



# Neighborhood News

From the Barge-Chestnut Neighborhood Association

Summer 2010

*Fostering community by preserving and enhancing the neighborhood character and providing a forum for neighborhood communication and action.*

## SPECIAL ISSUE ON NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY TOPICS

### 2010 Membership Drive and Annual Meeting

The Barge-Chestnut Neighborhood Association held its **Sixth Annual Meeting** on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Central Lutheran Church. We had an excellent turnout for the meeting and the BCNA Board appreciate the support shown by the Association's membership. Reports were provided by the chair of each of our sub-committees and elections were held for BCNA Board Positions.

The meeting was held in conjunction with our Annual Membership Drive and again this year we had a terrific response to our neighborhood-wide direct mailing. In addition to the renewals from existing BCNA members the Association has been joined by numerous new neighbors as members.

If we missed you at the meeting and you have not yet renewed your membership for 2010, please complete the membership form on page 6 of this newsletter.

If you have neighbors who have not yet joined, please feel free to share this newsletter and the membership form with them.

We appreciate your generous support for the Association and its mission. Your membership is an important way to show your support for the BCNA's activities and to demonstrate the Association's representation of the neighborhood.

The BCNA Board meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. and meetings are open to all members. Meetings are hosted in the homes of BCNA Board Members. The location is announced each month by e-mail. If you don't have e-mail you can contact BCNA President Walt Ranta or Communications Committee Chairperson, Paul Nagle-McNaughton at 452-4160 to find out where the meeting will be held.

If you have any questions about the association or BCNA membership please contact BCNA President, Walt Ranta, at 452-6897 at [teachemup@charter.net](mailto:teachemup@charter.net) or any other BCNA Board Member or Committee Chair (see committee list at <http://bcna-yakima-wa.org/committees.asp>).

### SAVE THE DATE: National Night Out – Tuesday, August 3

The National Night Out (NNO) Against Crime will take place Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Neighbors are encouraged to host Block Watch Parties to re-connect with neighbors and get to know new ones. Ultimately, Block Watch is about neighbors knowing neighbors and looking out for one another.

National Night Out presents an opportunity to initiate a closer-knit neighborhood and to send a message to criminals that our neighborhood is organized, aware, and strong.

It is also a great opportunity to hang out with your neighbors, have fun, and celebrate our wonderful neighborhood!

If your block does not currently have a Block Watch in place, hosting a NNO Block Party is a great opportunity to jump-start the formation of one. If you are interested in forming a Block Watch and want information on how to get started, please contact BCNA Safety Committee Chair, Jeff Feen at 454-1131 or [feen.j@charter.net](mailto:feen.j@charter.net)

Various Block Watches in the



POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

BCNA will be closing their streets to vehicle traffic and holding their parties in the street.

There will also be a neighborhood-wide celebration hosted by the Historic Preservation Committee on NNO to celebrate the completion of

Phase 2 of the seven-phase project to have our neighborhood designated a Historic District. Please stop by the Block Party on Barge Street between 26th and 27th Avenue at 7:30 pm on August 3<sup>rd</sup> to join this celebration.

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## Special National Night Out “Historic District” Celebration

### Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:30-8:00 pm

### Barge Street between 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Avenues

The Barge-Chestnut Neighborhood Association invites you to join us to celebrate the completion of Phase 2 of our Historic Neighborhood District project. If you are hosting a Block Party on National Night out, please bring your guests to Barge Street between 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> for cake and refreshments to celebrate this important milestone for our neighborhood. If you are not having a Block Party, please round up your neighbors and join us as well for this celebration.

Additional information will be available on the next phases of this seven-phase project. Once all seven phases are completed, the Barge-Chestnut Neighborhood Historic District will be the second largest intact historic neighborhood district on the west coast. That’s something to celebrate!!

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## BCNA Neighbors at the Forefront of Helping Mediate Disputes

The Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas Counties (DRC) is a non-profit organization that was formed to assist people with resolving disputes through mediation rather than litigation.

The DRC is represented by a strong contingent of BCNA neighbors. BCNA members Pat and ‘Salie Cockrill are two of the founders of the organization, Matt Fairbank is the Executive Director, and Meredith Bruch is the Mediator & Training Coordinator. Additionally, a number of BCNA neighbors are volunteer mediators.

The DRC utilizes trained, impartial mediators to assist the disputing parties to develop their own resolutions to their disagreements.

This process tends to be much more satisfying and much less costly than litigation. One of the original goals of the DRC was to help neighbors resolve neighborhood disputes, but their services have expanded to include the mediation of parenting

plans, marriage dissolutions, consumer business disputes, landlord/tenant matters, employment/co-worker disputes, small claims cases, and victim/offender cases to name a few.

Volunteer mediators conduct the majority of the DRC’s mediations. Their volunteer pool consists of trained community members who hope to make a difference in their community and make it a more peaceful place.

The DRC is available to anyone and can be reached at 453-8949 or by stopping by their offices at 303 East D Street, Suite 4, Yakima, WA 98901.

The DRC will be holding an Estate Sale to raise money for its continued work on **Friday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>** from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm at **2405 West Chestnut Avenue**.

They will have information about DRC services available at the sale if you want to stop by and support their efforts.

## Safety Planning for Halloween 2010

For many years now, there has been great concern about the safety of trick-or-treaters in the Barge-Chestnut neighborhood due to very high vehicular traffic volume associated with people bringing kids to the neighborhood.

The combination of excited children, costumes that may interfere with seeing well, and high vehicle volumes creates a high-risk environment accidents may happen. We have been fortunate so far, but the BCNA believes it is only a matter of time before a

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potentially serious accident occurs.

The BCNA Safety Committee has been in discussion with the City's Planning and Traffic Divisions to devise a system that will help to curb vehicular traffic, while promoting pedestrians to trick-or-treat in the neighborhood.

The proposal would be to block non-local traffic to Yakima Avenue (16<sup>th</sup> to 32nd), Chestnut Avenue (19<sup>th</sup> to 32nd), Barge Street (32nd) and a variety of the more heavily used north-south streets that access the neighborhood. Because Halloween is on a Sunday this year, this "experiment" should minimize the inconvenience to neighbors.

In order to create opportunities for families to park their vehicles, the BCNA will be holding discussions with Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital and the churches at the east end of Yakima Avenue to see if they will allow parking in their lots. By creating these "park-and-walk" lots, families will

still be able to trick-or-treat in our historic neighborhood while reducing the risk of an accident occurring.

The BCNA plans to contact the paper and local radio stations in advance of Halloween to let people know of the street closures and to educate community members on the location of the "park-and-walk" locations.

While the BCNA is aware that this may redistribute some of the trick-or-treaters compared to past years, we believe the safety risks warrant giving the street closures a try in order to make trick-or-treating in our neighborhood a safe, family-friendly event. As in previous years, BCNA will be encouraging neighbors to shut off their lights at 8:00 pm to signal the end of trick-or-treating.

If you are interested in helping the Safety Committee with this project, please contact Jeff Feen at [feen.j@charter.net](mailto:feen.j@charter.net) or 454-1131.

## BCNA Hosts Crime Prevention Presentation by YPD

On July 8, the BCNA Safety Committee hosted a **Crime Prevention Presentation** by the Yakima Police Department to learn about the methods employed by burglars and precautions that can be taken by neighbors to reduce the chances of being victims of this type of crime.

A special thank you to Harris Meyer who took careful notes during the presentation by Detective DeLoza and Officer Gonzalez and provided them to the BCNA to distribute to those neighbors who could not attend (see bullets below):

- Lots of burglars will knock on your door to see if anyone's home. If no one is, they'll break in, usually going through the back door. If you answer, they'll typically say something lame like, "Oh, I thought this was my friend's house." Typically they don't say they are there to offer some type of service, though that occasionally happens.
- If someone is at the door and you or your children think it's suspicious, don't open the door but call out to indicate someone is home. Your child should say, "I'll go and get my father."
- The most common way burglars get in is by kicking in a door. It's worth it to strengthen the door and the doorjamb, ideally with metal. Most burglars won't spend more than 60 seconds trying to break in. They'll generally leave if they can't get in within that time. They generally don't like going in by breaking windows,

because they'll often get cut and leave blood evidence. But they will go in through unlocked, open windows. Any steps you can take to physically secure your house help, given that most burglars won't spend much time trying to get in.

- It sounds obvious, but if you see someone who looks suspicious or out of place in the neighborhood or is standing on the street looking around, call the police. They don't mind coming out on such calls. Having a call about a suspicious person gives the cops more leeway to question the suspicious individual. If the officer were just cruising by, they would not be allowed to question someone who's just standing on the sidewalk.
- Hispanic burglars tend to stick to more Hispanic neighborhoods where they stand out less. Lots of the burglaries on the west side of town are done by Caucasian young men who look like they might be residents of the neighborhood. Many come from decent families. So don't make assumptions based on racial stereotypes.
- Most burglaries occur during weekday work hours because that is when most people are away from home.
- Don't leave your garage door open, even a little bit, when you're away or out working in the backyard. Lots of garage burglaries take place while people are out back.
- Don't leave your garage door opener in your car.

Burglars can break into your car, then they can later open the garage door and get into your house.

- Don't leave your valuable jewelry in obvious places like your dresser drawer or even your closet. That's the first thing burglars go for, in their typical 5-8 minutes inside your house. Hide the jewelry in some non-obvious place, such as the freezer (though teenage burglars sometimes go into the fridge to get some food or beer).
- Get the serial numbers on your computers and electronics so if you are burglarized you can report those serial numbers and the police can identify the stolen goods when they turn up in pawn shops, etc.
- If you call to report a burglary in process, either at your house or a neighbor's house, stay on the phone with the 911 operator because you are the police eyes and ears telling them what's going on. Don't hang up.
- Make your house address number very visible. That makes it much easier for police to find your house if there's a burglary call.
- Dogs, even mean dogs, won't always stop burglaries. Some burglars bring food and distract the dog that way. (But a dog, like any other deterrent can help scare off someone looking for an easy mark).
- But audible alarms and sensor lights are relatively effective in scaring off burglars. If you don't have an alarm, just posting alarm company stickers on your windows and in your lawn can discourage burglars. They are particularly deterred by certain companies' alarms, which they know are audible and effective.
- Don't leave your shades closed when you're not home. Burglars will assume no one is home.
- Don't leave your checks or credit cards in any place that's easy to find. Burglars will cash those checks and use those credit/debit cards. They generally aren't interested, however, in valuable art or sculpture.
- Don't leave disks with valuable data in your laptop. Burglars can use that data to steal identities, etc.
- It doesn't hurt to lock your file drawers that contain your financial information. Burglars sometimes use or sell your financial data for identity theft purposes. But if you report a burglary promptly to all your financial vendors and to the credit agencies, you should be OK.
- Secure your wi-fi. Thieves can steal information and data and identities by tapping into your wi-fi connection.
- Don't leave your bill payments for the mailman in your unlocked mailbox. Drop it in a postal mailbox. Thieves will take such checks and cash them. Also consider getting a locked mailbox or a mail slot on your door.
- "The Club" really discourages auto thieves in Yakima. Most auto thieves here are pretty unsophisticated and won't try to steal a car that's got a "Club" locking it.
- Officer Gonzalez said that if you're going on vacation, you can call the district officer and tell him or her, and they'll cruise by when they have a chance to check up on your house. (Better yet, let your neighbors know and ask them to keep an eye on things).

## YVMH Draft Environmental Impact Statement & City Ordinance on Historic Neighborhoods

### YVMH EIS & Master Plan

The BCNA is working on a couple of issues connected with the future of our neighborhood. Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital has filed a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) connected with their Campus Master Plan. The Master Plan outlines the hospital's maximum build-out over the next 30-50 years.

The Master Plan was developed in collaboration with the BCNA. The plan seeks to balance the desires of the hospital to expand with the needs of the neighborhood to protect the quality of life here in our historic neighborhood. BCNA

representatives provided feedback to the hospital and the City of Yakima on elements of the draft EIS requesting some specific changes, especially in the areas of the statement related to the potential traffic impacts of the hospital's expansion and potential mitigation measures to minimize these impacts. Specifically, we have requested that the EIS incorporate elements of our comprehensive traffic-calming plan already approved by the neighborhood.

Once a final EIS document is submitted to the City there will be a public hearing on the hospital's Master Plan which is being implemented under the City's Institutional Overlay zoning ordinance and rules that were developed by YVMH

and the BCNA in collaboration with City of Yakima staff.

### Historic Preservation Design Review Guidelines

The City of Yakima will be reviewing newly proposed Historic Preservation Design Review Guidelines that will apply to historic neighborhoods within the City of Yakima. At this point in time, the guidelines will only apply to those houses covered under Phase 1 of our Historic Neighborhood project as this is the only “official” historic neighborhood in the City of Yakima.

The guidelines are designed to provide homeowners with the maximum freedom to engage in routine maintenance and improvements while balancing the desire to maintain the historic nature of our neighborhood.

The City of Yakima will create a process by which building permits for homes within historic districts will be reviewed to ensure major building projects are implemented to protect the historic

character of our neighborhood. A hearing will be held on the draft Review Guidelines that were developed in collaboration with the City of Yakima and the BCNA on Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>.

Because this is the first time the City of Yakima has ever implemented such guidelines and review process, the BCNA will be requesting that the City implement the draft guidelines for a one year pilot project to determine whether the guidelines are sufficient and the review process to approve building permits for homes within the Phase 1 are processed in a timely manner.

As with anything new, we anticipate there may be important lessons to be learned in the first year with adjustments made based on input from neighbors and City staff. However, the BCNA believes preserving the historic character of our neighborhood is worth the investment of time to develop an appropriate set of review guidelines for historic neighborhoods.

## Find Us on Facebook and the World Wide Web!

The Barge-Chestnut Neighborhood Association is exploring ways to improve access to information about our neighborhood and our Association’s activities. Thanks to Lisa Delorme, a BCNA member and website developer, we have a new and improved website.

Lisa and her husband Joe operate Joli Design, a graphic design and photography company based in Yakima. Lisa has provided a significant upgrade to our website which features a professional look, an easy to use interface, and photos from the Barge-Chestnut Neighborhood.

We will continue to invest in and develop the site to make it a valuable resource for BCNA members. The site currently includes descriptions of the BCNA’s committees and contact information for the committee chairpersons. There is a membership page that describes the types of memberships available and allows residents to download the current membership form. There is also a resource section that current lists contractors recommended by BCNA members. This resource section will expand in the future to include references for other types of services including home and pet care, landscaping and tree care, childcare and babysitting, etc.

Please check out our new website at:

<http://bcna-yakima-wa.org/>

### Find us on Facebook

The Barge-Chestnut Neighborhood association has now delved into the social networking world! One of our new BCNA Board Members, Chris Piercy, has helped set up a BCNA Facebook page.

For those of you who have a Facebook account, you can now become a “fan” of the Barge-Chestnut Association. By becoming a “fan” of the BCNA today you can keep up to speed on neighborhood happenings, post your neighborhood photos, announce a neighborhood event, and discuss issues with your neighbors.

We want to provide a forum for you to interact with the entire neighborhood, and keep up to date on neighborhood events as they happen. To find the BCNA page, type in "Barge-Chestnut Neighborhood Association" in the search field at the top of your profile page on Facebook.





## BCNA Membership Application 2010

**BCNA Mission Statement:**

*To foster community by preserving and enhancing the neighborhood character and providing a forum for neighborhood communication and action.*

If you have not yet joined the **Barge-Chestnut Neighborhood Association** or renewed your membership for 2010, please take a minute to do so. Your membership and participation are essential to the success of our Neighborhood Association. Please complete the application below and return to:

**Ralph Call, BCNA Treasurer, 2608 W. Chestnut Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902**

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional:** *To help us save on costs of mailings and to receive BCNA updates and information by e-mail, please provide us with an e-mail address. Your address will not be sold or shared with other organizations.* **E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership:

- 1. **Active Member:** Homeowner or resident, 18 years old or older, within BCNA boundaries. Voting Privileges. \$10.00/person. \$20.00/couple.
- 2. **Associate Member:** Anyone interested in the Association individual, association or estate having an intent in, and ethical support of, the mission and goals of the BCNA. No voting rights. \$10.00/person. \$20.00/couple.

Membership: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + Additional Donation (optional): \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = **Total Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Barge-Chestnut  
Neighborhood Association  
c/o 211 S. 24th Ave.  
Yakima, WA 98902

*(Note: If you received this newsletter by mail, help us save resources by sending your e-mail address to [naglemcn@yvn.com](mailto:naglemcn@yvn.com) and you will be sent future issues electronically.)*