



# Neighborhood News

From the Barge-Chestnut Neighborhood Association

June 2009

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

## 2009 BCNA Annual Meeting & Membership Drive

The Barge-Chestnut Neighborhood Association held its **Fifth Annual Meeting** on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Central Lutheran Church. Reports were provided by the chair of each of our sub-committees and elections were held for BCNA Board Positions.

Prior to this meeting we conducted a very successful neighborhood-wide direct mail membership drive. 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 2009, please complete the membership form on page 6 of this newsletter and return it to Ralph Call, our BCNA Treasurer at the address listed.

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.

## Historic Preservation Committee Completes Phase One!

It wasn't easy, and it wasn't quick, but most important things in life are like that. Finally after approximately 3 years of research, steps forward, set backs, more research, more photos, presentations to the City Council and Historic Committee, more trips through the neighborhood, and more discussions with neighbors, Phase One of the Historic Preservation Committee's efforts to get our neighborhood recognized as a historic district was finally approved by the Yakima City Council on June 16, 2009.

The BCNA would like to say "Congratulations" & "Thank You" to the members of the Historic Preservation Committee and their volunteers for the

many, many hours of hard work it took to get this first phase completed and finalized!

Without these volunteers, and the leadership provided by BCNA Board Members Jenifer Wilde and Gary Forrest, reaching this first milestone in our neighborhood preservation plan would not have been possible.

This is the first residential historic district ever to be approved in the City of Yakima and much new ground needed to be broken to make this a reality for our neighborhood.

Our neighborhood is one of the largest intact historic neighborhoods in the State of Washington and the BCNA has made its preservation a top priority.

### THANK YOU! Historic District Volunteers

Paula Arnt  
Ralph and Jackie Call  
Claudia Christie  
Pattie Cosgrove  
Barbara Elms  
Kristina Harris  
Chris Linschooten  
Pat Reynolds  
John Staffan  
Bob and Leslie Wahl

The Historic Preservation Committee is already midway through the research and signature gathering process for Phase Two of what will ultimately be a 7-phase process.

If you are interested in helping to continue to move this process forward, please contact Jenifer Wilde, Historic Preservation Committee Chair, at 469-8869 or [jeniferwilde@hotmail.com](mailto:jeniferwilde@hotmail.com).

## NEWS FLASH – Late Breaking News !!!

We just learned on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 that the "This Old House Magazine" has named the Barge-Chestnut Neighborhood as one of the "Best Old-House Neighborhoods" for 2009. The July/August issue of This Old House Magazine will feature 51 "Best Neighborhoods" in the U.S. and Canada chosen by the editors of the magazine and the Barge-Chestnut Neighborhood the featured neighborhood in Washington State.

**Congratulations** and **Thank You** to Jenifer Wilde, our Historic Preservation Committee Chairperson, for submitting our neighborhood's information along with photos representing our "Old Houses" to the magazine for consideration!

Check out our neighborhood's write up at the This Old House Magazine website at: [http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/photos/0,,20283021\\_20631378,00.html](http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/photos/0,,20283021_20631378,00.html)

## SAVE THE DATE: National Night Out – Tuesday, August 4, 2009

Safety and crime prevention remain strong values among our neighbors. If you receive our e-mail updates between newsletters, you have been aware of some of the increased reports of crimes and break-ins in our neighborhood. One important tool neighbors have to prevent crime is a **Neighborhood Block Watch**. The **Block Watch** program is a Community Crime Prevention Program sponsored by the Yakima Police Department. A Block Watch is not a patrol, but a network of neighbors looking out for each other.

Statistics show a 50-85% reduction in burglaries for Yakima neighborhoods once they have initiated the **Block Watch Program**.

Some blocks in our neighborhood already have successful programs in place. The BCNA would like this program expanded throughout our neighborhood. Crime prevention takes a community effort and building strong neighborhood relationships and connections are a key part of this process.

If you don't already have a Block Watch Program going on your block, **National Night Out Against Crime** is a great way to kick off your

organizing effort. **National Night Out** (NNO) is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 4th**. **National Night Out** (NNO) is an annual event designed to strengthen neighborhoods through police-

community partnerships. The goal is to promote neighborhood spirit, heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, build support and participation in local anti-crime programs (like Block Watch programs) and, most importantly, 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!



### Block Watch "Block Parties"

Please consider hosting a National Night Out "Block Party" for your block on **Tuesday, August 4th**. This is a great opportunity get to know your neighbors, discuss neighborhood issues, and form a Block Watch if you don't already have 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)

If you will be holding a Block Watch party this year, please contact Jeff Feen to let him know you will be hosting a part. Jeff is working on organizing Block Watches within the BCNA to promote communication and increase safety in the neighborhood.

Jeff can also provide you with information regarding street closures and barricade rentals if you want to close your block to traffic for National Night out. The BCNA is also providing funds to the Safety Committee to help pay for barricades if you do plan to block off your street for your neighborhood Block Party.

You should also register your Block Party with Charity Johnson of the Yakima Police Department's Community Services Division. Charity coordinates the National Night Out activities for the YPD, and can provide you with additional information on Block Watch Programs. Registered NNO Block Parties can receive information, promotional items, NNO banners, and other give-aways as part of the evening activities. Local law enforcement and fire department personnel also come around to visit Block Parties registered with the YPD. Charity can be reached at 575-6201 or at [cjohnson@ci.yakima.wa.us](mailto:cjohnson@ci.yakima.wa.us).

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## Special National Night Out "Historic District" Celebration

Tuesday, August 4 8:00 pm  
Corner of 30<sup>th</sup> and Yakima

The Barge-Chestnut Neighborhood Association invites you to join us to celebrate the completion of Phase 1 of our Historic Neighborhood District project. If you are hosting a Block Party on National Night out, please bring your guests to the corner of 30<sup>th</sup> and Yakima at 8:00 pm for 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 project. Once all seven phases are completed, the Barge-Chestnut Neighborhood Historic District will be the largest intact historic neighborhood district on the west coast. That's something to celebrate!!

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## Comprehensive Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan Update

On May 27th the Barge-Chestnut Traffic Committee and friends met with the City of Yakima and Kittelson & Associates (KA) to review KA's newly released "Traffic Calming Recommendations" for the Barge-Chestnut Area.

KA concluded that the BCNA Traffic Calming Plan was overkill. They explained it as follows; "Overall, the observed traffic volumes on Barge-Chestnut streets are not excessive when compared against the range of traffic volumes typically deemed appropriate for that street type. However, it is recognized that traffic volumes on some neighborhood streets are artificially high as a result of the adjacent Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital. As such, it could be concluded that a series of traffic calming measures aimed at significantly altering

travel patterns throughout the entire neighborhood is not an appropriate first step."

The report goes on to recommend a "phased approach" of targeted measures focused on reducing employee/visitor hospital traffic and minimizing the convenience of cut-through routes.

After reviewing their report, KA staff members lectured the BCNA representatives present on the dangers of unintended consequences when using diverters and half-closures that push traffic to streets that currently have no problems, they highly recommended the closure of South 30th Ave at the Memorial Hospital property line and the diverter at 28th Ave and Walnut.

KA has yet to explain where they thought the 1500+ cars per day now using 30th and 28th Avenues would go. Then, they recommend a series

of speed humps on Yakima Ave. because of its artificially high traffic and speeds and all but ignored Chestnut Ave with its 930+ cars per day at speeds in the 85th percentile at 11 mph above the posted limit (this means that 85% of the traffic is traveling at 31mph or less, in other words, lots of speeding).

The BCNA via the Traffic committee has deemed the KA proposal as inadequate to address our traffic calming needs in a comprehensive manner. Representatives also shared the belief that KA's limited and phased approach to addressing the traffic problems would not likely receive the needed

60% support of our neighbors to move the project forward. A counter proposal has been made and we are holding the line on a comprehensive response that takes into consideration the dangers of unintended consequences of traffic shifting within the neighborhood and works to reduce cut-through traffic. More meetings will be scheduled as we continue the process.

Anyone interested in more information or in assisting the Traffic Committee please contact Gary Forrest, Traffic Committee Chair by phone (248-1845) or email ([gsforre@msn.com](mailto:gsforre@msn.com)).

## Updates and Reminders from the Safety Committee

### Family Fire Escape Plans

No one plans to have a fire, but in the event that you experience a fire, it is good to have an escape plan in place. Discuss with your family, the various routes that you can use to get out of the house (doors and windows) and how you'd get out if one exit were blocked. Also, plan a meeting place outside of your house where everyone will meet once they are out. Once you get out, stay out. Call 911 from a neighbor's house – do not go back inside to call.

### Fire Hydrants

As you begin to plant flowers and implement landscaping projects, remember that a minimum of 3 ft. is required to be clear on all sides of a fire hydrant. This clearance is necessary for firefighters to access the hydrant in case of a fire. Because firefighters need to hook up hoses, and spin a large wrench on top of the hydrant to open it, objects that

obstruct access to the hydrant, such as trees, bushes, & fences, create a serious life safety issue for you, your family, your neighbors and for firefighters who will be depending on that water.

### Fire Prevention – Smoke Detectors

Be sure to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors at least once per year. An easy way to remember to change the battery is to do it in the Fall & Spring when you change your clocks for Daylight Savings. Writing the date of installation on the battery with a marker can be helpful in recalling when the battery was last changed.

Fires can double in size every minute, so the early detection provided by a smoke detector is critically important to the safety of you and your family. It is recommended that smoke detectors be present in every bedroom, outside sleeping areas, and on each level of your home.

## YVMH Moves Forward with Master Planning Process

The BCNA – Memorial Hospital Liaison Committee has been keeping busy working with Memorial Hospital in moving forward with the hospital's Master Plan Review Process. At Memorial Hospital's community discussion on May 27th, Gregg Dohrn, of Dohrn & Associates, outlined the process involved for the Master Plan review and approval. The entire process is anticipated to take 6 – 9 months.

Mr. Dohrn shared with the audience that he is working on a draft of a Master Plan narrative document to be reviewed by Memorial Hospital and the BCNA Liaison Committee prior to having it submitted to the City of Yakima by the end of June. Mr. Dohrn informed the audience that local civil

engineers have been hired to review the plan, providing their perspective as it relates to issues of storm water retention and utilities.

The Liaison Committee is presently reviewing the initial Master Plan Narrative Document. Any concerns with the draft will be noted and submitted to Mr. Dohrn and Memorial Hospital for review and revision prior to being presented to the City of Yakima for initial evaluation.

### Changes to Memorial Hospital's Site Plan

As a result of the initial findings of a civil engineering analysis of Memorial's Site Plan, Memorial Hospital informed the Liaison Committee that there is a need to move and reposition the final

parking garages that will be built toward the end of the campus's expansion. The findings revealed that major utilities (gas and water), servicing both the neighborhood and Memorial Hospital, run along 29th and 30th Avenues and the current plan has the garages being built across these roads once the campus is closed. Utilities would be obstructed with the garages placed as indicated in the current plan. Also, the minimum fire code access to the garages and the Early Learning Center is not met.

An alternative to the current garage placement was presented to the Liaison Committee. The plan involves shifting the two structures slightly and rotating one ninety degrees. With this option, utilities do not need to be moved and required emergency access to the structures will be provided. Fire truck lanes will be created just north of the parking structures along the former 29th and 30th Avenues.

The Liaison Committee, along with the BCNA-Memorial Hospital Landscaping Committee, will work with the hospital to ensure that any changes to these parking structures will not adversely affect the immediate neighbors or the integrity of the greenspace or buffer zone as it is currently designed around the outside of the hospital campus.

If you have any questions or concerns or would like to become involved, please contact BCNA – Memorial Hospital Liaison Committee chair, Doug Carey, at [careyd2001@charter.net](mailto:careyd2001@charter.net).

If you are interested in serving on the newly formed BCNA-Memorial Hospital Landscaping Committee, which is working with the hospital in developing the greenspace/buffer zone, please contact Matt Tweedy at [mtweedy@ambtools.com](mailto:mtweedy@ambtools.com).

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## Neighbors Helping Neighbors – BCNA Member Eric Bruntjen:

### *Making A Difference for an Injured Veteran & YOU Can Help Too*

You may have been following the story of Eric Bruntjen in the Yakima Herald-Republic. What you might not know is that Eric is a BCNA member and a neighborhood resident living on the 3400 block of Barge Street. If you are not familiar with his story, Eric is currently riding in the **2009 Tour Divide Race** from Banff, Alberta, Canada to Antelope Wells, New Mexico, USA—a 2,780 mile mountain-bike journey. Eric has chosen to use his race to raise the funds needed to purchase a specialized all-terrain wheelchair for injured Iraq war veteran **Evan Mettie** of Selah.

This is a very heartwarming story about one of our very own neighbors making a commitment to improve the quality of life of an injured Iraq war veteran. Eric will need to raise more than \$10,000.00 to cover the cost of the specialized wheelchair.

**We are challenging members of the BCNA to join together in support of our neighbor to help him reach this goal.**

Your donation will recognize Eric's commitment in taking on this challenge, while providing needed support to an injured member of our armed services. A pledge of **one cent a mile** will cost you just under **\$28.00**. We would like to see BCNA members put Eric over the top in his fundraising goal.

You have two options. (1) a direct cash donation or (2) a "per mile" pledge. If you wish to make a direct cash donation, you may do so at any US Bank branch. Checks dropped off at any local US Bank branch can be made out to "Evan Mettie Donation." If you would prefer to make a "per mile" pledge, send an e-mail to [tourdechair@gmail.com](mailto:tourdechair@gmail.com) with your contact information (and place BCNA after your name), and your per mile pledge amount. You will be contacted after Eric finishes to make your final pledge.

The BCNA would like to keep track of the total amount our neighbors have pledged toward Eric's ride. So if you are making a direct cash payment or an e-mail per mile pledge, please notify BCNA member Bill Duerr with your name and donation amount. Bill will keep a tally of all donations and pledges from our neighbors, and will let the BCNA members know how much we were able to contribute toward the \$10,000 goal.

Bill can be reached at: William R. (Bill) Duerr, 3206 W. Yakima Ave, Yakima, WA. 98902  
453-8514 (ph) or 654-6755 (cell); e-mail: [wr\\_duerr@hotmail.com](mailto:wr_duerr@hotmail.com)

If you want to follow Eric's progress, check out Scott Sandsberry's "Out There" blog at the Yakima Herald-Republic's website at: <http://sportsyakima.com/out-there/>

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### BCNA Membership Application 2009

**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 2009, 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.)*