

THE YORKER

NOVEMBER 2016



FROM THE YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION—BRINGING THE YORK COMMUNITY TOGETHER

York General Meeting

Wednesday, November 9th

6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

at Garden Street United Methodist Church
1326 North Garden Street

6:30 pm Harvest Soup Supper

7:00 pm Meeting


Topic: “Homeless in Bellingham”

- A showing of the film *The Trifecta: Mental Illness, Addiction, and Homelessness*, produced in Bellingham (22 min.)
- Panel presentation and discussion with:
Mayor Kelli Linville
Mike Parker, Director, Homeless Service Center
Kate Robertson, Street Outreach Team Lead
Police Officer Eric Osterkamp
Steve Nordeen, Grounds Supervisor, Bellingham Parks and Recreation

A variety of delicious harvest soups are provided by the York board members. Please bring salad (last name A through L) or dessert (M through Z) to share, plus your own table service. Coffee provided by **Nelson’s Market**.

If you need childcare, please contact Tom Scott, vicepresident@yorkneighborhood.org, a few days before the meeting so we can plan.

Hope to see you there!

 Prefer to read *The Yorker* in digital format?
Get it here:
www.yorkneighborhood.org/newsletters

Special thanks to York business
Great Harvest Bread for donating
dinner rolls for the harvest soup supper.



IN THIS ISSUE

President’s Corner	2
Franklin Park updates	2–3
Fundraising campaign results	3
How to be a good neighbor	4
Student resources	5
Tips for avoiding device theft	6
New York District neighbors	6–7
Annual picnic report	7
Rental inspections news	7
Calendar of events	8

Soggy work party, positive results

On October 15th, more than a dozen hardy volunteers showed up in the rain—and between major windstorms—to help remove invasive plants, spread mulch, and support native vegetation on the Franklin Street island just north of Franklin Park, near Lakeway Drive, where the group made serious headway.

Special thanks to **Woods Coffee** for donating hot coffee and pastries, **Lisa Anderson** for dropping off delicious cupcakes, and **Rae Edwards** and her **Bellingham Parks** crew for providing tools and expertise to make it an effective work party.

If you’re interested in supporting future Franklin Park improvements, contact **Mark Schofield** at 206-931-6382 or franklinparksteward@yorkneighborhood.org.

YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

c/o 1316 Franklin Street, Bellingham WA 98225

www.yorkneighborhood.org • President@yorkneighborhood.org • [#YorkNeighborhood](https://www.facebook.com/YorkNeighborhood)



President's Corner

York asks City officials to adopt a "new attitude"

By Don Hilty-Jones, YNA President

Over 140 people from 15 different neighborhoods attended York's public forum on Housing Concerns held Sept. 14 at the Garden Street United Methodist Church. In the spirit of a town-hall format, the open microphone allowed multiple speakers to share concerns about the city's lack of zoning enforcement, which has meant a de facto "up zone" in York of our single family neighborhood and has allowed overcrowding into neighborhoods that were not planned for this level of infill density.

York speaker **Anne Mackie** voiced the request that the City Council adopt a "new attitude" that seeks out community wisdom and participation and recognizes that the public possesses expertise and knowledge that can strengthen plans, policies, and decision-making. **Sean Wheeler** provided an analysis about why rents and sale prices are so unaffordable in York with deep pocket realtors buying up once-affordable housing and converting them into illegal rooming houses at high rents of \$2500 to \$3000 per month. WWU student and York Board member **Ben Larson** talked about the challenges for students to find affordable, decent rental housing.

Five City Council members attended the forum: **Terry Bornemann, Michael Lilliquist, Pinky Vargas, Gene Knutson, and Dan Hammill**. It was great to see them and others there who share interest about our city's affordable-housing crisis.



Upcoming 2017 Board Nominations

Board elections will be held at York's annual meeting, January 11. To be elected to the board, you need to have attended at least two meetings, so if you are interested be sure to come November 9 and January 11, and please let me know. Officers will be elected on February 8, at the Board's first meeting of the new year.

We encourage new folks to get involved and bring your talents to our many neighborhood projects. The 2016 board has 10 members, with a variety of backgrounds: retired civil/simple servant **Don Hilty-Jones** (yours truly), self-employed IT consultant **Tom Scott**, small-business owner **Anne Mackie**, early-childhood-development consultant **Kim Owen**, public-health nurse **Kim Niederhauser**, Whatcom County road crewman **Cory Anderson**, social-service-agency employee **Mark Schofield**, and WWU student reps **Audrey Roberts, Eddie Tabor, and Ben Larson**.

Please contact me if you are interested in putting your name up for nomination: President@yorkneighborhood.org.

Franklin Park repairs

"Hey, where's the basketball hoop?"

In the early morning hours of June 19th, an out-of-control vehicle careened through Franklin Park. The park was empty and no one was injured, but this episode resulted in significant damage to park structures. The basketball hoop was toppled and mangled. The heavy top of the stone bench was knocked off its legs. A wooden bench was destroyed. And the ever-popular spinning Super Nova was demolished.

Within a few days, City of Bellingham personnel had effectively cleaned up the mess and reassembled the stone bench. But the loss of some key park amenities put a damper on residents' summertime enjoyment of the park.

City officials have been working with the wayward driver's insurance company to cover the costs of replacing the destroyed structures. According to city staff, replacement equipment will be purchased once the city receives payment from the insurance company. Delivery and installation of the new equipment is expected in early 2017.

York neighbors and visitors look forward to the day when these beloved, well-used components of the park are fully restored. Thanks to City staff for working to repair park structures that bring so much pleasure to our neighborhood.



Jane Richardson PT, ScD, OCS, COMT

(360) 738-4300
FAX: (360) 738-8010

1408 N. Garden Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

www.skyline-physicaltherapy.com



1409 N. FOREST STREET
BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

Family Owned and
Operated since 1948



Honoring former State Senator Harriet Spanel

By Anne Mackie, YNA Secretary/Treasurer

The York and Sehome Neighborhood Boards are collaborating to gain City Council support to rename Franklin Park to become the “Harriet Spanel Park” in honor of a woman who served our community at both the local and state levels.

Harriet Spanel, former Democratic State Senator (1993–2009) and State Legislator (1987–1993) for the 40th Washington Legislative District, died last February. Franklin Park is located in the 40th District. At the time of her death, Harriet was the Sehome Neighborhood president; her commitment to community service and political activism had gone full circle.

In the 1970s Harriet was a mom raising kids in York, living in the 1100 block of Grant Street. Her children attended Franklin Elementary School, a block away. Her husband, **Les**, was a new professor of Physics at WWU. When it was announced that the school was to be demolished Harriet tried to save it, but it was too much in disrepair and would be demolished in 1972. She then began an effort to get the property transferred from the school district to the city for use as a park. The “Friends of Franklin Park” became a moving force in getting a much-needed park for the neighborhood. At that time, she was serving on the Bellingham Parks and Recreation Board. Later, she would be appointed to serve on the Bellingham Planning Commission.

Harriet is remembered for her activism against nuclear power plants and in favor of environmental protections. She championed many programs that benefitted women and children as well as all citizens of Washington state. Renaming Franklin Park in her honor helps to memorialize these contributions and holds Harriet up as a powerful role model for new generations who will continue to enjoy a wonderful community park.

Letters of support for the park renaming are encouraged and can be emailed to Secretary@yorkneighborhood.org. Your letters should be written to the “Attention of City Council” and will be turned in when the City Council sets a date for this agenda item.

Meeting on October 14 to discuss the renaming of Franklin Park to the “Harriet Spanel Park” were (left to right) **Tim Hostetler**, President, Sehome Neighborhood; **Phil Spanel**; **Martha Burns**; and **Don Hilty-Jones**, York Neighborhood Association president. Photo by Anne Mackie.



Annual fundraising campaign a HUGE success!

By Anne Mackie, YNA Secretary/Treasurer

Thank you to all our neighbors and businesses who helped raise **\$1,165** in York’s recent fundraising campaign. Your contributions help pay for the annual picnic, holiday caroling horse wagon ride, parks projects, meeting signage, and printing of *The Yorker* newsletter. What a great neighborhood of supporters!

Lisa & Cory Anderson
 Martina & Theodore Ardans
 Ken Barkley
 Ron Barnett
 Thomas & Michelle Barrie
 Eric Baumgartner & Carolyn Mulder
 Laurie & Jeff Brown
 Michelle Burkhart & Mark Schofield
 Sarah & Dan Campbell
 Kirsti & Fred Charlton
 Tracey & Douglas Dickinson
 Rob & Susan Dillard
 Alex Gehring
 Lynn & Ray Gobush
 Maureen Godwin
 Megan & Dan Gould
 Don Hilty-Jones & Michael Neville
 Judy & Dave Hopkinson
 Dale Kreider
 Ben Larson
 Bob & Karen Lazzar-Atwood
 Anne Mackie & Jon Ostby
 Lisa & Dan McShane
 Barton Miller
 Carolyn Milling & John Wiley
 ModSock (Urana Shaklee)
 Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood
 Kim Niederhauser
 Mark & Luann Nuyens
 Kim & Jim Owen
 Lydia Pan
 Greg Peterson
 Chris Robinson & Amy Carder
 Lance Romo
 Alan & Kirsten Shore
 Skyline Physical Therapy (Jane Richardson)
 Richard Smith
 Shannon Spears
 Darroll Streib
 Edward Tabor
 Howard & Patti VanLaeken
 Michele & Eric Waltz
 Dan Weeks
 James Wietlispatch

And we received a \$100 anonymous donation in memory of **Mel Charlton**, who lived his whole life in the York Neighborhood. Mel passed away in October 2015.

How to be a good neighbor

By Kim Bogren Owen

Just out of college, I rented the top floor of an old Victorian house in Boulder close to campus. We lived across the street from a new and just-starting-to-get-known band—The Samples (if you haven't heard of them, that's OK—they're more of a Colorado band).

Cool, you say. Yes, yes, it was.... Until I had to get up at 6 a.m. to work with 10 toddlers, and the Samples decided to hold a party until the wee hours of the morning. While I enjoy and own their music, I still called the police when they would not quiet down after we explained our work schedules.

In order to help you avoid either being the offender *or* the offended, here are a few suggestions on how to be a good neighbor in York—for renters and homeowners alike.

- **Introduce yourself** to your neighbor!
- **Offer to help** a neighbor with yard work, car troubles, or cooking.
- **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, keep your trash in bags or a can, and clean up after yourself if you use any common areas.
- **Park only in designated spots**, and take only one parking spot and leave 3 feet between your car and driveways (but not more, to allow others room to park).
- **Keep the noise down.** Keep in mind, many people here work odd hours or have young children and may need quiet at other times. Bellingham has a 24-hour noise ordinance; any loud or boisterous noise, any time of day or night, is illegal.
- Expect the police to be called if you are violating **city codes** such as noise or parking (see the link on the facing page). And call 911 if you feel threatened in any way.
- 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. Remind party guests to leave quietly when they go.
- If you have a concern or problem with a neighbor, **go talk to them in person** and explain how you are being affected. Problem-solve together, and be prepared to compromise.

This is a neighborhood of families, retirees, young working people, old working people who wish they didn't have to work, and students. **We all strive to live in harmony.**

For more resources and ideas for being a good neighbor, see the links in the box on the facing page.

Live your
dreams

Think about an
IUD or Implant.

Call 1.800.230.PLAN
today.



An unintended pregnancy can detour your dreams. **Long-acting reversible contraception**, like the IUD or implant, is **safe, effective**, and can help you live the life you plan yourself.

mbpp.org
Bellingham | Mount Vernon | Friday Harbor

Mission Statement of the York Neighborhood Association:

- To reduce isolation among residents;
- To enhance the quality of life in a low- and moderate-income urban neighborhood;
- To create a sense of community;
- To reduce or prevent crime; and
- To preserve the historic character of the neighborhood.



Student Renter Resources

Getting your first place off campus is exciting and a huge step, but it can also be fraught with mistakes and challenges. While York has many honest and caring landlords, there are a few who fail to live up to their obligations as landlords.

Most of the local colleges have resources to help support you, but in case you have not seen them, here are some resources to help you navigate being a renter.

WWU Renters Guide

www.wwu.edu/offcampusliving/renter_guide.shtml

WWU Campus Community Coalition

www.campuscommunitycoalition.com

AS Legal Information Center for help with legal questions

as.wwu.edu/legalinfo

Law Advocates

www.lawadvocates.org

City of Bellingham Rental and Inspection Program

www.cob.org/services/housing/rentals

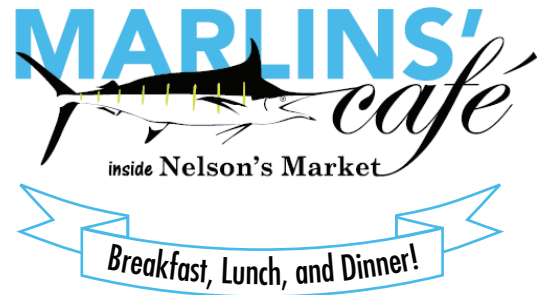
Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center

whatcomdrc.org

Bellingham Municipal Code

www.codepublishing.com/WA/Bellingham

etiquette.about.com/od/RelationshipEtiquette/a/Neighborhood-Etiquette.htm



great burgers & fries

7 days a week

homemade soups

in the historic York neighborhood at 514 Potter Street

microbrews on tap

dinner-plate specials

Happy Hour 4-6 PM

wine by the glass or bottle



call in to take out:
734-2448



#Nelsons-Market-Marlins-Cafe



Fantastic Frames. Thorough Doctor. Outstanding Service.

Binyon Vision Center
Located Downtown Bellingham Since 1933!
411 E. Magnolia Street 647-2020
www.binyonvision.com

Garden Street United Methodist Church

1326 North Garden Street · Bellingham

*A reconciling, LGBTQ-friendly congregation
Growing relationships, with God*

Sunday worship services 8:30 am and 10:30 am



Rev. Kathy Hartgraves
360 733 7440
www.gardenstreetumc.org



Welcome to new Yorker Julia Burns, Campus Community Coalition Coordinator

By Anne Mackie, YNA Secretary/Treasurer

We are pleased to welcome Julia Burns as a new York neighbor and in her new position as WWU's Campus Community Coalition and New Student Program Initiatives Coordinator. She will head up collaborations between the university, neighborhoods, and the City for programs to improve relationships such as the "Don't Trash Bellingham" waste-reduction program and the new "Town & Gown" initiative.



photo by Jonathan Williams, Western Today

"I'm excited to help break down the silos between campus and the community and find ways we can support each other," Julia said. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Washington in Community and Environmental

Planning, was a planner with the City of Bellingham, and worked for Futurewise. Julia replaces Carmen Rasmussen, who is now working in Everett.

Contact Julie at 650-6863 or julia.burns@wwu.edu.

Beware! Computer thefts are up

By Tom Scott, YNA Vice President

A recent uptick in computer thefts in York neighborhood has gained the attention of law enforcement, and we want our residents to reduce crimes of opportunity especially as the holiday season approaches and many folks leave town.

Keep devices that are not in use out of sight. This means locked doors and windows. Don't leave your laptop or tablet glowing into the night and obvious from outside your residence. If your device won't be used for some time, turn it off; off is undetectable.

And remember, if you are hosting a party and don't know all your guests, put your devices out of sight. Better yet, don't host parties with large numbers of unknown guests!

Don't be obvious or unguarded with your devices – phones, laptops, or computers. Don't leave your phone out on a café table or on the counter when paying. And, when you're on the move, secure your device in your backpack, brief case, or handbag. When using a backpack, use a double strap.

Several companies offer tracking software in case your device is stolen. And some come with tracking software (anti-malware, anti-phishing, local firewall, and tracking). So much the better.

Lydia Place becomes a new York neighbor

By Emily O'Connor, Executive Director, Lydia Place



On September 23rd, **Lydia Place** became the excited new owners of **Bell Tower Studios** on North Garden Street in the York neighborhood. Lydia Place has been serving families experiencing homelessness for 27 years in the Puget neighborhood (just on the other side of I-5).

We are honored and delighted to be joining the York neighborhood! As homelessness continues to rise in our community, Lydia Place works to look for ways to meet this growing need. Our housing programs and partnerships serve over 650 adults and children every year.

With the growth of programs in recent years, Lydia Place needed to expand our program space. The mixed use of the Bell Tower building provided a unique opportunity to do just that, meeting the needs of some of our most vulnerable neighbors while creating more housing.

Bell Tower Studios will provide much-needed housing for women experiencing homelessness, in an accessible and central location. Upstairs, the Bell Tower Community Center will be the new home of our Housing Program team, providing on-site support to residents as well as community-building activities. Further, the Community Center will continue to serve as a dance floor and exercise studio for local businesses. We will begin moving in December and look forward to meeting all our new neighbors at an open house in the new year.

We look forward to building relationships with the great people of York! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 671-7663 ext. 2002 or at admin@lydiaplace.org. Thank you for the warm welcome, York!

Rhythms of Life
wellness studio

Kim Haustedt, D.C., QNCP

1404 N. Garden Street, Bellingham, WA 98225
Tel: (360) 714-0550 info@rolws.com www.rolws.com

CITIZENWORKS

MARK ELLIS WALKER GRAPHIC DESIGN

...and then some.



www.MarkEllisWalker.net/work

illico@MarkEllisWalker.net

360 920 2735

Bellingham



Good times at the annual York picnic

York's annual picnic, held on September 17 at Franklin Park, was a huge success despite crummy weather. Thanks to all who participated and helped make it a success, especially **Cory and Lisa Anderson** for their grilling expertise, canopy, and great piñata for the kids.

We raised nearly \$200 with the pie raffle. WWU's **Ultimate Frisbee team** members demonstrated their talents, and York's own **Snake & Oil** swamp musicians provided tunes to stay warm by.



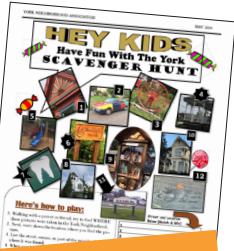
Miles enjoyed his first York picnic with mom Michelle.



Pie-affle winners were happy. Someone went home with this beauty!



York's Snake & Oil musicians entertained picnickers. Thanks Mark, Leigh, and Mark.



Congratulations to York kids **Lucas and Anya Cannizzaro**, who solved the York Scavenger Hunt puzzle from the May edition of the newsletter. You did a great job tracking down all the secret spots!

Welcome Eleanor Apartments and senior residents to York

Construction began in September on a new senior-housing project in the triangular-shaped property formerly known as the Wilson's Motors lot at North Forest Street, East Champion, and Ellis Street in the York neighborhood. The 4-story wood structure will house 80 apartments for extremely low-income seniors. **Mercy Housing Northwest** is the developer. The site will include a courtyard with seating areas, a P-patch garden, and a landscaped rain garden.

The developers worked closely with the York Neighborhood Association, notifying members step-by-step as their project progressed through the approval process. In 2009, the YNA initiated a rezone of Subarea 2 of York that would allow this kind of higher-density development by reducing the parking requirements per unit. The rezone opened the door to a project such as this where seniors can walk to WTA's transit center, grocery stores, and other downtown services. Welcome to our new neighbors! It's exciting to see this property take on a new life.

Rental inspections performed in York

Beginning in October, mandatory rental inspections began in York neighborhood for approximately 575 rental units. The inspection program is designed to ensure that all rental housing units comply with specific life and fire safety standards and are providing a safe place for tenants to live.

Tenants need to be sure to locate the "rental registration" notice posted within your unit that shows your landlord has registered the property with the City. If one is not posted, contact **Emma Burnfield**, Bellingham's Rental Registration Specialist, at rentals@cob.org or 778-8361.

Bellingham rental inspections began in June 2016 and kicked off in the Sehome neighborhood, where only 50% passed at first inspection. This performance at meeting basic life and fire safety standards is appalling. We hope York has a better performance, but it will be no surprise to see many fall below standard. *The Yorker* will report the neighborhood's inspection results in the January 2017 newsletter.

York Neighborhood Holiday Party

Everyone is invited to join the fun at the 12th Annual Holiday Party, Saturday, December 10 at **Nelson's Market**. The fun begins at 5:00 pm, when the first horse-drawn wagon rides take off. The rides will continue until everyone has had a turn.

- The rides are free; we just ask that you bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the **Bellingham Food Bank**. Tickets will be issued for the rides so you can know approximately what time your ride will be.
- Bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share if you can. Hot cocoa and cider is provided.
- **Sehome High School** choir members will lead our caroling at the party and along the wagon route. Songbooks provided.
- Sponsors for the event are the **York Neighborhood Association**, **On-Site Computer Services**, and **Nelson's Market**.



Calendar of York Events

November						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	ELECTION 8 DAY	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

You can also find interesting free events held downtown at the *Whatcom Museum of History and Art*, including by our local *Historical Society*, *Parks Department*, and *Audubon Society*, at whatcommuseum.org/events

YNA General Meeting

Wednesday, November 9

Supper: Harvest Soups—6:30 pm

Meeting—7:00 pm

Topic: Homeless in Bellingham

Garden Street United Methodist Church

1326 North Garden Street

Rock Hill Work Party

Saturday, November 12

10 am–Noon

At the park, end of the 1300 block of Iron Street

All are welcome to come help!

Wine & Roses Garden Club

Saturday, December 3

6:00 pm

For location and more information, contact

Secretary@yorkneighborhood.org

Annual Horse Wagon and

Caroling Holiday Party

Saturday, December 10

5:00–8:00 pm

At Nelson's Market, 514 Potter Street

Bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the

Bellingham Food Bank

York Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 14

7:00 pm

At Garden Street United Methodist Church

1326 North Garden Street

York Annual Membership Meeting

and Election of 2017 YNA Board

Wednesday, January 11

Supper—6:30 pm · Meeting—7:00 pm

Garden Street United Methodist Church,

downstairs dining room

1326 North Garden Street

Advertise in *The Yorker!*

★ **GREAT RATES** ★

Business-card size

\$30 per issue or \$100 for four issues

¼ page

\$50 per issue or \$175 for four

½ page

\$100 per issue or \$375 for four

Full page

\$200 per issue or \$750 for four

1,000 copies delivered door-to-door!

Contact:

YorkerEditor@yorkneighborhood.org

We appreciate the support we receive from our local businesses!



2016 York Neighborhood Association

Officers

President: **Don Hilty-Jones**

Vice President: **Tom Scott**

Treasurer + Secretary: **Anne Mackie**

Additional Board Members

Cory Anderson

Ben Larson (WWU Student Rep)

Kim Niederhauser

Kim Owen

Audrey Roberts (WWU Student Rep)

Mark Schofield

Edward Tabor (WWU Student Rep)

Newsletter layout: **Mark Ellis Walker**

CONTACT

York Neighborhood Association

c/o 1316 Franklin St.

Bellingham WA 98225

President@YorkNeighborhood.org

website: www.YorkNeighborhood.org

For advertising / business

donations, contact:

YorkerEditor@YorkNeighborhood.org

Donations to the York Neighborhood Association are appreciated!

YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION DONATION FORM

suggested donation levels

Students—\$5 Household—\$20 Singles—\$10 Other Amount _____

Business—\$100 includes a business-card-size ad for four issues of *The Yorker*

Make check payable to the **York Neighborhood Association**

Name _____

Address _____ Phone Number _____

Email _____

Return form and check to: Anne Mackie, YNA Treasurer · 1316 Franklin St.
Bellingham WA 98225