

March/April 1999

Serving the Eastlake Community

EASTLAKE

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S

Historic Houses Threatened at 1100 block of Eastlake

Meetings:

**Community
Readiness
for Y2K**

To be announced.
See related article
Page 4 of President's column.

**Committees and who to call if
you would
like to help:**

**Franklin Green Street
Gabe Hajiani
720-7005**

**NOISE
I-5 Mitigation
Wes Larson
320-9847**

**Eastlake News
Judy Smith
394-5259**



A new home is needed for these houses.

The City is considering landmark status for two Second Empire-style houses at 1130 and 1134 Eastlake Avenue and a Queen Anne-style duplex above them. Built in 1893 and long lived in by the family that operated the Buffalo Shoe Factory (the brick building directly to the south), the homes were also reputedly where the Grateful Dead crashed when they were in town. Master Use Permit application #9805787 by developer Ted Schroth proposes to replace the homes with an office building. Because the City considered them possible landmarks, it required Schroth to prepare an application, in which, however, he argued against their designation. A January 20 Eastlake Community Council letter to the Department of Design, Construction and Land Use asked that the office building design be stepped down to highlight the Buffalo Building; and that the developer assist those who would like to find a new location for the old homes. A February 1 ECC letter to the Landmarks Preservation Board supported their designation as landmarks, but also observed: "It may be that moving one or more of the buildings is the best solution; if landmark designation is approved, the ECC will work with the City and the developer for what will be best for everyone."

The Center for Wooden Boats is enthusiastic about the possibility of moving one or both of the charming front houses to the site of the proposed new Marine Heritage Park just south of Lake Union, where they could be used for front offices and ticket-taking. The Center's craftspeople could do wonders in restoring the old wooden homes, but the Center has no budget to do the necessary housemoving, which could cost \$30,000 per house. Time is of the essence! If you would like to get involved or donate, call 322-5463.

Business Notes

By Chris Leman

The Eastlake News is a bi-monthly publication of the Eastlake Community Council, to inform the community of issues concerning the Eastlake area.

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Lake Union Mail is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Owner (and longtime resident) Jules James responded when Eastlake surveys showed a need for mailbox and mailing services; he has diversified into KeyTurn (guaranteed postage for the return of lost keys) and exclusive local-interest cards. Through charisma, generosity of spirit and a sterling staff, James has made Lake Union Mail a center of Eastlake life. No Seattle business has done more for a neighborhood. ...

Volunteer designs by **Steve Vrabel Architects** have facilitated an impressive neighborhood consensus on how to improve the Fairview shoreline south of NOAA. In the business, Vrabel (2311 Yale Ave. E., 329-3024) is known for thoughtful residential and commercial designs for both new construction and renovation. ...

Glass artist **Dale Chihuly** operated out of Eastlake before moving just across the Ship Canal. Now our side of the Canal has EGO (3241 Eastlake Avenue, 720-1796), a gallery and "artist's playground," with facilities for sculpture, metal works, painting, and a full service glass studio. The furnace can be seen from the street, with glassblowers at work night and day. Owners Michael Fox and Kris Uhlhorn say EGO can mean "Eastlake Glass Organization" if we want. ...

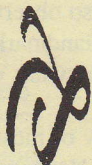
Another new arrival (from the Smith Tower, no less!) is **Leavengood Architects** (1920 Eastlake Avenue E. (323-9901). Now helping restore our state Capitol building in Olympia, the eleven-person firm also renovated the Seattle Asian Art Museum (in Volunteer Park) and is known for rustic lodge/resort designs. ...

Located downstairs at 1916 Eastlake Avenue E. is the **Dagaz Group**, an Eastlake-hatched computer network design and support firm (323-8656; <http://www.dagazgroup.com>). In the runic alphabet "dagaz" is the letter

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“d,” signifying new beginnings and breakthrough--appropriate for a company that has just doubled in size. ...

Also relocated within Eastlake is **Biosports Northwest** (now at 1550 Eastlake Avenue, 322-3235), a clinic for gait analysis and sports biomechanics. ...

Congrats to **Il Fournil** (3230 Eastlake Avenue, 328-6523)--the French bakery's \$6 lunch special was enthusiastically recommended in the Feb. 4 Seattle Times "budget bites" column, which opined, "you'll be crying 'Oui, oui, oui' all the way home." ...

The **Seattle Restaurant Store** (2851 Eastlake Avenue E., 322-4900) is moving April 1 to 14810 Aurora Avenue North. Its new warehouse-style store will have a lot more inventory on the shelf, ready to buy. A longtime Eastlake business, the store sells to the trade, but welcomes the public, who revel in the professional-quality kitchenware. A big moving sale continues, with sale items added weekly. Warm wishes to the staff and especially owner Anthony Catania, who recently lost his father Tony. ...

On January 17, Eastlake lost another leader in **John C. Hughes**, founder of Northwest Administrators. Condolences to Chris Hughes, his son and successor as head of the thriving employee benefits management firm. ...

It was also a shock November 12 to lose the very civic-minded **Langston Tabor**, whose Tabor Electric (now located on Nickerson Street) was a longtime Eastlake fixture. There is hope that the employees will become its new owners. ...

Send your business news to Chris Leman, 85 E. Roanoke Street, Seattle 98102; cleman@oo.net.

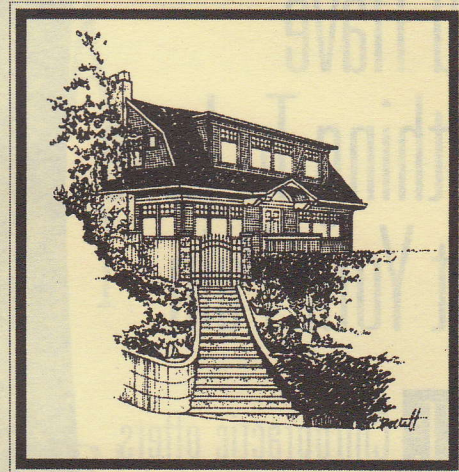


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Y2K AND ITS EFFECT ON OUR COMMUNITY

The next Eastlake Community Council general meeting focuses on Y2K preparedness in Eastlake. A pleasant time is guaranteed for all.

A few years ago I was lunching with a fellow who claimed to be in the business of helping companies deal with this issue about their computers crashing because they couldn't understand that the century was ending. Apparently, this was a fairly pricey concern. I thought he was putting me on. He kept up the conversation through lunch and he couldn't quite fathom that I thought he was pulling my leg. "O.K. so let me get this straight, no one noticed that the century was on schedule to end in near future. Is that what you're telling me?"

There are a lot of different conversations circulating regarding the now famous millennium bug and its possible consequences in the real lives of us human types. They range from: "You've got to be kidding. How could this possibly cause any difficulties?" to, "The end is near, prepare to meet thy doom." The tricky part is that no one seems to know, with any certainty, where in this broad range of possibilities, our paths will go.

For the sake of discussion we don't need to go back any further than about 2,000 years, as measured by the western calendar. Back around that time some people, with what turns out to be a fair amount of influence, started measuring time in reference to an agreed upon date for an historic event. This would be the transition from B.C. to A.D. In the religious calendars of some eastern cultures, as well as tribal cultures, time is just not measured in this manner, but that may not allow them all to escape the consequences of how modern computing is about to intersect with our historic western conversation for measuring time.

Fast forward to the industrial revolution and then the invention of computing. To save memory space in computers, even as late as the early 1990's, dates were written with the convention of two digits instead of four e.g., 01-08-82, rather than 01-08-1982. This seemed like a good idea at the time. However, this efficiency, when superimposed on our calendar's millennium change, may cause computers to react badly to the information that they have now arrived at the year 00, rather than the year 2,000. Maybe they just can't take a joke.

At any rate, our society has become so thoroughly infused with computer dependent functions that a computer's inability to cope effectively with the existential crisis of being nothingness, arriving at 00, means almost anything could happen, from power outages, gas main shut downs, crop failures, delivery being fully confused, to no effect whatsoever.

So, what's a community to do? We are about to pass through zero, at least as far as many of our computers understand themselves. Zen monks meditate for years to have such an experience. It is greatly to be desired. If they are well prepared to face the

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experience of nothing, there is great liberation. However, if someone attempts this state without appropriate preparation the results could be devastating. As a community we have the opportunity to prepare for the experience, and the result could be a greater freedom and understanding of ourselves as a community. If we fail to prepare we will still pass through the zero of the computer conversations, but we may not fare as well.

I believe that the power of relationships of individuals and groups in community is the key to successful transition into whatever is next. It's a no lose proposition. If Y2K causes the computer dependent society to "bug out" then we can depend on each other as we progress through the experience. If Y2K turns out to be a mere hypothetical horrible without real consequences then we will have to come together as a community and had the benefit of getting to know each other and of learning how to deal with whatever disaster may happen along. It could be a good training for cultural satori.

I look forward to seeing you at our Y2K Preparedness meeting at a place, date and time to be announced. Bring your friends, whether they are ECC members or not. If you have any contributions to the meeting agenda, or any questions, please call me at 621-8822.

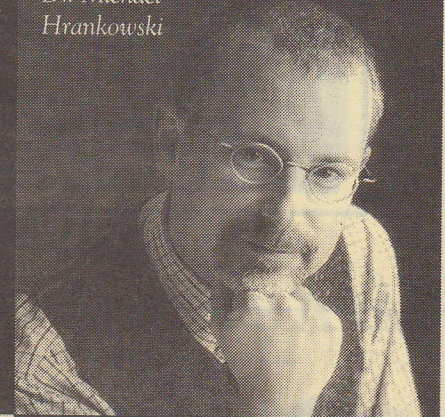
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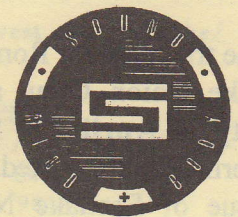
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On January 27, the Eastlake Community Council held a party to thank the many volunteers and City officials who had made the Eastlake Neighborhood Plan possible. The night before, the final meeting of the Eastlake Tomorrow Steering Committee allocated the City's \$50,000 bonus for our completing a plan: \$20,000 for intersection and pathway improvements at the south end of Fairview Ave. E.; \$20,000 for a planted median on Eastlake Avenue; and \$10,000 neighborhood consulting help for the design of I-5 noise reduction measures now before the legislature.

The Steering Committee also adopted a stewardship process to keep the neighborhood informed and involved in City follow-through on the neighborhood plan. A Stewardship Committee, to operate under the same by-laws, will include a seat for each of the following ten stakeholders:

- (1) Apartment owners/managers;
- (2) Eastlake Business Association;
- (3) Eastlake Community Council;
- (4) Eastlake Community Land Trust;
- (5) Floating Homes Association;
- (6) Olmsted-Fairview Park Commission;
- (7) Portage Bay/Roanoke Park Community Council;
- (8) Social service providers;
- (9) Parents of TOPS (Seward School); and
- (10) NOISE (Neighborhoods Opposed to Interstate Sound Exposure).

The Stewardship Committee will put out a newsletter at least four times a year (can be an insert in the Eastlake News). It will meet at least twice a year (meetings open to the public), and also will, at least every six months, hold a public meeting on progress in implementing the neighborhood plan and how to get involved. The Eastlake Community Council has agreed to assist in organizing and servicing the Stewardship Committee.

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Correction

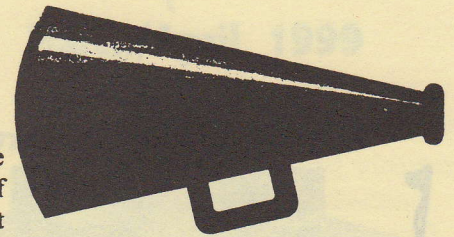
The trial date for Rome Ventura/Lake Union Crew against the City is **April 12, 1999** NOT April 20 as reported in the last issue of Eastlake News. We regret the error.

For more information about the litigation, call Eastlake resident Carol Eychaner, 324-1716.



117 East Louisa Street; M-F 9-6, Sat 10-3

NOISE



Believe it or not Eastlake may soon be a quieter place to live. As reported in the last issue of the Eastlake News, \$5.2 million is slated in the Washington State Department of Transportation budget for I-5 noise mitigation in Eastlake. Still many neighbors can't believe it says Wes Larson one of the founders of NOISE (Neighborhoods Opposed to Interstate Sound Exposure) in an interview with Eastlake News. A lot of people had resigned themselves to the inevitability of freeways noise says Larson -- calling Eastlake a viaduct, which makes him fume. "Eastlake is a community," he exclaims from his house just beneath the I-5 bridge. "This community was here long before the freeway was ever built."

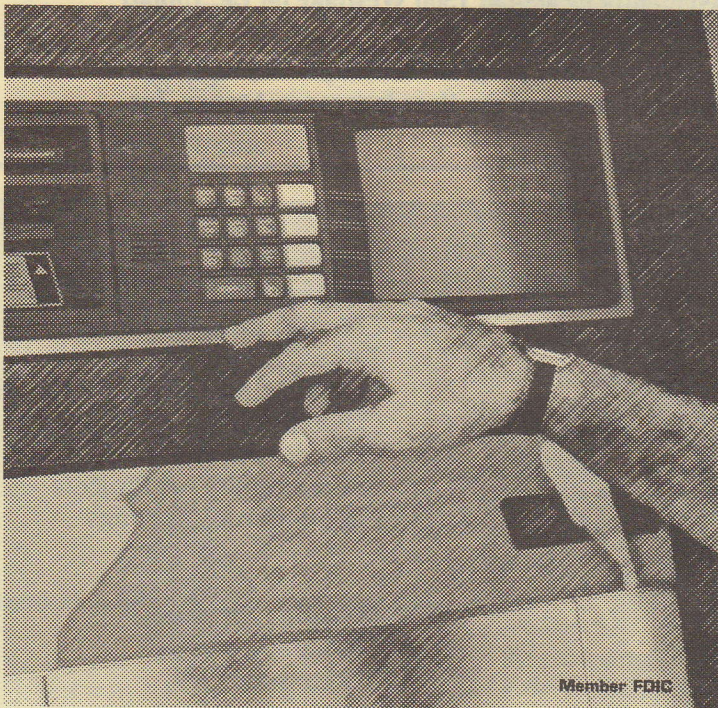
Larson also notes that if I-5 were built today, it would be totally different. For one thing an environmental impact study would be done and ways to alleviate freeway noise built right into the plan. He notes that in Europe whenever a freeway is built through a residential neighborhood sound walls are put up with art work, trees planted. In fact we're behind California which has spent \$200 million over a 20 year period for sound mitigation of its freeways. And Nevada's current transportation budget call for 2% of the funds to go toward noise walls.

Eastlake may or may not see noise walls go up along Harvard and Boylston Avenue. Before any of the \$5.2 million is spent, the Eastlake community will hire a consultant paid with city grant money to study the problem and report back to community forums. Larson stresses that there is currently no master plan for using the money and that community involvement will be what decides how the money is spent. Noise is a more complicated issue than most people realize, he adds. It may well be noise walls that go up and/or money to those who can't afford it for insulated windows. But first the community has to make sure that the slated money doesn't get cut from the transportation budget. He urges folks to write representative Ed Murray and Senator Pat Thibodeau and encourage them to continue their support for noise mitigation in Eastlake and Roanoke Park.

The I-5 bridge spanning Eastlake Avenue is a separate dragon. Reportedly it is the noisiest section of the freeway in the state. Additional funds and studies will be needed to tackle it. Larson hopes to see that in the future as well noting the noise averaged from it over a 24 hour period is louder than people who live near SeaTac Airport experience. (Anyone who has tried to hold a conversation on the street under the bridge can attest to that.) Larson says it's possible that the whole bridge could be wrapped in a sound barrier to cut down noise or have sound absorbing tiles installed on it. But mitigating the noise from the bridge could be even more expensive than tackling the noise from the roadway that runs through the residential neighborhoods.

For more information contact Wes Larson at 320-9847.

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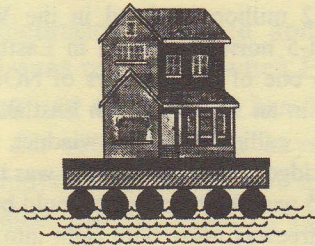
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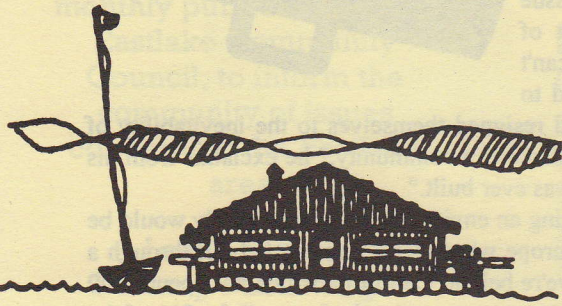
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Houseboat Tour Sunday, April 25

Every two years, the Floating Homes Association sponsors a tour. Here's your chance to see inside the world of our floating neighbors. This year, houseboats on the east and west sides of Lake Union will be featured, including the "Sleepless in Seattle" houseboat.

Event is Sunday, April 25.
Hours are noon to 5 p.m.; price is \$20.

For information, call 325-1132.

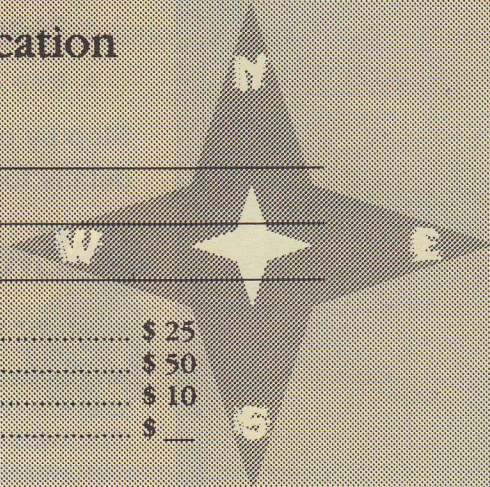
ECC Membership Application Eastlake Community Council

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



Interests

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

Member Status

- New
- Renewal

Eastlake Community Council — 117 E. Louisa #1, Seattle, WA 98102

CARINA

bar & grill

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We will be featuring jazz, cabaret and exotic dance in the music lounge next to the waterfront deck. In our dockside bar we will be featuring dancing and DJ'S on Friday and Saturday nights. Weeknights we will have our neighborhood happy hours. Monday thru Friday from 4-6 and Monday thru Thursday from 9-11.

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