

Eastlake News

November/December 1996

FREE - Please Take One

EASTLAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

117 E. Louisa #1
Seattle, WA 98102

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Karen Ziegler
Editor

CORNERSTONES FUNDRAISING CONTINUES

Several Eastlake business and property owners have joined us in helping to make another exciting Eastlake art project a reality. By becoming Cornerstone Contributors, their pledges have taken us over two-thirds of the way to our goal of raising \$5,000 by the end of the year.

Generous pledges have been received from the following businesses: Bruce Blume & Company; Northwest Administrators (Chris Hughes, President); Robert Rudine; Ezra Teshome Insurance Agency; The Remi Building; Serafina's; 14 Carrot Cafe; Eastlake Zoo; and Soules Properties, Inc. We appreciate your willingness to participate in this opportunity to enhance Eastlake's visual image. Thank you to all!

The Eastlake Arts Commission members will continue to contact business and property owners during the next month. When contacted, we hope you will consider contributing to this worthwhile effort.

Anyone who would like to make contributions to the Cornerstones Project can send checks to ECC/Cornerstones, 117 E. Louisa #1, Seattle, 98102. To find out how you can become a Cornerstone Contributor, call Lynn Poser at 323-9257.

Other Art Notes: Pole Painters Wanted. Carolyn Law, the artist working with METRO on the Route 70 trolley electrification project, has informed us that a few volunteers could be used to help paint the poles which will be installed at the

intersection of Eastlake and Hamlin. The exact dates for this painting project have not been set but will be some time in November. Interested painters can call Lynn Poser at 323-9257 for additional information and to sign up.

ECC BUSINESS MEMBERS

The Eastlake community is much more than friends and neighbors who live down the street. Familiar or not, the businesses, office workers, stores and restaurants that make Eastlake an important part of their lives are as much a part of the neighborhood as the residents. The Eastlake Community Council extends thanks to the following businesses for being members in good standing, and for the caring they show all of us by their support: **Adams Art Production, Bonneville Broadcast Group, Berger Partnership, Bruce Blume & Company, Eastlake Zoo, Cards Gifts Etc., Institute For Educational Inquiry, Washington Employers Inc., The Buffalo Bldg Corp., 14 Carrot Café, 3125 Eastlake Building, Northwest Administrators, Odegard Upholstery, Siam On Lake Union, Eastlake Naturopathic, Union View Building Corp., Werkhaus Design, Inc., and Nancy Yerger Family Trust.**

In addition, many other businesses also support the Eastlake community by donating or discounting goods and services. Thanks to all!

FROM THE EASTLAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

As the new president, I must first commend my predecessor, Cheryl Trivison for the hard work and long hours that she has contributed to our community during her term. I also express my gratitude for the support and encouragement that I have received from so many folks in Eastlake since I have become involved in community projects. It feels really good to walk down the street and be greeted by name by so many people.

Eastlake faces the continued (and likely increased) pressure for new development and changes in the public systems that serve Eastlake and the City in general. There are also numerous opportunities taking advantage of public grant programs for specific projects.

The current Eastlake Tomorrow planning effort is focusing on work which will lead to improvements in transportation, open space, the north gateway, diversity, community design, and our main street/town center. In addition there are new construction projects that require careful review and thoughtful comment. Some of the public projects which would impact Eastlake include: possible expansion of the 520 corridor; light rail slicing through our neighborhood; changes to the transit scheduling; electrification of the transit lines; improvement to the sewer system; and renovation of Seward school with prospects for a community center there. There are so many facets of this vibrant and colorful community that no one person can possibly keep up with all of the important issues.

I plan to work to make Eastlake a more inclusive community, a community that embraces the richness of all people in our society and all elements of our neighborhood: residents, businesses and organizations. To that end one of my goals for this coming year is to build a

stronger sense of community by involving more people in ways that are appropriate and comfortable to them. In keeping with this goal I plan to put emphasis on membership growth and reaching out to other groups in our community.

There are many opportunities for everyone to make a difference. I've heard a few stories that start with, "Why didn't they do something about..." No handful of volunteers can be the "they." "They" is every one of us, working in solidarity for our common good. My experience has shown that when too few people get stuck with too much of the workload, "they" burn out and withdraw from community activities. There's no getting around the fact that many of the initiatives we undertake are complex and time consuming. I want to work to better define tasks and spread responsibilities over a larger base. I am experienced in and committed to the ongoing recruitment, planning and administrative work necessary to achieve that goal.

I hope you will work to stay informed on what is going on in Eastlake, whether you are affected directly or not, and that you will help identify obstacles and solutions. I hope you will share your ideas before decisions (especially those affecting you) occur. Please inform me about where to give credit when

due. There is so much good work going on in the community, I appreciate help keeping track of it all!

As most of you know, the presidency of the ECC is a volunteer position with no support staff. To balance this responsibility with other commitments in my life, I simply will be unable to spend as much time in that role as Cheryl did this past year. Therefore my strategy will involve careful delegation among a broadened base of support, so that others will enjoy new challenges and so that important activities can be carried out smoothly without my direct, ongoing involvement. Personal integrity is the cornerstone of my philosophy; my key tool is open, honest communication. My priority will be to keep informed by being a good listener. I welcome your ideas and your help!

- Deverick Martin

PUBLIC MEETING

Please mark your calendars and join your neighbors for a public meeting of the Eastlake Tomorrow Transportation Planning Team.

Tuesday, November 12, 1996

5:30 p.m.

Bonneville Broadcast Group
1820 Eastlake Ave. E.

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Jean Slocum 324-3173

A TASTE OF THE FUTURE WITH EASTLAKE TOMORROW

A broad-based steering committee is preparing a work plan for the next 18 months of neighborhood planning, which will be aided by a \$70,000 City grant; the first \$10,000 and six months are now at an end. You may see the draft work plan on the Eastlake web page (<http://www.oo.net/oo.et>), at Lake Union Mail, or by calling 322-5463. Major achievements so far have included distribution of nearly 9000 questionnaires, inventories of buildings and open spaces, work parties to save trees and shrubs, our own web page, and a petition from property owners for a center turn lane on Eastlake Avenue north of Hamlin and possible medians. The next phase will have an even stronger focus on tangible results.

The community meetings and open houses have been going

well—and if you weren't there, we missed you. Thanks go to the City's Neighborhood Planning Office for financial and technical assistance, TOPS-Seward School for use of its historic building, Bonneville Broadcasting for another banner, and Bandoleone, Eastlake Business Association, Louisa's, Original Grounds, Pazzo's, Pomodoro, Quick Stop, Rattlers, and Serafina for tasteful donations showing what a classy business district Eastlake has. Don't miss the next event!

Volunteers are needed for all of the Eastlake Tomorrow planning teams—community design, diversity, town center/main street (business district revitalization), north gateway, open space, and transportation.

Write to Eastlake Tomorrow, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102.

COME LEARN ABOUT PROJECTS IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITY

Starting on December 10, 1996, ECC Board meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Though all meetings are open to the public, agenda items at those held on odd-numbered months will focus ECC board business. Even-numbered month meetings will include specific items and guest presentations for community forum. All Eastlake residents are encouraged to attend these open meetings (December 10, 1996; February 11, 1997; April 8; June 10; August 12; October 14). The location of the December 10 meeting will be the NOAA Pacific Marine Center at 1801 Fairview E. Those wishing to attend should present themselves at the guard station for admittance to the facility.

STEWARDSHIP FOR THE LOWLY PLANTING STRIP

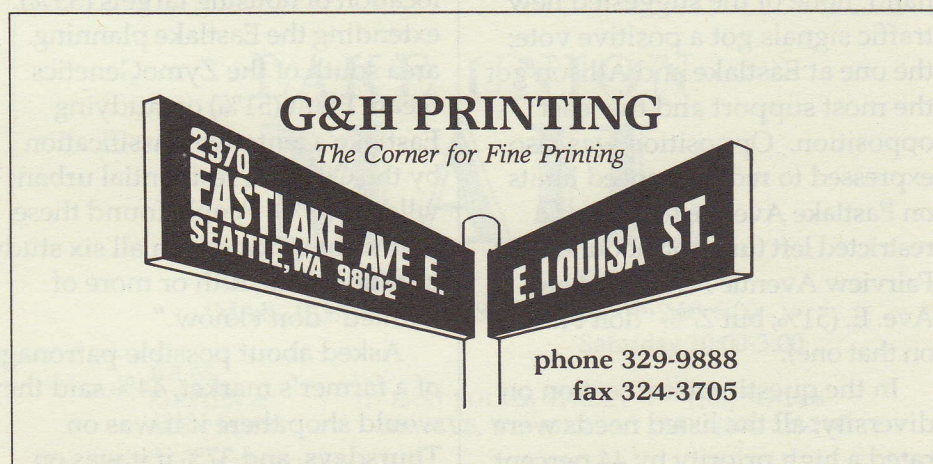
Some of the most visible green spaces in the neighborhood are in front of your home or business. City-owned street rights-of-way include not only roadway, curbs, and sidewalks, but also strips of land on either side of the sidewalk. In the old days, that was accurately recognized as parkland. Nowadays, the land between the sidewalk and the curb is called the planting strip—but some landowners no longer keep anything planted there.

Although landowners have the lead in maintaining their public planting strips, their decisions affect whether our streets are barren or parklike. Many are helping make Eastlake a greener place. But some have paved their strip over, a step that encourages illegal parking and burdens the sewers and lake with runoff that cannot filter through the earth to nearby trees. Still others have replaced the soil with

harsh pumice that allows no growth.

When large trees are in planting strips, their survival or removal can be a major question of public interest. In September, the Seattle Engineering Department—with the permission of nearby property owners—cut down Eastlake's grandest old elm and hawthorn trees (visit Lake Union Mail or www.oo.net/oo.et for a photo). This action was without

notice to community organizations or planning committees. Wider discussion might have saved these trees; their green canopy was a heritage given to us by previous generations. We may never see their like again, given City pressure for new trees that cannot grow as tall or wide. Volunteers who wish to encourage stewardship of the area's planting strips can get involved with Eastlake Tomorrow.



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UNPRECEDENTED RESPONSE TO QUESTIONNAIRE

The Eastlake Tomorrow questionnaire has received more than 350 responses—the most ever in this neighborhood. Even more impressive is that the respondents include not only many residents, but also those who work here, those who live just east or south of our borders, and those who own property in Eastlake but live elsewhere. As the results emerge, we are posting them on the Eastlake web page, and at Lake Union Mail (also available in both places are the results of the 1994 transportation surveys, and this year's town center survey). The thousands of written comments that are being transcribed by volunteers constitute a lively dialogue on what is best for our community. Tabulation of the quantitative results is being donated by local business Gilmore Research, which helped design and produce the questionnaire. Some highlights:

The highest positive vote in the entire survey was the 76 percent who want Metro express buses to make at least one stop in the neighborhood; residents, employees, and business and property owners all share this strong belief. Other transportation results were 64% to retain the cobblestone streets, 62% for making existing traffic signals more pedestrian-friendly, 60% for more center turn lanes on Eastlake Avenue and 57% for medians there. On the other hand, none of the suggested new traffic signals got a positive vote; the one at Eastlake and Allison got the most support and the least opposition. Opposition was also expressed to reduced speed limits on Eastlake Avenue (61%) and a restricted left turn northbound from Fairview Avenue N. to Fairview Ave. E. (51%; but 27% "don't know" on that one).

In the questionnaire section on diversity, all the listed needs were rated a high priority by 44 percent

or more of the respondents: senior services (the highest at 51%), making the neighborhood more child-friendly, publicizing antidiscrimination laws, handicap access, and affordable rents. One quarter offered their volunteer services at TOPS-Seward, and half offered to participate in a discussion on diversity (TOPS and Eastlake Tomorrow will have their hands full responding to this huge demand). The written comments reflected a real diversity of opinions about diversity! Everyone has an opinion—very few people marked "don't know" in this section of the questionnaire.

The questionnaire also found substantial concern about new building design. When asked what should be a high priority, most mentioned building height (68%), parking location and access (54% and 53%), signs, awnings, and billboards (49%), and aesthetics (48%), with less mentioning the type of use along the sidewalk (41%) and the nature of building entries (31%). The widths of new residential buildings emerged as the most popular topic for a study (68% yes), with strong support (66%) also for studying possible ways to improve their compatibility with surrounding density, and the inclusion of the shoreline businesses south of NOAA (64%). There was not as much support for studying the application and location of housing targets (55%), extending the Eastlake planning area south of the ZymoGenetics Steam Plant (51%) or studying Eastlake's tentative classification by the City as a residential urban village (46%). People found these issues complicated; on all six study questions, one fifth or more of marked "don't know."

Asked about possible patronage of a farmer's market, 44% said they would shop there if it was on Thursdays, and 37% if it was on

Sunday mornings. On a larger grocery store, 41% said they would walk six or more blocks to get to it, but others expressed their loyalty to Pete's Super. We now have hundreds of specific suggestions on where to put new trash cans, benches, bus shelters, kiosks, bicycle racks, and street trees; volunteers are needed to help with individual locations (write to Eastlake Tomorrow, or call 322-5463).

Regarding the north gateway (Eastlake/Harvard Ave. triangle under I-5), 77% want the site more parklike, 61% want some public art there, and 71% hope that the improvements will reduce freeway noise. Improving the bus stops and moving the Lake Union Cafe clock have 60% support, but there is disagreement about how bright to light the area.

The open space results reflect longstanding affection for shoreline parks and walkways and other green spaces. A platform allowing pedestrian passage and views at the Boston streetend received 66% support. Even higher support (77%) went to a shoreline path south of NOAA, but opinion became evenly divided (with one fifth marking "don't know") when the condition was added "even if this results in the loss of 10-15 parking spaces." For the large right-of-way under I-5 south of Newton St., there was strong support for planting native ground cover (82%), a trail and steps to Capitol Hill (76%), improved lighting (72%), and a jogging trail (62%), but a lot of opposition (59%) to making it a mountain bike area.

It's not too late to fill out the questionnaire! Copies are available at Lake Union Mail, or—thanks to local business Internet Central—you may fill out an electronic version on the Eastlake web page.

- Chris Leman

NOISE CITED IN TAX APPEALS

Residents near I-5 and SR-520 have successfully appealed their property tax increases by citing freeway noise that reduces their property values. This argument may carry particular weight as increased speed limits seem to be causing increased noise. It is too late for Eastlakers to make an appeal this year, but you can get ready for next year by contacting the King County Board of Equalization at 296-3496. You can also contact the Assessor's office at 296-7300 to request an assessment review that might reduce next year's assessment and preclude the need for an appeal. A copy of a successful appeal is posted at Lake Union Mail, and on the Eastlake web page.

MARY SCOTT, R.I.P.

The neighborhood will miss Mary Scott, a longtime resident of Minor Avenue. Mary remained kind and self-effacing even amidst the painful cancer that eventually killed her. She was preceded in death by her husband James.

ABOUT THE EASTLAKE NEWS

The *Eastlake News* is published every two months and distributed free to residents of the Eastlake community.

Contributions to the *Eastlake News* are welcomed and appreciated.

Article and advertising deadline for the next issue is **December 10, 1996**. Articles may be mailed to 117 E. Louisa #1, Seattle 98102, or dropped off at Lake Union Mail. For more information, please call Karen Ziegler at 325-9866.

Contributors to this issue include Ted Fry, Chris Leman, Deverick Martin, and Lynn Poser.

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BUSINESS NOTES

Historic **Lake Union Dry Dock** continues to pull in the contracts, now with a big role in fixing state ferries like the Nisqually, Illahe, and Quinault that can't stop as quickly as they need to. Another staple are the big factory trawlers; the company installs or fixes their fish processing equipment as well as the boats themselves. The shipyard's most unusual recent renovation was the clubhouse barge of the exclusive Corinthian Yacht Club; for just a month, Eastlake's blueblood quotient was uncharacteristically high! . . . In 1916 a little company called **Boeing** started in Eastlake (see the Eastlake web page for history), and **XYPOINT** may be the latest neighborhood success story. It sells systems that pinpoint the location of a signal, such as a 911 call from a cellular phone. The federal government will be requir-

ing cellular services to have this lifesaving technology by October 1997, and **XYPOINT** is one of only two suppliers worldwide. The company has grown to 35 employees since its 1993 startup . . . **Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center** is sponsoring the Lake Union Chamber Orchestra, which rehearses on Mondays. To audition, call 363-6671 or e-mail rhudson@u.washington.edu . . .

Thanks to Dr. Vivian McKay of **ZymoGenetics** for organizing the first Lake Union Paddle Games this summer. Here's hoping it will become an annual event . . . Congratulations to former *Eastlake News* editor Robert af Sandeberg for being a medalist in the Paddle Games, and for the recent front-page photo in Sunday *Seattle Times* depicting his kayak commute from his Eastlake houseboat to the Westlake offices of WRQ . . .

Welcome to **Lake Union Mail** counterperson Jennifer Leach, and good luck to predecessor Carrie Newman, who has gone into whale research . . . Congratulations to **Serafina** co-owner Susan Kaufman, who has just returned from Mexico with a newly-adopted baby girl, Isabella Francesca Kaufman Geballe . . . Businesses are reminded to send menus, product information, and photos for inclusion in the neighborhood web page, <http://oo.net/oo/et>. If in usable electronic form, the service—donated by **Internet Central**—is completely free, and widely read.

Send your news to Eastlake Business Column, 117 E. Louisa St., Seattle 98102.

ECC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Eastlake Community Council

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Interests

- Parks and Open Spaces
- Traffic/Parking Issues
- Building Guidelines
- Newsletter Distribution
- Fundraising
- Work Parties
- Community Art Projects
- Community Meetings

- ◆ Household.....\$ 25
- ◆ Business.....\$ 50
- ◆ Senior Citizen/Student/Low Income.....\$ 10
- ◆ Donation.....\$ ____

- New
- Renewal

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