



FROM THE YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION—BRINGING THE YORK COMMUNITY TOGETHER

York Neighborhood Annual Meeting

Wednesday, January 11th
at Garden Street United Methodist Church
1326 North Garden Street

6:30 pm Chili Feed • 7:00 pm Meeting



Topic: **“The State of the City and the County: Key Issues for 2017”** with elected officials

Also on the agenda: **“Water Metering in York Begins in February.”** Join this informational Q&A with **Anitra Accetturo**, Water Conservation Program Coordinator, City of Bellingham.

Board members will provide an array of delicious chili. You bring dessert (last name A through F), cornbread (G–M), or salad (N–Z). Also bring 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.

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www.yorkneighborhood.org/newsletter.htm

Magical music memories

Members of the **Sehome High School Choir** led Yorkers in caroling at the **Annual Holiday Party** held December 10 at **Nelson’s Market**. Thank-you to all who helped: **Don Hilty-Jones** for the songbooks; **Kirsti Charlton** and **Judy and Dave Hopkinson** for hot cocoa; **Lisa and Cory Anderson** and **Tom Scott** for event coordination; everyone for great cookies and treats; and **Jon Ostby** at **Nelson’s Market**. It was a great party!



Caroling at the 2016 Holiday Party photo by Kim Owen

YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

c/o 1316 Franklin Street, Bellingham WA 98225

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



President's Corner

2016 brought new people out to get involved in community work

By Don Hilty-Jones, YNA President

A look back at 2016 in York showed an increase in community involvement, more interest in both local and national politics, and a continued commitment to projects right here in the 'hood.

“Public Safety in York” was the topic that kicked off our first general meeting in January with guest speakers Bellingham Police Chief Clifford Cook, Officer Eric Osterkamp, and Fire Department representative Scott Rykman.

Home safety was a hot topic after York's Ellis Street house fire in January, which displaced six WWU women students. Rental safety was at the center of another important issue in 2016 when the City of Bellingham began Rental Registration and Safety Inspections in York in November. (At time of this printing, we do not yet have results of those inspections.)

Volunteer park stewards Mark Schofield at Franklin Park and Audrey Roberts and Edward Tabor at Rock Hill oversaw work projects. In November the City Council approved renaming of Franklin Park to honor our former State Senator Harriett Spanel, who died in February 2016. A dedication party will be held in the spring with both York and Sehome neighborhoods participating.



Bellingham's first “Don't Trash Bellingham” educational campaign worked to reduce garbage and unwanted furniture discards. Building on the theme of how students can work positively with older neighbors, the topic of “Town and Gown” was featured at our spring meeting, with guest speakers from WWU and Whatcom Community College.

Two “Little Libraries” got built in York by volunteers, making free books available in the neighborhood. NextDoor and our own YNA website and email list helped inform neighbors about crime, car prowls, lost pets, household items for sale, and opinions to share. We held our annual picnic in September and the holiday caroling party in December, although road conditions did not allow the horse wagon rides at the latter; better luck in 2017!

With just a handful of volunteers, we have accomplished so much this last year. We hope new folks will be interested in joining the YNA and helping out with great projects like these next year. I hope you will consider putting your name forward for board elections to be held January 11 at the Annual Meeting.

YNA Board elections

Nominations are open for the 2017 YNA Board of Directors. One requirement is that you have attended a minimum of two York meetings—either a general meeting or a board meeting—in order to qualify for election. You also need to live in York or own a business here.

The election will be held at the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 11 (details on page 1). If you wish to nominate someone, or want to put your name forward, please contact President Don Hilty-Jones prior to the January 11 meeting at President@yorkneighborhood.org.

Returning Board members seeking reelection are Cory Anderson, Don Hilty-Jones, Ben Larson (WWU), Anne Mackie, Audrey Roberts (WWU), Mark Schofield, Kim Niederhauser, Kim Owen, Tom Scott, and Edward Tabor (WWU).

This newsletter needs YOU!

We have a few blocks in the York neighborhood that have lost their newsletter volunteer—someone who helps hand out the newsletter approximately four times a year. This volunteer job is a great way to get exercise and get to know your neighbors. If you'd like to volunteer to be your block's newsletter volunteer, or help as a substitute a few times a year, please contact Anne Mackie, secretary@yorkneighborhood.org.

Thank-you to these York neighbors for their financial support (donated since publication of the November 2016 newsletter):

Kirsti Charlton, Judy Hopkinson,
Kevin Covey & Sarah Spotts,
Therese Norton, Kim & Matt Niederhauser,
Warren Sheay, Shannon Spears

And, thank-you to the City of Bellingham for the annual \$500 reimbursement for neighborhood expenses.

Thank-you to these business supporters for their ongoing support of the York neighborhood!

A.A. Anderson Co., Inc.
Aslan Brewing Co.
Binyon Vision Center
Garden Street United Methodist Church
Great Harvest Bread
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Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood
Nelson's Market / Marlins' Café
On-Site Computer Services
Rhythms of Life Wellness Studio
Skyline Physical Therapy

Nominated for York's 2017 Board: meet three who are stepping up to help out

Dr. Jean Layton, naturopathic physician, has been nominated to join the York board in 2017. She and her family—husband Ed, acupuncturist with HamsterPuncture, and twin daughters—have lived in York since 2011 and in Bellingham for 12 years. She attended medical school in Portland but was born in Demarest, New Jersey. She lived for many years in New York City.



Like many folks in Bellingham, Jean wears a lot of hats. She's a social-media manager, published author (*Gluten-Free Baking for Dummies*), and teacher at Whatcom Community College and the Food Co-op. Hobbies include cooking and baking (gluten-free, of course), knitting, organic food gardening, house renovation, and activism.

"With our twin daughters' lives launching into adulthood and the dust from the last election settling, I knew I would have more time. Bernie Sanders inspired me to get involved in our local politics, and I want to help our neighborhood thrive." Her past community organizing experience includes participation in homelessness assistance and helping people who were homebound with AIDS.

A second nominee is **Leigh McDiarmid**, a York resident since 2004 who has lived in Bellingham since 1994. Leigh is a practicing hypnotherapist and teaches classes at Whatcom Community College to help people use hypnosis for issues like insomnia and weight control.



Leigh wants to join the York board because she appreciates its commitment to maintaining the character of York. *"Recent actions of the city council and county council make me realize I don't want to be passive while others make the decisions that affect our quality of life."*

Years ago she served as a Skagit Food Co-op board member, plus she has experience in technical editing and was a writing instructor at WWU and WCC.



Mark Sherman is our third new nominee. A 12-year York resident, Mark has just retired from 30 years of teaching English at Western.



You may have heard him playing the accordion or mandolin as part of the zydeco band at the York annual picnic or at Nelson's Market for Mardi Gras celebrations each year. He's a former member of the The Kingbees of the Bayou, a zydeco band known for playing frequent summer concerts at both Boulevard Park and Elizabeth Park. Over the years, the band opened for the Doobie Brothers, Swamp Mama Johnson, and other Pacific Northwest favorites.

Mark wants to join the YNA board because the neighborhood "feels special" to his family. *"Over the years, my family has become more and more aware that this is a shared value. Every community meeting and every York celebration we attend demonstrates this. York people have a positive passion for maintaining the special character of their neighborhood and having a voice in the decisions that affect how their neighborhood and city grows. I would like to be a part of that."*

Besides teaching, Mark has worked as a touring musician, technical writer, author of a book on palmistry (*Palms Up!—A Handy Guide to 21st Century Palmistry*), and taxi driver.

Duties of Board members

Responsibilities for board members include attending four general meetings and six board meetings per year. Meetings generally are held the second Wednesday of the month. It's okay to miss a few if necessary. Bring your ideas for new projects and be willing to help coordinate one of our current projects such as being a park co-steward, helping to organize the annual dumpster-day neighborhood cleanup, the annual picnic, or holiday caroling party and horse wagon rides. Each board member helps to hand out the newsletters on their block about four times a year.

In 2017 we hope to revitalize some of our committees such as Historic Preservation, Planning, Transportation/Parking/ Pedestrian Safety, and Trash Pick-up. Board members help select speakers and topics for our quarterly education programs. For a sample of last year's topics, see the **President's Corner** report on page 2.

If you are interested in reading minutes of the board meetings, to get a general idea about what is discussed at meetings, the 2016 minutes are posted on the YNA website: www.yorkneighborhood.org.

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.

Calendar of York Events

January						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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				

February						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			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				

March						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			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	

Annual York Meeting
Wednesday, January 11
 Chili Feed—6:30 pm
 Meeting—7:00 pm; election of YNA Board
 Topics: *The State of the City and the County:*
Key Issues for 2017
and Water Metering in York
 at Garden Street United Methodist Church,
 downstairs dining room
 1326 North Garden Street

Martin Luther King Day Celebration
Monday, January 16
 Noon
 at City Hall

York Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 8
 Meeting—7:00 pm; election of 2017 Officers
 at Garden Street United Methodist Church
 1326 North Garden Street

York General Spring Meeting
Wednesday, March 8
 Dinner 6:30 pm, Meeting 7:00 pm
 at Garden Street United Methodist Church
 1326 North Garden Street

Celebrate O'York St. Paddy's Day
with Irish Music and Food
Friday, March 17
 5:00–7:00 pm
 at Nelson's Market
 514 Potter Street

WWU Spring Break
March 20 to 27

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Contact:
 YorkerEditor@yorkneighborhood.org

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 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**

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: YNA Treasurer · 1316 Franklin St.
 Bellingham WA 98225

CONTACT

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