

The



# EASTLAKE NEWS

June / July 2006

EASTLAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
117 E. LOUISA STREET, #1  
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## AIR MAIL ON LAKE UNION - PART 2

(Continued from March/April issue of Eastlake News)  
By Paul G. Spitzer

Mail for the Orient continued to fly out of Lake Union after Eddie Hubbard let go of the historic route in 1927. A small seaplane continued to carry international air mail letters, not to Asia (as this was still beyond the capabilities of swift airplanes), but to and from Victoria, B.C. where they met slow transpacific steamers. This almost unique service Hubbard had begun in October, 1920 and can be legitimately called America's first international air mail route. After changing hands it would continue until June 1937.

Briefly following Hubbard another company took the air mail business to Renton. Flying off Lake Washington, from a pilot's point of view, was better; there was less debris, fewer boats and an almost endless "runway." But Lake Union had an enormous advantage in time and location by being so close to downtown Seattle. Meanwhile, aerial businesses ... continued on page 2



Barnes and unidentified helper unload sacks of mail from a Boeing B-1E

## PUBLIC EVENTS

- Sat/Sun. June 3-4 **Lake Union Southeast shoreline work party**, 10 a.m. -3 p.m. (1500 and 1600 Fairview Avenue East, 322-5463, cleman@oo.net).
- Wed., June 7 **Debate among candidates for the open 43<sup>rd</sup> district legislative race** 7-9 p.m., TOPS-Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. (see article)
- Wed., Jun. 14 **Good Turn Park work party**, 6-8 p.m. (3149 Fairview Ave. E., 261-4271).
- Mon., June 19 **Public meeting on land use projects and issues in Eastlake** 7-9 p.m., TOPS-Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. (see article)
- Wed., July 19 **Good Turn Park work party**, 5:30-7:30 (261-4271).
- Wed., Aug. 16 **Good Turn Park work party**, 5:30-7:30-8 p.m. (261-4271)

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

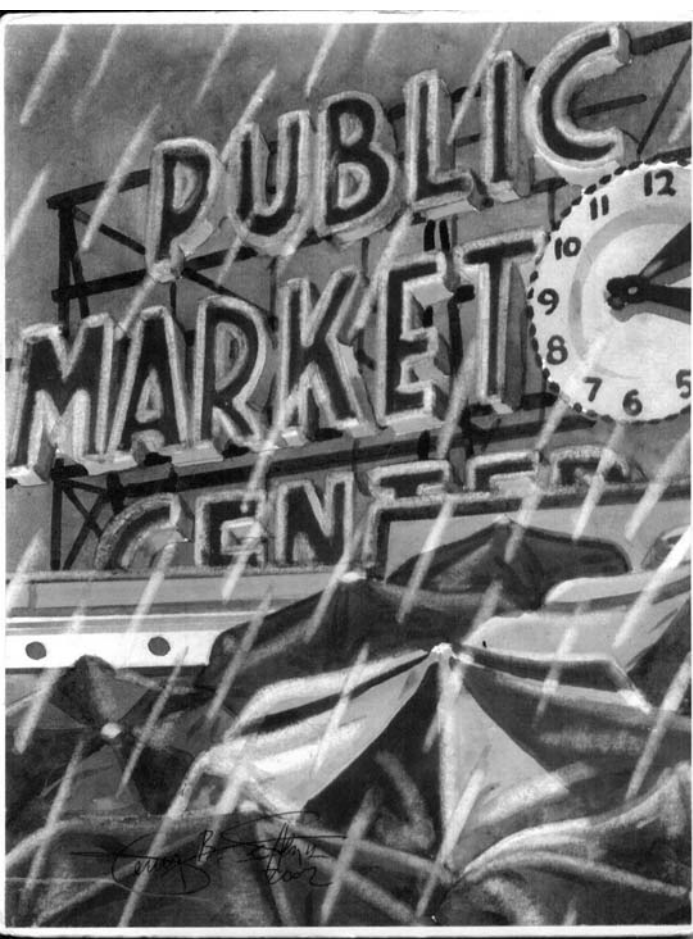
grew increasingly common and on Lake Union, people watched ever more planes come and go, even into the depression Thirties. Under Hubbard, mail trips had already increased to twelve a month under the U.S. Post Office contract, which paid \$250 per trip. Percy Barnes, who had learned the business as Hubbard's substitute, took over in July 1928 as manager and pilot for Seattle-Victoria Air Mail Inc., also called the Barnes & Gorst Airlines.

"Airlines" was a bit of an exaggeration, but the firm did purchase a new flying boat design, a closed cockpit Boeing B-1E with seats for four passengers along with the mail. During the Depression, moving mail had grown far more profitable than moving people. One-way tickets, once \$12, slid to just \$7 as bad times took hold. There was some compensation in the fact that the price of B-1Es also slid precipitously. If bootlegging had ever provided opportunities, they disappeared with the end of Prohibition in 1933. Another sign of the Depression was the scruffy houseboats crowding in around the Lake Union hangar. Occasionally Percy Barnes lived in one of these with his wife. Earlier as a flyer in Tacoma, he'd never been good with finances and had lost airplanes and engines to creditors.

Back then Barnes had bought Boeing's first airplane, the Martin float plane which William Boeing purchased before building his own. It wasn't in any condition to fly and lacked an engine, the result of Boeing's test pilot crashing it into Lake Union back in 1916 in what was probably the first aviation accident on the lake. Barnes, however, put it back in operation with help from the woman who later became his wife. It was she who bought the engine from Boeing. Seemingly, it was a match made in heaven. Barnes had a plane without a motor and she, for unknown reasons, a motor without a plane. He flew it around Tacoma for many years but it was gone by the time he switched to the air mail route.

The Barnes & Gorst Airlines, which took over the route, was another puzzling partnership. Barnes was the pilot, manager and vice president, in short, almost everything. Vern Gorst, who owned several small Northwest airlines and was the absentee owner of this one, played no role at all in its operations. The business suffered a financial setback when Barnes' wife, who worked as an employee, was discovered to have been embezzling. It was not an amicable settlement that followed in which Barnes got a divorce in exchange for agreeing not to prosecute.

Besides carrying passengers and mail, Barnes tried, as Hubbard had, everything to improve earnings. One small money maker was renting out the third airplane bay in the hangar, the second bay being reserved by both Barnes and Hubbard for their own backup planes. Another was tossing out business handbills. Lana Kurtzer, who today is still fondly remembered for his lifetime of Lake Union float plan operations, was then a budding pilot, and recalled tossing a stack of bills out in one large bunch, exactly what Barnes had just told him not to do. Fortunately, it only resulted in a loud thump



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Percy Barnes flew international air mail out of Lake Union between 1928 and 1937

that shook the plane and not a sharp snap of the prop. Barnes & Gorst Airlines was beset with many serious dangers including deadheads (logs lurking in the water), smoke from the mills obscuring Lake Union, fog in the straits, early darkness during winter, cracked pistons and swallowed valves. The handbills were yet one more close encounter with disaster.

Eventually the hangar would go to Kurtzer. He paid Gorst just four thousand dollars for it in 1938. William Boeing had built

the building for ten thousand before the First World War. At the end of the war he hoped to get thirty thousand, in war-inflated dollars, but none of the very small number of people who could use a hangar was interested. It eventually became the property of Gorst who would also have trouble finding buyers in the midst of the Great Depression. Kurtzer was one of the very few people willing to risk precious cash.

Until 1937, Barnes & Gorst Airlines continued to carry the mail to Victoria. It did so without the fame that Hubbard had achieved. For Barnes, mail remained his main business and he did well enough to buy an island near Deception Pass. Per flight, the mail going north averaged 400 pounds and 800 going south. The record time he claimed for the trip north was just 18 minutes, or an astonishing 280 mph instead of the normal 105 mph—so fast as to cast doubt on the story. The return flight that day was well over two hours, which would surely be a record too. Often Barnes would fly to his island on Friday or Saturday and stay over, waiting for a steamer to arrive in Victoria. This idyll continued until a distant event brought the Seattle-Victoria route to an end.

In November, 1935 a large flying boat carried the first air mail across the Pacific via Hawaii and not—no surprise—from Lake Union, but from San Francisco. The U.S. Post Office did not offer a new contract for the Victoria route and the sun went down on Lake Union on Thursday evening, July first, 1937, without the arrival of a little mail plane. Anyone looking north for it coming over the Gas Works would have only seen a plume of dirty smoke.

So ended America's first international mail route. "That last flight was the most nervous one in my life," Percy Barnes said. It wasn't the attention, for there was almost none. Rather, he figured he had used up more good luck than he had any right to expect. After stepping out of the Boeing B-1E at Lake Union, he never again got into an airplane.

*A retired history professor, Paul G. Spitzer formerly was corporate Historian at Boeing and Curator at the Museum of History and Industry.*

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**SCHOOL CLOSURES AND PROGRAM MOVES DIRECTLY TO AFFECT EASTLAKE – YOUR COMMENTS NEEDED!**

The Seattle School Board is considering proposals from a community advisory committee for school closures and relocations. The proposals include the closure of the Montlake school building and moving that program to the Seward building, and moving the TOPS alternative school from Seward to the Thurgood Marshall school building at 2401 S. Irving Street. For more on the proposals, recommendations, and a calendar of events, visit <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/cac/index.dxml>. The Board will vote on final recommendations on July 26th. If you would like to be involved in the Eastlake Community Council response to this issue as it evolves, contact Michelle Buetow, 860-9468, [michele\\_buetow@alliedtelesyn.com](mailto:michele_buetow@alliedtelesyn.com). Whatever your views on this extremely important matter, please express them to the School Board. Board members should be addressed individually. The mailing address is School Board Office, PO Box 34165, MS 11-010, Seattle WA 98124-1165. The names, e-mails and phone numbers of the School Board members are:

- sally.soriano@seattleschools.org 252-0052
- darlene.flynn@seattleschools.org 252-0031
- brita.butler-wall@seattleschools.org 729-3202
- cheryl.chow@seattleschools.org 721-4199
- mary.bass@seattleschools.org 720-3303
- irene.stewart@seattleschools.org 933-5338
- michael.debell@seattleschools.org 706-3848

**43RD DISTRICT HOUSE CANDIDATES DEBATE WED., JUNE 7**

An open legislative position for the 43<sup>rd</sup> district in the state House of Representatives is occasioning the hottest race in years. On Wed., June 7 (7-9 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. E.), the Eastlake Community Council hosts a debate among the six or more candidates. Meet the candidates, pose questions to them, and hear their views on important neighborhood and state issues like transportation, taxes, social programs, housing, and human rights—or whatever you want to bring up. Questions submitted beforehand are especially welcomed, to [cleman@oo.net](mailto:cleman@oo.net), dropped by Lake Union Mail, or mailed to ECC, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102.

The Eastlake community wishes our Roanoke Park neighbor Pat Thibaudeau and our North Capitol Hill neighbor Ed Murray all the best. Sen. Thibaudeau has decided not to run again in 2006, in order to co-chair the Governor’s commission on Health Care Commission. Rep. Murray, whose office is in Eastlake (3302 Fuhrman Ave. E., 720-3074), is running for the Senate opening, thus setting off the 43<sup>rd</sup> District House scramble.



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Chewy, dressed up for Cinco de Mayo. If your pet (clothing optional) hasn't been featured in the Eastlake News, we welcome submission of a photo.

## PUBLIC MEETING ON LAND USE PROJECTS AND ISSUES MON., JUNE 19

Eastlake faces unprecedented development. At this Monday, June 19 meeting (7-9 p.m., TOPS-Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. E.) come hear (and tell what you've heard) about proposed projects, design standards, zoning changes, and how to comment. For information, or to volunteer for ECC's land use committee, contact committee chair Matthew Stubbs, [matthew\\_stubbs@comcast.net](mailto:matthew_stubbs@comcast.net).

## DEATH BY DEHYDRATION FOR PLANTS —UNLESS YOU HELP

The hot, dry summer makes it important to keep trees and shrubs watered. A dish pan in the sink is a great way to save water, and outdoor plants don't mind if there's a little soap. If you see a tree that's suffering from lack of water, mention it to someone at that address, and if necessary take action. Street trees are on public property, and there's no public purpose served in letting them die.

## EASTLAKE BUS RIDERS UNITE TO IMPROVE SERVICE

At two May meetings, Eastlake bus riders got a strong start in campaigning for better bus service. Eastlakers are devoted bus riders, but they deserve better service and more bus shelters. Eastlake's service is now worse than in our neighborhood's 110 year history. The Eastlake Community Council is helping bus riders organize to turn this around.

A first challenge is that most King County/Metro buses that use Eastlake Avenue are expresses that make no stops whatever in the neighborhood. These are the very buses that continue on Eastlake Avenue and are a much quicker trip downtown than the pokey 70 local that goes through the Mercer Mess. Three stops along Eastlake Avenue's three miles—say, at Harvard, Yale, and Aloha streets—would still leave these buses as expresses. In fact, the popular 66 express makes these three stops, and is an excellent model for the other expresses.

Please write urging this change, to King County Council Chair Larry Phillips, 1200 King County Courthouse, 516 Third Avenue, Seattle 98104-3272, or [larry.phillips@metrokc.gov](mailto:larry.phillips@metrokc.gov); Mayor Greg Nickels, PO Box 84769, 600 Fourth Avenue, Seattle 98124-4749 (e-mail messages to the mayor are via [www.seattle.gov/mayor](http://www.seattle.gov/mayor)); and City Councilmember Jan Drago, Transportation Committee chair, PO Box 34025, Seattle 98124-4025, or [jan.drago@seattle.gov](mailto:jan.drago@seattle.gov)

Also, help the Eastlake bus riders group list other needed bus route changes, bus shelters, and improvements. And please volunteer your skills or shoe leather for this effort. You can make a difference! For questions or to get involved: Vernon Van Steenkist, [Vernon@drizzle.com](mailto:Vernon@drizzle.com), (206) 860-4359, or Eastlake Bus Riders, c/o ECC, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102.



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Reneé McCoy



716 E. Edgar, a home and block that no longer exists, having been demolished for I-5. Robert Glatzmeyer shared this photo of his parent's home. ECC welcomes donations of historic pictures, or can borrow and return



ing, a pathway, and native plants. ... **EVZE World Gourmet** (3213 Eastlake Ave., 709-7566, [www.evze.com](http://www.evze.com)) offers a remarkable range of foods from different countries. ... With demolition of its building, **Salon 1520** (206-328-8161, [www.salon1520.com](http://www.salon1520.com), and [salon1520@hotmail.com](mailto:salon1520@hotmail.com)). is now **Urban Oasis Salon and Spa**, relocated to 2209 Eastlake Ave.

**Justin Neidermeyer**, celebrated maker of **Pian Pianino** (Italian for "nice and slow") handmade pasta, has moved his business to our neighborhood, 2203 Eastlake Avenue where he will continue to craft pasta and also open a restaurant with colleague **Toby Carroll**, who has worked at La Spiga and Café Lago. ... **Jane and Michael Stern** (national figures whose books and media appearances celebrate the vernacular in American cooking) chose **Daly's Drive-In** (2713 Eastlake, 322-1918) as one of only three stops in a rare visit to Seattle. They found the halibut burger "delicious" and the French fries well-seasoned and "real." ...

The Stranger has praised **Sitka and Spruce** (2238 Eastlake, 324-0662, [sitkaandspruce.com](http://sitkaandspruce.com)) for "food worth standing on your head for"— "Simple, clear, lovely flavors. Sauces are sparing, nothing's overwrought, and insanely fresh produce meets again and again with reverence and utmost care." "Owner Matt Dillon told me that he's cooking for people like they're friends at his house, not for critics. I believed him that ...no one would get special treatment—or, rather, that everyone would." ... Congratulations to Eastlake horsewoman **Janie Talbot**, who placed fifth nationally in the Horse Show Association National Championships recently in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Participants draw numbers to determine which horse they will ride, and are not allowed to warm up. A reporter liked it to "asking a racing driver to get into a car he has never seen and win the Indianapolis 500."

The May issue of **Seattle Metropolitan** magazine featured **Checka Looka Surf Shop** (2948 Eastlake Ave.) owner Jeff Abandonato as Seattle's "surf evangelist, volcanically bubbling over with advice for surfers and would-be surfers." For information on surfing classes and the store: [wasurf@earthlink.net](mailto:wasurf@earthlink.net) or 726-7878. ... **Cards, Gifts, Etc.** (2366 Eastlake Av, 329-9202, [cardsgiftsetc@aol.com](mailto:cardsgiftsetc@aol.com)) offers 20% discounts—pictures and frames on Mondays, kitchen and bath on Tuesdays, seniors on Wednesdays, and stationery, pencils, and pens on Thursdays. On Saturdays, buy one card and get one free.

When Eastlake's **Hines Public Market Coffee** lost its space to redevelopment, Eastlake also lost John Hornall, who [Coffeegeek.com](http://Coffeegeek.com) has named as "the best 'real-time' barista in the country." Hornall now works at Philadelphia's Chestnut Hill Coffee Company, and a recent [Philadelphia Weekly](http://Philadelphia Weekly) elegized Hines as a "hallowed institution among coffee freaks globally," reporting that "when Hines Public Market Coffee was open, baristoids from around the world went on pilgrimage-style excursions to have a cup made by Hornall." ... While Hines is no more, local photographer and artist **David Young** ([www.fauxpost.com](http://www.fauxpost.com), 526-8211) captured its timeless atmosphere in unique final photographs sold as archival prints, note cards, magnets, stamps, bookmarks, and calendars.

Mention in this column does not imply endorsement by the ECC, writer, or editor. Send your news to Chris Leman ([cleman@oo.net](mailto:cleman@oo.net)) or c/o ECC, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102.

## ARTFUL EASTLAKE

Artful Eastlake is a growing group of artists and creative types interested in producing art projects and events in the Eastlake community. If you would like to get involved or learn more please contact us at:

[artfuleastlake@hotmail.com](mailto:artfuleastlake@hotmail.com)

The community is pitching in to help **Peterson Yacht Services** (1609 Fairview Ave. E., get back in business after the temporary sinking of its barge workshop on April 29. Owner Don Peterson, known for his restoration of Grand Banks motor yachts, has been a longtime supporter of enhancing the adjacent Lake Union shoreline with improved park-

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## ECC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS

The Eastlake Community Council builds community and enhances the neighborhood only with your help. We are all-volunteer, so donations of cash, stock, bequests, or real estate will go a long way. We are also looking for a used digital projector to go along with our old Kodak carousel projector. And we need your volunteer effort in any of the following:

- (1) Organize an Eastlake auction or a neighborhood-wide day of yard sales.
- (2) Help with weeding and stewardship in Rogers Playfield, Colonnade Park, the Lake Union southeast shoreline project, or North Gateway Park (under I-5 where Harvard and Eastlake intersect).
- (3) Help clean up a street—especially Boylston, which suffers from freeway debris.
- (4) Serve on ECC's land use committee, helping the board review land use proposals
- (5) Help make Lynn Street between Boylston and Eastlake avenues safer and more beautiful
- (6) Distribute the Eastlake News on your block or nearby
- (7) Interview Eastlake pioneers to preserve our irreplaceable history
- (8) Help Artful Eastlake organize an arts walk and art show
- (9) Help organize a block or dock watch for crime prevention and disaster preparedness
- (10) Represent the neighborhood at the East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition meetings

Interested? Write to ECC, 117 E. Louisa Street #1, Seattle 98102, [cleman@oo.net](mailto:cleman@oo.net), or phone 322-5463.

### EMERGENCY AND POLICE NUMBERS

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|----------|---|--|
| 911      | Crime, fire, health, or other emergency in progress |  |
| 526-2121 | Washington Poison Center                            | 684-7056 Street lights out or flickering                             |
| 684-7087 | Park security                                       | 625-5011 Crime not requiring immediate response; parking enforcement |
| 684-5797 | Narcotics investigations                            | 684-7717 Advice on setting up a block watch or emergency team        |
| 684-0330 | Domestic violence                                   | 684-8763 Illegally parked or abandoned vehicles                      |
| 684-5740 | Investigations of burglary and theft                | 386-7387 Animal control  |
| 684-7587 | Graffiti and illegal dumping                        |  |
| 684-4071 | Harbor Police                                       |  |

Community police team: 684-4370, 684-4373, Officer Tyrone Davis or [tyrone.davis@seattle.gov](mailto:tyrone.davis@seattle.gov)

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**EASTLAKE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST**

Founded in 1990, ECLT exists to protect the interests of renters and to preserve and reclaim Eastlake's historic economic diversity. The Land Trust is seeking an apartment property to be operated with permanently affordable rents. In Eastlake's hot housing market, properties often sell soon after (or even before!) being listed. Thus the Land Trust appreciates the opportunity to make an offer before a property goes on the open market. As ECLT is tax-exempt, the donor of properties can realize significant tax advantages. If you have or know of a candidate property, please contact board member Paul Hanson, paul.kari@mac.com, 971-5610.

**EASTLAKE'S  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
DELI & GROCERY**



**THE QUICK STOP**

*family-run with wholesome food and friendly service.  
call/fax in your order for pick up or order in-house.*

YOU LOVE OUR SANDWICHES, SOUPS AND CONVENIENCE.  
NOW YOU HAVE EVEN MORE REASONS TO STOP BY:

- \* BUILD-YOUR-OWN SALAD BAR \*
- \* LOW-CARB WRAPS \*
- \* FRESH FRUITS \*
- \* DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS \*

**2352 EASTLAKE AVENUE EAST  
PHONE: 323-0010 FAX: 323-0145**

**ENTERING EASTLAKE - WORDING AND DESIGNS**

Eastlake lacks a sign welcoming people arriving on five roads from the north, south, and east. An anonymous donation has been received for one \$300 sign, and donations for other signs are needed. (Send checks to ECC Sign Fund, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102.) Your wording suggestions have been so good that coordinator Susan Savelle suggests that each sign be different. Please let us know what you think of this recommended wording for two of the signs, and we also welcome designs that could be executed by the City's sign shop:

- "Welcome to Eastlake, a bridge neighborhood" (This sign would be for the north entrance, just this side of the University Bridge.) Designs are requested that would show the University Bridge, a combination of bridges, or a generic bridge.
- "Welcome to Eastlake, east of Lake Union" (This sign would be for the Roanoke Street bridge across I-5.) Designs are requested for a life preserver or possibly a duck.

Please send in your suggestions, to Susan Savelle at Bridge Blond Salon, 2373 Eastlake Ave., Seattle 98102 (329-1362) and by e-mail to cleman@oo.net.



**FEDERAL MORTGAGE COMPANY, INC.**

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Eastlake Plaza: 2501 Eastlake Ave East, Seattle WA 98102

Open Daily: **7A.M.—10:30P.M.**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EASTLAKE'S PARKS

Eastlakers enjoy a growing number of parks—large and small. All of these parks need our love to keep them clean and weeded, and to work with the City on needed improvements. Please help out at work parties—or better yet, volunteer to coordinate one yourself. The Parks Department's maintenance budget has been cut, so even the biggest parks need us. Plus, the City allowed us to build some of our shoreline parks only on the condition that the community maintain them. Bring work gloves and sturdy shoes. To find out more, or volunteer: [cleman@oo.net](mailto:cleman@oo.net), (206) 322-5463.



A wall of invasive weeds once blocked shoreline access and views on the 1600 block of Fairview Avenue East



Paige Stockley (here with daughter Daisy), is coordinator of efforts to protect and enhance the Louisa Arborway, which can be seen in the background. She can be reached at [paige@speakeasy.org](mailto:paige@speakeasy.org)



At one of the Lake Union southeast shoreline work parties, Tom and Mike Naylor struggle to save a tree from clematis



Tricia Rendina coordinates the stewardship of Good Turn Park



Mary Lou Pederson dismantling a Christmas tree that was part of the debris removed in the Lake Union southeast shoreline project

### Condominium Marketing

Questions about the market or the value of your condominium? I can help.

I have specialized in Seattle condominium sales for the past 8 years. If you would like a FREE, no-obligation market analysis of your home, please give me a call.

Buyer/Seller resources at:  
[www.michaelbill.com](http://www.michaelbill.com)



**Michael Bill**  
Direct Line (206) 660-7488  
Windermere Real Estate Co.

**ECC Membership Application Eastlake Community Council**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- Household \$35
- Business \$75
- Senior Citizen/Student/Low Income \$10
- Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to ECC –  
Mail or deliver to Eastlake Community Council - 117 E. Louisa #1, Seattle, WA 98102

**Interests**

- Parks and Open Spaces
- Traffic/Parking Issues
- Building Guidelines
- Newsletter Distribution
- Fundraising
- Workparties
- Community Art Projects
- Community Meetings
- Event Planning

**Member Status**

- New  Renewal



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the  
Eastlake Community Council  
117 E. Louisa Street, #1  
Seattle, WA 98102-3278

**Editorial**

We welcome comments, articles or images for possible publication. Please submit documents to Usch at uengelman@comcast.net.

**Advertising**

Contact Usch at uengelman@comcast.net for information and pricing.

**EDITORIAL NOTE:**

We are pleased that more and more Eastlakers send articles and photos to be published in the Eastlake News. We would like to thank them for their contributions, but at the same time, point out that the view of the respective author, not necessarily of the ECC or The Eastlake News.

**Eastlake Community Council**  
**117 E. Louisa Street, #1**  
**Seattle, WA 98102-3278**

If you did not receive this in the mail with a label attached with your name, then you are not a paying member of the Eastlake Community Council. We need your support, and you will receive benefits in return, so please send in your membership application today!