Early on a June morning last year, with coffee in hand, I gazed out across my deck admiring the beautiful spring day. And what to my wandering eyes should appear?

A couch dumped on my curb. Now I'm the proud owner of someone else's unwanted garbage that is sure to get rained on in a day or two. So, I called the city Neighborhood Code Compliance Officer to request it be hauled away.

Annually the city spends nearly \$26,000 to haul away illegally dumped furniture and other household waste. Do people actually think dumping old furniture out on the street is really recycling? Or, are people just too lazy to haul their stuff away where it might have a chance to be put to good use?

A new "Don't Trash Bellingham" education campaign is coming to a street near you. The Campus Community Coalition, in conjunction with the

city's Public Works Dept., has formed a Tenant Waste Task Force and kicked off its campaign with signs throughout the city encouraging proper recycling or disposal of unwanted items.



**"Illegal Dumping" Needs To Stop!!**

*This chair was illegally dumped on Grant St. in York and sat there for nearly two months.*  
*"Don't trash Bellingham!"*  
*Attend York's Meeting May 11th to learn how to dispose of household items the right way.*

**DON'T TRASH BELLINGHAM!**  
When you move out, donate or dispose of your unwanted items responsibly, not curbside.

For more information, visit - [www.edu/offcampusliving](http://www.edu/offcampusliving)

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### Local Resources for Recycling

**House 2 Home** Network Virtual Furniture Bank: Quality, gently-used furniture. Free pick-ups. This program sponsored by the Opportunity Council actually gets furniture to people in need. It might take a few days to arrange for the pick up. 360-746-2362.

**Habitat for Humanity:** Picks up large items such as furniture and appliances that are in good condition. Go online to schedule a pickup, [www.hfhwhatcom.org](http://www.hfhwhatcom.org), or call 360-778-2036. Store is located at 1825 Cornwall Ave. and accepts donations only on Mondays, 10am to 5pm.

**Love, Inc :** A furniture ministry providing quality, used furniture to families in need. 360-671-6201. May also have a truck available to use for hauling your stuff to them.

**Appliance Depot:** Repairs and recycles appliances; may pick up larger appliances. Accepts microwaves; also has them for sale. Located at 802 Marine Dr. 360/527-2646; [www.appliancedepotbham.com](http://www.appliancedepotbham.com)

**Goodwill:** Takes almost anything except mattresses. Sunset Center, 1115 E. Sunset Dr., Mon - Sat, 8:00am - 8:00pm; Sun, 9:00am - 7:00pm.

**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:**  
Bellingham's Code Compliance Officer: 360-778-8800; to report illegally dumped furniture or trash.  
Whatcom County recycling hotline: 360-676-5723.

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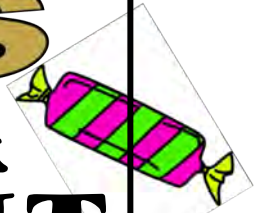
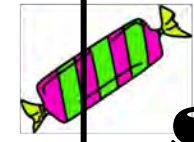
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# HEY KIDS

## Have Fun With The York SCAVENGER HUNT



### Here's how to play:

1. Walking with a parent or friend, try to find WHERE these pictures were taken in the York Neighborhood.
2. Next, write down the location where you find the picture.
3. List the street, corner, or part of the neighborhood where it was found.
4. When you have finished your HUNT, bring your answer sheet to Nelson's Market (514 Potter St.) where you can turn it in to win a treat.
5. Now, go ahead. Have fun exploring
6. Some may be very hard to find.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street and Location  
Below [Match & Win]

1
2
3
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12