

THE YORKER

FEBRUARY 2020



FROM THE YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION—BRINGING THE YORK COMMUNITY TOGETHER

YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

5:30pm gather, 6:00pm meeting

at Garden Street United Methodist Church,
1326 North Garden Street—Room B

5:30pm— **Pizza Party** (provided by the YNA Board),
potluck salads and desserts from members;
plus **Valentine-making** for the kids!

6:00pm— **Meeting**

Topics:

- Meet Mayor Seth Fleetwood
- Samish Way Urban Village Update and Q&A—Senior Planner Darby Cowles
- YNA Board of Directors Final Nominations & Election
- Progress report for proposed amendment of **York's Neighborhood Plan** (Area 1, north of Meador Avenue)



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Join the Wine and Roses Garden Club

It's snowing, and temperatures are in the 30s, but...

LET'S TALK SEEDS.

*Bring your favorite seed catalog,
seeds to trade, and wine that goes with.*

*Let's talk about your planting plan
for March as well as exchange
thoughts for this group for the future.*



Come to a great afternoon
at 1445 Grant Street
Sunday, February 16th
@ 3pm

Prefer to read *The Yorker* in digital format?
Get it here:

yorkneighborhood.org/newsletters



YORK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

c/o 336 36th St #370, Bellingham WA 98225

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



News from the 'hood

In October, we had a very engaging and interesting meeting at **Garden Street United Methodist Church** (which kindly hosts all YNA meetings!), attended by around 40 neighbors and starting with a taco supper. Board member **Anne Mackie** got a pumpkin-decorating station set up to occupy the kids while the meeting got underway.

Guests included representatives from the **City's Planning Department** and the **Bellingham School District**, as well as the new owner of **Bellingham Ford** (formerly Diehl Ford). Whatcom Creek forms York's northern border, and efforts by the YNA to further care for and protect the creek and enhance the neighborhood's amenities and housing by better use of the flanking properties in York are why we're looking to update the **York Comprehensive Plan** to guide future development. City planner **Chris Koch** gave us an overview and update on how that process works and what can be expected of its implementation.

Brien Thane, CEO of the **Bellingham Housing Authority**, gave us a great presentation on the development of the former **Aloha Motel** site (just across from York's southern leg, where Samish Way meets Maple Street) into a multigenerational, subsidized housing facility combined with commercial space and off-street parking. This project, the **Samish Commons**, began as a community effort to replace blighted properties that were keeping Samish Way in a trap of seediness but now are bearing fruit as part of the overall **Samish Way Urban Village plan** that resulted from that neighborhood activism.

Thane invited us to attend the formal groundbreaking ceremony for the first building of the redevelopment, which then took place on Halloween. See page 4 for more about that event and the development underway.

Phase I includes 69 apartments and 5 townhouses with subsidized rents, with leasing to start in early 2021. Phase II includes a second building with an emphasis on senior housing. You can learn more about this exciting project at www.bellinghamhousing.org.

Next, we heard from **Chris Roselli**, **Director of Community Relations for Western Washington University**, about a fascinating variety of projects underway of interest to York residents and businesses. Among them are a new dorm (replacing Highland Hall) and an Electrical Engineering building, a multicultural center about to open, and a new housing assessment to be completed by the end of the year.

Chris also sent this message to Western students: please notify the university when your address or other contact info changes! And see page 5 for more about Western's resources and activities for off-campus living.

Officer Jon Knutsen of the Bellingham Police Department,

who last year became the Community Policing contact for the York neighborhood, gave a presentation on personal safety at night. As we know, much of York is quite dark in the evenings and lacks adequate street lighting, so his insights were much appreciated.



He also reminded us about **Bellingham Neighbors Together**, a Police Department effort we've reported here previously—a sort of community-level volunteer engagement to help combat crime in our neighborhoods.

For more details about Officer Knutsen's specific recommendations and the questions that were raised by attendees, check out the meeting minutes at www.yorkneighborhood.org/minutesandreports.htm.

*Want to help determine what gets presented at these meetings?
Consider joining the YNA Board! We'd love to have your input!
Contact President@YorkNeighborhood.org.*


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Parking and 911 tips

At the October general neighborhood meeting, residents had questions and concerns to present to **Officer Jon Knutsen**. Here are some of the helpful insights we got from him:

PARKING CITATIONS are largely complaint-driven, not a consequence of predatorial enforcement. That said, there are some violations frequently to be seen around York that are easily preventable.

- There's a **72-hour limit** for parking any vehicle on any city right-of-way.
- **Park in the same direction as traffic flow.** Many York drivers have a bad habit of wrong-way parking!
- Don't park **on lawns or across sidewalks.**

WHEN TO CALL 911? Any time you need to report something to the police.

- Generally, the same dispatcher handles both emergency and nonurgent calls. If you're reporting something a non-emergency, just say that right at the start of your call.
- **Do** call to report excessively noisy parties; if they persist, this establishes a record that can be acted on.
- Reporting locations of homeless encampments is helpful because it doesn't just become a police issue: it also triggers outreach efforts.

You can also report crimes, parking violations, and more via the Police Department's website: www.cob.org/services/safety/police/reporting. They acknowledge that their system for this isn't perfect, but it's especially good for situations in which you don't need follow-up confirmation.

IF YOU HAVE A BICYCLE, be sure you have a copy of its serial number and make/model and, ideally, a photo of it. These truly can reunite you with a bike if it's been stolen.

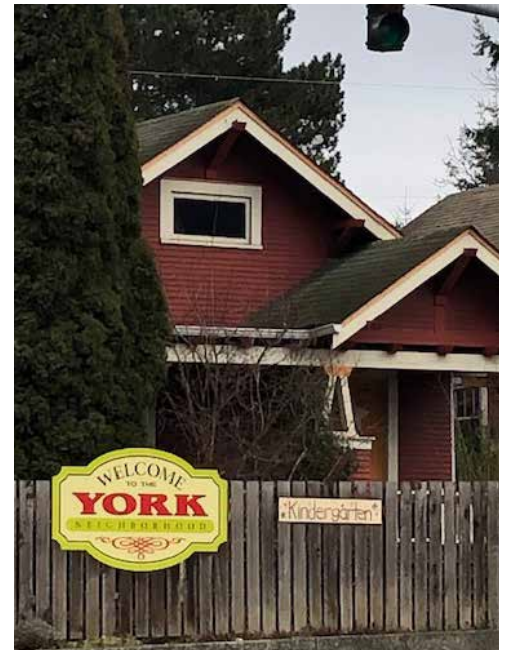
You can download the Police Department's brochure on parking dos and don'ts here: www.yorkneighborhood.org/COB_Parking.pdf

New signs brighten up York

Look around and see some bright new signs in York! Two "Welcome to York" signs, street-sign toppers, and curbside meeting-announcement signs were all funded by a 2019 **City of Bellingham Small & Simple Grant**.

A new colorful "Welcome" sign is located at the intersection of **Ellis and Chestnut** streets, mounted on the fence at the **Loving Space School**. The original sign at the **Ellis and Magnolia** intersection has gotten a new paint job, too. And, as a way to connect the areas of York Neighborhood south of Lakeway Drive and west of Ellis Street, green reflective "Welcome to York Neighborhood" signs have been added to the tops of the street signs.

Thanks to the following for help on these projects: **Abby Franklin**, administrator of Loving Space School, for hosting the sign on their fence, and **Mary Newman** for color design; the **Public Works Department** for installing the street topper signs and **John McColloch** of Johnny Mac Studios for design; **Mark Ellis Walker** for curbside



Loving Space School hosts new "Welcome to York" fence sign at Ellis and Chestnut intersection.

meeting-sign design and **Andrew Molitor** for putting signs up for each meeting; **Anne Mackie** for writing the grant proposal and managing the projects; and the **City of Bellingham's Small & Simple** funding of \$3,865.00.



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New projects move forward for Samish Way Urban Village

After 11 years, the plans for the **Samish Way Urban Village** are starting to come together. In addition to the creation of a new apartment and office building project owned by the **Bellingham Housing Authority** at the former **Aloha Motel** site, two more motels—the **Cascade** and **Villa Inn** at 202–212 North Samish Way—will be demolished and rebuilt to house a five-story, 196-apartment complex with ground-floor commercial space. At a neighborhood preapplication meeting held February 5, representatives from the Seattle-based **Clark Barnes** development company shared designs and answered neighbors’ questions about the new project.

In keeping with the urban village guidelines, the new project will have a 30-foot-wide setback/sidewalk on Samish Way to allow for outdoor seating and landscaping. Additional landscaping is planned throughout the area, including on the roof and in the parking area (which is tucked away from the main street). After property purchase is complete, later this spring, construction is slated to begin in summer 2020.

Samish Way Urban Village, then and now

After a multiyear process initiated by **Sehome** and **York Neighborhood Associations**, the **City Council** approved the **Samish Way Urban Village Subarea** in 2009. Samish Way was once part of Highway 99, with the once-typical strip of motels during the 1950s and ’60s. When Interstate 5 was built, the Samish Way corridor was known as Old Pacific Highway.

Local residents and businesses moved forward to make improvements to the Samish Way “Strip.” Working as the **Samish Way Urban Village Task Force**, they addressed outdated traffic management and a rising crime rate associated with activity at some of the motels. Opportunities to address these issues and create new planning mechanisms and forms aimed to increase the general value and livability of the area.



The Phase I building, parking, and landscaping now being built. Rendering by Stephanie Bowers.

The Task Force championed changing the existing plan to increase housing capacity by some 800 units. Both Sehome’s and York’s neighborhood associations worked hard to promote infill proposals for this area. Projects are now coming to fruition, using federal, state, and private funds. As the area attracts new business and housing, it reinvigorates and supports local residents, workers, and entrepreneurs, making it a more livable and affordable subcommunity that also improves the surrounding neighborhoods.



Ground-breaking ceremony at old Aloha Motel site on Samish Way, held October 31, with outgoing Mayor Linville (L), future City Council member Lisa Anderson (R), and others from the project.

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York Neighborhood Association Board

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 President: **Tom Scott**
 Vice President: **Anne Mackie**
 Secretary: **Leigh Mcdiarmid**
 Treasurer: **Ticker Ba-Aye**

Members-at-Large
Emma Toth · Mark Ellis Walker

Newsletter layout: **Mark Ellis Walker**

Student activities and off-campus resources

Western Washington University's Office of Off-Campus Living, created to support and educate students living off campus, will offer students two big events this quarter.

HOUSING AND HASHBROWNS will take place on **Saturday, February 22nd**, from 10am until noon, on campus at the **Viking Union Multipurpose Room**. The event will give students a crash course in everything they need to know about moving off campus. Students will hear from the Legal Advocates of Washington about Landlord-Tenant laws, what is legal (and not) in a lease, and how to get your damage deposit back. The **City of Bellingham** will be there to talk about local laws, the **Rental Registration and Safety Inspection Program**, and Bellingham's **Fair Housing rules**.

THE OFF-CAMPUS LIVING FAIR, happening **March 5th** from 11am to 3pm in the **Wilson Library Reading Room**, will give students a one-stop-shop opportunity to meet and talk to local landlords and property managers, utility providers, and emergency and renter service providers.

To learn more about these events, and access important information about living or moving off campus, visit offcampusliving.wvu.edu.

Local landlords and property managers, service providers, and renter support service providers who are interested in registering for the Off-Campus Living Fair may contact **Julia Burns** at 360-650-6863 for more information.

Bellingham's **Team Up to Clean Up** is recruiting volunteers to help clean up the alleys in the York Neighborhood. Join a great group of people who get together to clean up trash in our neighborhoods!

Thursday, February 13, from 1pm to 3pm

Where: Harriet Spanel neighborhood alleys

What: Litter pick-up, tidying up alleys, and maybe graffiti covering if weather is dry

Meet & Park: 1200 Grant block at Harriet Spanel Park

Who: All ages welcome

Email: [Corey Schlaitzer at caschlaitzer@cob.org](mailto:CoreySchlaitzer@cob.org)

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Delivery volunteers needed!

The York Neighborhood Association relies on the generous volunteering of a little time throughout the year by York neighbors to distribute print copies of the Yorker to each address. If your address is on or near one of these blocks, please consider helping make that happen! Email us at yorkereditor@yorkneighborhood.org.

Champion Street: 7 copies

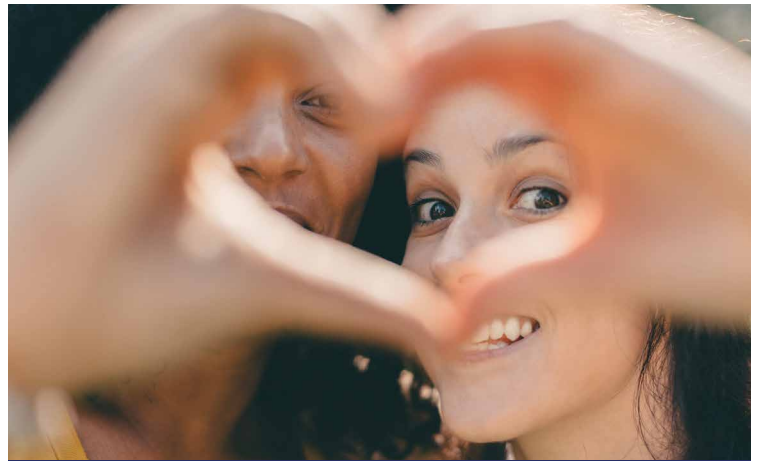
Forest Street: 1300s, 1400s, 1500s

Gladstone Street: 300s, 400s

Lakeway Drive: 300s, 400s, 500s, 600s

Magnolia Street: 300s, 400s, 500s, 600s

Potter Street: 300s, 400s, 500s, 600s



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15th Annual Holiday Caroling Party Thank-You

The day started out blustery and cold but, by 5pm on December 14th, the skies had cleared and the horses had arrived to carry carolers through the streets of the York neighborhood. We celebrated our **15th Annual Holiday Party** with song, laughter, cookies, hot cocoa and cider, and plenty of spirit.

Thank you to the following folks for their support to make it another memorable event: **Reinbow Ranch** for the horse wagon; **Nelson's Market** (Jon and Anne) for the location and cosponsorship along with **On-Site Computer Services** (Tom Scott), the **Rick Moore Group (RE/MAX)**, and **Douglas Hyldahl, Attorney**; the Cocoa Servers **Judy and David Hopkinson, Kirsti Charlton, Leigh Mcdiarmid**; Ticketing Master **Sierra Scott**; Safety Patrol **Laurie Brown and Jean Ryan**; Song Masters from **Sehome High School** and **Barry Buchanan**; and the **Bellingham Fire Department** and their best friend **SANTA**.

Furthermore, thank you everyone for your donations for the **Bellingham Food Bank**.

It takes a village—and a lot of SUGAR—to make this a great annual party.



Jeremy Ferrera
Financial Advisor

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Thanks to our neighbors Laurie & Jeff Brown and Anthony J. Kirkland & Suzann Hambelton for their generous financial donations to the YNA's community activities!



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We're recruiting members—all a-Board!

The York Neighborhood Association has been making things happen (and preventing some really bad things from happening!) for over 40 years, and its board representation has changed continuously over that time: people come and people go, and some people stay and participate and others don't and still participate. But it's **York people** who step up for a stint on the board who ensure their and their neighbors' voices get heard and **make things happen**. We need our voices to hear each other come together so that shared needs here are met, and that takes representation from all the various and varied parts and cultures of even our little one-third-square-mile neighborhood.

Being a YNA board member can be as simple as attending a handful of meetings a year just to hear/say what's going on or **should** be going on. As a YNA board member, you can also help host the four-or-so general meetings for your neighbors, usually by just setting up seating arrangements and bringing some potluck food.

If you have business connections that can help put on events such as York's annual summer picnic and holiday horse-wagon ride, great! Come to some board meetings and contribute those aspects along with your immediate neighborhood's needs and questions so that we can make things happen that our community actually wants.

York's two public parks are always eager for some TLC, and the board helps foster park-cleanup activities each year with the city's **Parks Department**. It's because of the YNA's consistent years-long work that we have our great **Harriet Spanel Park** and **Rock Hill Park**.

Making York's voices and needs and hopes heard is what the YNA board exists to do. Has a change in local bus service impacted you? Do you have parking concerns or ideas for better street-lighting options? Come tell us, so that we can faithfully represent the neighborhood accurately and actively in our interactions with the City.

We can speak for York, but only if it tells us what needs to be said, so come tell us! And do a stint on the board, so that you can not just speak but also listen and hear what other areas of York are concerned about. Joining the Board is how **YOU** can **make things happen!**

YNA Board Member Responsibilities:

- Attend at least half of each year's meetings
- Chair or serve on a committee and/or oversee a major project such as the annual picnic, Dumpster Day, the Holiday Party and Wagon Ride, etc.
- Contribute to the production of issues of the *Yorker*, and distribute printed copies
 - ...and that's all!



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Calendar of York Events

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

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				

April						
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		

York General Meeting Wednesday, February 12

5:30pm Pizza Party
6:00pm Meeting
at Garden Street United Methodist Church
1326 North Garden Street

Team Up to Clean Up Alleys of York Thursday, February 13, 1pm to 3pm

Meet at Harriett Spanel Park—1200 Grant Street

Wine & Roses Garden Club Sunday, February 16, 3pm

1445 Grant Street

WWU Off-Campus Living Fair Saturday, February 22, 10am to Noon

Viking Union Multipurpose Room

WWU Housing and Hash Browns Thursday, March 5, 11am to 3pm

Wilson Library Reading Room

Daylight Savings Time Starts Sunday, March 8

St. Patrick's Day Tuesday, March 17

Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission (MNAC) Meeting Wednesday, March 18 5:30pm

Downtown Library

York Board Meeting & Officers Elections Wednesday, March 25, 7pm

at Garden Street United Methodist Church
1326 North Garden Street

Free Ice Cream for Kids for Spring Break Friday, April 3

Nelson's Market

York General Meeting Wednesday, April 22

5:30 Supper
6:00 Meeting
Celebrate Earth Day
at Garden Street United Methodist Church
1326 North Garden Street

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.

CONTACT

York Neighborhood Association
c/o 336 36th St #370
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

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