



Eastlake News

October / November 2009

Upcoming events

Oct. 6 — Candidate Forum and ECC Annual Elections Meeting.

7:00-9:00 p.m., TOPS-Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. Candidates for City offices will debate and field your questions, and ECC holds its annual board elections.

Oct. 21 — ECC board meeting

7:00-9:00 p.m., TOPS @ Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave.. The ECC Board meets monthly. If you have an item that you would like to add to the agenda please email president@eastlakeseattle.org.

Oct. 22 — Fall Feast at

Louisa's. 7:00-9:00 p.m., Louisa's Bakery and Cafe, 2379 Eastlake Ave E. See page two for details.

Nov. 11 — Public meeting on the Eastlake Neighborhood Plan and land use issues

(tentative) 7:00-9:00 p.m., TOPS-Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave.

The ECC Wants You!

by Tim Ahlers, ECC Board President

The ECC is a not-for-profit, neighbor-funded organization specifically here to serve you, the residents, property owners and people who work in Eastlake. The Eastlake Community Council needs your help to continue its mission of fostering and encouraging a sense of community among people who live and work in the Eastlake Community and promoting programs and distributing information benefiting the neighborhood.

How can you make a difference?

1. **Join the ECC** — See the last page of the newsletter for a mail-in form to join our neighborhood association.
2. **Volunteer your time** — There are always more volunteer opportunities than volunteers. No matter what your skills are, we can find something for you. Or, if you have a great idea for a project in the neighborhood, let us know! Please contact us at info@eastlakeseattle.org to volunteer.
3. **Give us feedback** — If nothing else, let us know how we're doing. Do you think we should be doing more or less or something? Should we invest more

continued on page 2

The Effort to Keep NOAA On Lake Union, and How You Can Help

The Eastlake Community Council has been working for years to keep the beautiful white ships of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) homeported on Lake Union in our neighborhood at 1801 Fairview Avenue East. Thank you to the many who have pitched in. August brought some bad news and some good news for this effort.

NOAA is descended from the Coast and Geodetic Survey, which since the mid-1800s has made navigation possible on the Pacific Coast through its exploration and map-making. NOAA also has become central to prediction of weather patterns (including tsunamis) and in understanding global warming.

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The ECC Wants You! ...

Continued from the front page

time and resources in parks or crime prevention? Schools or transportation? Let us know: info@eastlakeseattle.org.

We are an all-volunteer organization, which means your dues and donations go a long way. We can't be successful without your help!

What Has the Eastlake Community Council Done for Eastlake?

Our parks and pathways — ECC has helped in the creation of many shoreline parks (for example, the Lynn Street End Park across from Pete's Market), Fairview Park, Franklin Green Street, and Colonnade Park. ECC pushed for the City's recent planting of trees on Lynn and Newton streets east of Eastlake.

Our personal safety — ECC constantly communicates with SPD to fight thefts and graffiti, and to keep the neighborhood safe during the 4th of July fireworks.

Our roads and local streets — ECC worked with the state on the recently-completed noise walls along Boylston Avenue. Ongoing safety efforts include pedestrian-friendly guidelines for Fairview Avenue E. and a redesign of the Fairview Ave. E./Fairview Ave. N. intersection.

ECC protected Eastlake's bus service from proposed reductions.

Our children — ECC works with TOPS-Seward School on many joint projects. ECC also works for admissions of Eastlake children to local schools, including Montlake, Stevens and TOPS-Seward.

Our networks — Over 4,000 copies of the Eastlake News are distributed throughout our community, and it acts as a clearinghouse for neighborhood information. Our newsletter is available for viewing at www.eastlakeseattle.org.

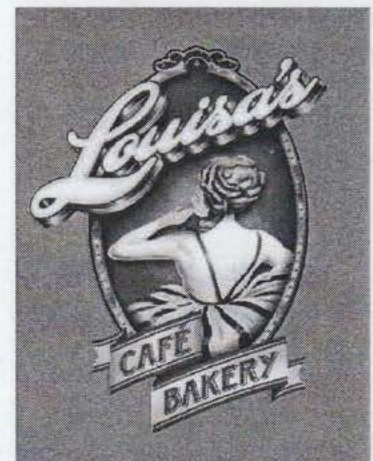
Our community events — ECC has organized dances, concerts, cruises, clean-ups, fairs, picnics, parties, auctions, tours, and film nights to connect one Eastlaker with another.

Why Should I Support the ECC Through Membership?

The Eastlake Community Council needs YOUR help to continue all of the events listed above, so that we can inform, involve, protect and improve our neighborhood. To become a member of the ECC, see the last page of the newsletter for a mail-in form. Please join today!

Join Your Neighbors at Louisa's on October 22

Join the Eastlake Community Council for a fall feast on Thursday, October 22 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Louisa's Bakery and Café. Enjoy live music and get to know your neighbors! Light appetizers and wine tasting will be provided. Scrumptious dinner and dessert menu will also be available, from which to order at full cost. There will be a \$5 fee at door for first 50 people in the door, \$10 after. For more information please contact info@eastlakeseattle.org



The Effort To Keep NOAA On Lake Union ...

Continued from the front page

NOAA's ships have homeported on Lake Union since 1916, and moved in 1963 to the current site, just a 5.6 mile drive from its scientific laboratories in Sand Point. Under the Bush administration, NOAA began a process to consider other homeports, with the current privately owned and taxpaying Lake Union site facing tax-subsidized competition on (non-taxpaying) public land of the Ports of Bellingham, Port Angeles, and Newport.

NOAA is located in the Department of Commerce, whose Secretary is former Washington Governor Gary Locke. NOAA reports to a U.S. Senate Committee chaired by Washington Senator Maria Cantwell. Nevertheless, on August 8, NOAA signed a lease to move its home port to Newport, Oregon, turning down the lease renewal proposal for the Lake Union site. Under federal law, the Lake Union owners on August 28 filed a bid protest to the Government Accountability Office, a step that freezes and may overturn the move. In preparing the bid protest, they had help from the City of Seattle's Office of Economic Development and from ECC Vice President Chris Leman.

The bid protest points out that: (1) the Newport site is in a flood plain, where NOAA's own rules prohibit the home port from being located; (2)

Newport has no guarantee of getting the state and federal permits needed to build new structures for NOAA in a sensitive natural area, estuary and salmon run of the Yaquina River, whereas the permits are already in place to remodel the Lake Union site to NOAA's specifications; and (3) relocation to Newport would cause millions of dollars a year in increased costs to the NOAA ships for fuel, personnel, and repair, undermining their safe and effective operation and the realization of their mission of science and national and global security.

NOAA is not only an icon for our neighborhood, but a location for public meetings, and many of its employees live here or have donated or volunteered to neighborhood projects. ECC continues its efforts to save NOAA. You can help by asking our U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray and our U.S. Representative Jim McDermott to do everything they can to keep NOAA's ships on Lake Union. To send e-mails or obtain their Washington, D.C. address or phone number, go to www.cantwell.senate.gov, www.murray.senate.gov, and www.house.gov/mcdermott. You can also leave phone messages with their Seattle offices: Cantwell: (206) 220-6400; Murray: (206) 553-5545; and McDermott: (206) 553-7170.



Thanks to the employees of Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Inc. who spent a day in July thoroughly weeding and cleaning the shoreline on Fairview Avenue East between NOAA and Lake Union Drydock.

Boeing's First Pilots and Their "Hangar War"

by Paul G. Spitzer

From the moment they set eyes on each other, pilots Herbert Munter and W. Knox Martin began feuding. There wasn't room for the two of them in William Boeing's Lake Union hangar at the foot of Roanoke Street, and each set about getting rid of the other.

When Boeing began looking for a pilot for his new enterprise, Herb Munter had not been hard to find. The spirited young man was a hometown favorite, often seen flying out of Harbor Island. They were soon making flights together in a seaplane Boeing bought, but then Munter dumped it twice, first into Union Bay and then into Lake Union.

Much as he still admired Munter's skills, Boeing realized further crashes would damage his young company's reputation. The two would have a strained relationship, with Boeing trying to rein the flyer in and Munter trying to escape the limitations his employer imposed.

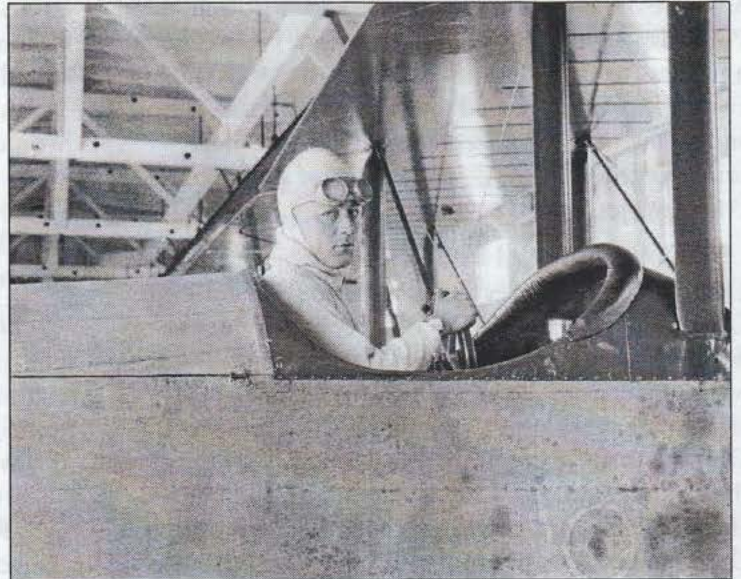
When it came time in June 1916 to test Boeing's first airplane, the B&W, both were aware of the tension between them. Munter believed his employer had lost confidence because of the two crashes. Boeing remained confident of Munter's abilities, but worried that his reputation for crashes would hamper the flight school he intended to found; potential students could be scared off.

Boeing hired Knox Martin who he had met less than a week before and about whom he knew little. Martin happened to be in Seattle looking for a job, but why he was unemployed when pilots were in such great demand is a puzzle.

When that historic first 1916 flight in the B&W was to be made, Munter couldn't be found. Boeing and Martin waited at the Roanoke Street hangar. Finally, Boeing took the plane out himself, making a short straight hop. Munter, when he did at last arrive at the hangar, must have been distressed to find Martin there. Boeing seemed to further withdraw his support by telling Munter to do only taxiing tests until otherwise instructed.

For his part, Martin must not have been pleased that Boeing did not turn the testing over to him. Boeing had already decided that Munter would do the tests and Martin the school, but it was clear that the company was too small to need two pilots.

The first flights went unrecorded in the company's flight log because there was none. Apparently everyone except Martin was too new to aviation to realize they should have one. When a flight log was purchased, it was probably at his insistence. Martin had flown with two



Knox Martin wore a fancy flying outfit that presented him as a dashing aviator. He was cashing in on the daring, theatrical side of flying.

other aviation companies and made many flights ferrying passengers in San Diego. Somewhere along the line he learned the importance of a paper record. As a result, on the first page of the company flight log, Martin wrote by his signature "Chief Pilot," another thing that must have rankled Munter.

Although small, Martin cut a dashing figure in stylish attire. Boeing praised him for presenting "a good appearance," being something very useful in someone who would have direct contact with the public. But Martin never obtained the confidence of his employer that Munter had. In the log book, his name becomes infrequent and is gone entirely even while he is still teaching students. The log itself gives no hint as to what happened or whether another log was started. Munter dominates the logbook's pages, but the flights are amateurishly described. The logbook seems to have been ignored nearly as often as it was used. Its unreliable pages will never provide a full history of the earliest flight operations on Lake Union.

Munter's fears were justified because Martin would, in fact, be asked to do test flights. Munter fought back and tried to discredit his adversary whenever he could. When Martin claimed a Boeing plane he tested couldn't get above a certain altitude, Munter took the plane up even higher and made sure everyone knew. And when the flashy little outsider flew some low speed tests, Munter redid them because Martin's trials were not slow enough. Munter also called Martin a "wind merchant," a self-promoter of his own abilities. Martin was full of implausible stories of



Herb Munter is here performing at a fair, but presented himself as a mechanic, someone like men who raced cars and boats. The airplane, copied from a popular design, is one he built himself

unexplored terrain in South America. But they were true tales of jungle flying up the Orinoco River in Venezuela.

Knox Martin's reputation suffered and the flying school wasn't attracting enough students. His reputation around Seattle may have been unfair, especially skepticism about his high altitude flying since he later became renowned in Colombia, South America for opening up the interior with flights through the Andes. Around September, 1916 Martin left to join Tom Hamilton, another Seattle airplane builder who had departed for British Columbia to start a school for Canadian Army pilots and to build training airplanes. Canada was already at war with Germany and there was a lot more action north of the border.

In Seattle, if people had a favorite flyer, it was their redheaded hometown boy, Herb Munter. But the feud continued, and the hangar war ultimately contributed to both pilots leaving Boeing — Martin in a few months and Munter by the end of 1918. Munter left for the Navy, then started his own business, but never returned to the company even though he remained a friend of

When Martin claimed a Boeing plane he tested couldn't get above a certain altitude, Munter took the plane up even higher and made sure everyone knew.

William Boeing. Munter was still disparaging Martin in a 1955 interview.

The feud between pilots Herb Munter and Knox Martin wasn't the only instance of ill will at the new company and almost all the very early employees left within a few years. Those departures suggest management problems. Boeing himself created one in hiring two pilots who saw themselves in competition. In 1916, Boeing was unfamiliar with aviation and wasn't giving enough attention to what, for him, was just a sideline to his timber business.

In 1918, the Boeing company began work on a large order for Model C Navy trainers. Like the airplanes that it produced, the company became a smoothly running machine. This favorable result was partly because of the Munter-Martin battle for control of the skies over Lake Union, and partly because they were not there any longer.

Paul G. Spitzer formerly was the Corporate Historian at Boeing, a university professor and Curator at the Museum of History and Industry.

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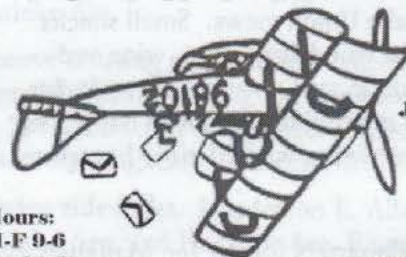
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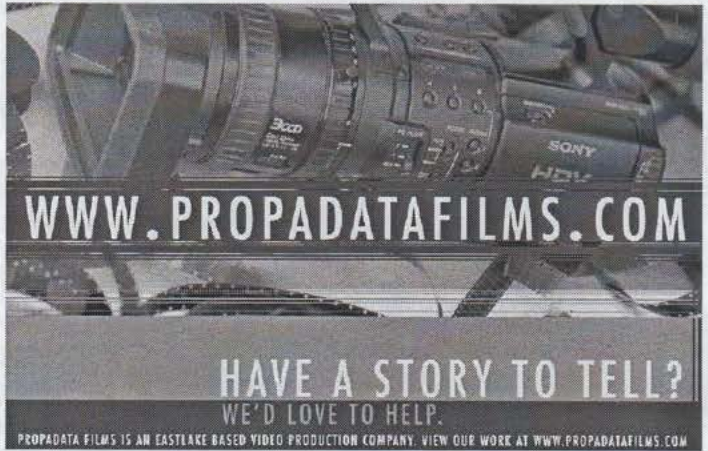
Local actor **Betty Gard** has the part of Mrs. Bates in the Book-It Repertory Theater production of the Jane Austen novel, *Emma*. Previews are Oct. 20-22, opening night is Oct. 23, and the play runs until Nov. 22 at the Center House Theater, Seattle Center. Evening shows begin at 7:30 and matinees begin at 1. For information: <http://www.book-it.org>. Actor Gard is also playing the role of Mrs. Simmons in "The Southwest Chamber," a ghost-story drama by Fifth Saturday Audio Theatre Company (www.5saturday.org/) in association with the Evergreen Radio Reading Service of the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library, www.wtbbl.org/ERRS.aspx. It will premier at 9 p.m. on Halloween, Saturday, Oct. 31, 2009 by web stream at <http://www.wtbbl.org/ERRSwebstream.aspx> and also can be listened to at that time on the FM stations KUOW Seattle, KFBX Spokane and KFAE Tri-Cities (may need a special receiver--see web site).

Serafina (2043 Eastlake Ave., 206-323-0807, www.serafinaseattle.com) is opening an annex, **Cicchetti**, named after a snack typically enjoyed in bars in Venice, Italy. "Cicchetti is to be the more casual sister to Serafina, as well as offering a private dining option for larger groups on the mezzanine, with Lake Union views. Small snacks emanating from a beautiful wood-fired oven, wine and liquors from around the globe, and a variety of nooks for different sized parties will intertwine to create a happening bar scene for those who've always wanted more bar space in Serafina."

Eastlake has been the headquarters for the **Joe Mallahan** for Mayor campaign, at 2633 Eastlake Avenue East. ...

Aesthetica Contemporary Dentistry (2731 Eastlake Avenue E., www.aestheticasmiles.com, 206-588-0714) has a full dental practice, and offers a new patient special of free whitening for life. ... **BJ's Endeavors** (206.362.3895) offers light hauling, including moving, dump runs, and delivery. They have years experience and are customer oriented. ... An effort is beginning to establish an **Eastlake Merchants Association** that could work on attracting more customers and diners to the business district. Contact us if you'd like to get involved.

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



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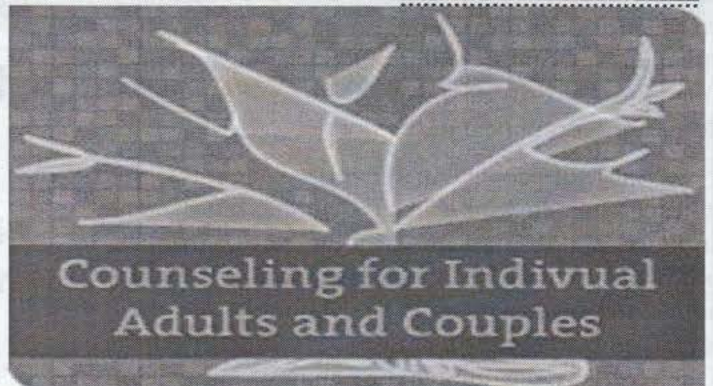
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EASTLAKE MOVIE NIGHT A SUCCESS!

Over 75 Eastlake friends and neighbors enjoyed our second annual outdoor movie celebration on August 29th. The main feature was Groundhog Day and everyone had a blast! Interested in helping at the event next year? Email info@eastlakeseattle.org

A tremendous thank you to the sponsors of the event — without your generous assistance, this event would not have been possible!

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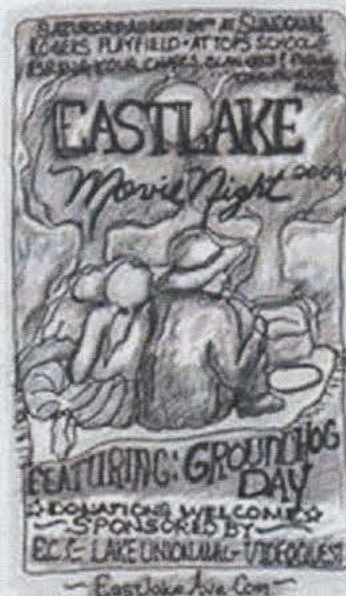
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Eastlake Community Council

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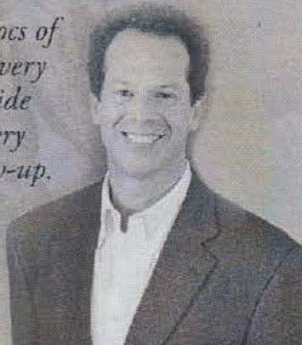
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Field Guide to Eastlake Characters: Ryan Alexander

by Diana Wurn

Unofficial name: “Cool movie guy”

Official name: Ryan Alexander, owner of Video Quest

Primary Habitat:

Most often found near Eastlake and Lynn Street behind the desk of Video Quest, tilting back in his chair with a sardonic grin. With a background in film and commercial production, movie guy became the owner of Video Quest in January of 2009 and can now be spotted roaming around the neighborhood near Voxx Coffee. Habits include providing honest recommendations of movies so you don't waste 90 minutes of your life watching a disastrous Ashton Kutcher movie. But don't think you can just walk in and ask him what's good. You'll have to participate by answering questions about what you typically like to watch and what sort of movie you are in the mood for. But if you're too shy to ask for recommendations, you can scan the rack of favorites from the employees including one from a customer who goes by the pseudonym “Narwhal” and always has the most popular selections. Cool movie guy is currently recommending one of his favorite movies: “The Conversation,” Francis Ford Coppola's 1974 thriller about a paranoid surveillance expert. He advises against anything with Brendan Fraser, which is “guaranteed suckville.”

First Sighting:

Video Quest has been in the neighborhood for twenty years and bills itself as the best combination movie slash tanning place around. “Think you can get a tan from Netflix? Think again my friends, think again” cautions the Video Quest website. Ryan thinks he has one of the only video tanning places in the area, yet once he was driving through the tiny town of Prosser and noticed another video/tanning place and felt an “immediate kinship with the owner but had no time that day for professional development.”

Natural Enemy:

Accidental pedestrians. Those people who storm into the video store and shout “Dude, where's my car?” but they aren't requesting the clunker of a movie, which the video

store no longer carries because it was lost years ago and never replaced. They want to know why their car was towed from the front of the store between 3 to 6 p.m., a weekly occurrence. They want to yell at somebody and ask why cool movie guy didn't make an effort to stop the tow truck. Though he can do many things, including recommend the perfect movie in less time than it takes to pop microwave popcorn, movie guy does not have the magical ability to stop tow trucks. “I tell them I'm just a video guy with a few tanning beds,” he says.

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Eastlake's Neighborhood Plan: Achievements and What is Left to Do

By Chris Leman, cleman@oo.net

The City of Seattle is inviting discussion on possible changes in Eastlake's Neighborhood Plan, in a process more centralized and rushed, and with less public involvement, than the collaborative process that produced the 1998 Eastlake Neighborhood Plan (seattle.gov/neighborhoods/npi/plans/elake) and the City Council's 1999 Approval and Adoption Matrix (seattle.gov/neighborhoods/npi/matrices/pdf/eastlke.pdf).

The combined executive branch review concluded that of the 38 neighborhood plans, none had done a better job of outreach than Eastlake's. The City Councilmembers who held an October 1998 public hearing on the plan said that it was the only one of the 38 that had not had a single person testify against anything in it.

The 1998 plan stemmed from a more than two-year City-funded and contracted process in which a broad-based steering committee of the Eastlake neighborhood's major stakeholder organizations and interests, administered by the Eastlake Community Council, conducted outreach and public involvement, developed proposals, and worked out with the City agencies and the Mayor and City Council the neighborhood plan's recommendations and the work items by which City agencies would implement them. Although covering one of the smallest neighborhood planning areas, the Eastlake Neighborhood Plan is the longest and most detailed of any of the 38 neighborhood plans, and it is still producing results.

While seeking to promote continued implementation of the neighborhood plan, the Eastlake Community Council welcomes suggestions for its improvement. Below is a review of achievements so far, and what is left to be done. Comments are welcome; contact information is at the end of this article.

Achievements

The Eastlake Neighborhood Plan has produced many tangible results, as follows.

I-5 Colonnade Open Space. Reopened 7.5 acres (formerly marked, "no trespassing") under I-5 to east-west and north-south pedestrian and bicycle passage, created mountain biking and off-leash areas, and installed public art, benches, and police call boxes.

Franklin Green Street. This block between Roanoke and Louisa streets was permanently closed to motor vehicles (except for loading and emergencies), adding a playscape, plantings, kiosks, street furniture, tether ball, and a basketball hoop.

Fairview shoreline path and landscaping. Six blocks of Fairview Avenue E. were improved with (1) asphalt pathway, landscaped islands, and parking curb stops between E. Newton Street and E. Blaine Street; (2) gravel pathway, native plant garden, and parking curb stops south of E. Blaine Street; and (3) a curving concrete pathway, plantings, and shoreline plantings and beach restoration north of Hamlin Street.

Improvements to parks and open spaces. A new park at the Louisa Street end includes a bouledrome, bench, and landscaping. Improvements were also made to Rogers Playfield (playscape; tennis court repair; sewer line repair; irrigation and drainage renewal), Lynn Street Park (art tiles, bench), and the north gateway open space where Eastlake Ave. and Harvard Ave. intersect (landscaping, art).

Arterials. Parking was restored to the east side of Harvard Ave. E., formerly a commute-time restriction. A center turn lane on Eastlake Ave. south of Boston Street was added, similar to what already existed north of Boston.

Fairview Ave. E. Addition of 15 mph speed signs between Newton and Roanoke streets.

Streetscape and pedestrian improvements. Sidewalks, curbs, and trees on the block of E. Newton Street between Eastlake Ave. and Franklin Ave. Lighting in the Louisa Arborway, a pedestrian walkway just east of Yale Avenue E. Planted medians (boulevard strips) on Eastlake Avenue between Boston and Newton streets. Curb bulbs and improved sidewalks at the intersection of E. Newton St. and Lakeview Blvd, where Boylston Ave. E. becomes the I-5 southbound on-ramp.

I-5 noise walls. WSDOT has completed six blocks of noise walls along Boylston Avenue, and has conducted a pilot study for noise retrofit of the Ship Canal bridge.

Design guidelines. Awaiting final approval by the community and the City Council are building and street improvement guidelines for Eastlake Avenue and Fairview Avenue East. The Fairview guidelines would implement a 1998 ordinance that designates as a "Type 3 Green Street" (combining motor vehicles with pedestrian travel on-street) the section of Fairview Avenue E. between Newton and Roanoke streets.

Schools. On June 17, 2009, the Seattle School Board changed the citywide school assignment policy in a way that greatly improves access by Eastlake children to TOPS-Seward School.

What is Left To Do

The following measures have not yet been implemented that are called for in the Eastlake Neighborhood Plan and the Approval and Adoption Matrix. Some possible additions are also noted.

Bus service. Metro express buses continue to use Eastlake Ave in the afternoon and on weekends without any stops in our business district. The Eastlake Neighborhood Plan calls for each express bus to make a few stops along Eastlake Ave (as now with bus route 66), a position supported by major employers. The plan also calls for maintaining a maximum of two blocks between local bus stops, and installing more bus shelters, benches, and litter cans.

Pedestrian district overlay. The Department of Planning and Development has yet to give serious consideration to the neighborhood plan's proposed pedestrian overlay district along Eastlake Avenue that would encourage retail businesses to be grouped in certain blocks, interspersed with all-residential zoning.

Subsidized housing. With its housing and land development market fairly strong even in the current economic downturn, Eastlake's continuing lack of any subsidized housing units is further reducing any remaining population who are on low incomes; such units were recommended in the neighborhood plan, one of the few to do so.

I-5 noise reduction. The noise walls on Boylston Ave. E. currently reach north to just short of Hamlin Street, and should be extended north of Shelby to where I-5 becomes a bridge; and a noise retrofit is needed on the bridge itself. Also, WSDOT has not put up signs prohibiting use of noisy diesel compression brakes, as authorized by a 1999 City ordinance.

Restore parking to Eastlake Avenue where it is prohibited at commute times. While parking was once allowed round the clock on both sides of Eastlake Avenue, the commute lane now prohibits parking inbound on the west side of the street in the morning and outbound on the east side of the street in the afternoon. The neighborhood plan asks this change for safety and because of the shortage of parking for residents and local businesses.

Planted medians (boulevard strips). The neighborhood plan calls for extending the existing medians to more blocks of Eastlake Avenue.

Cobblestone streets. The neighborhood plan calls for the restoration of Eastlake three cobblestone streets (Louisa, Edgar, and Boston east of Eastlake Avenue).

Main Street promotion. The neighborhood plan calls for a united theme and events to promote local retail and restaurant businesses.

Terry Pettus (Newton street-end) Park renovation. The neighborhood plan calls for the Parks Department's planned renovation of Terry Pettus Park to be a design in

which the neighborhood is fully involved. Key issues include whether any new retaining walls should be concrete or remain as wood; and how much foliage to retain, given the recent crime problems there.

Fairview Ave. E. traffic calming. The neighborhood plan calls for traffic calming measures (e.g. curb bulbs, raised intersections, etc.) on Fairview Avenue E. to make it safer to walk in the roadway.

Fairview Ave. E./Fairview Ave. N. intersection. SDOT is currently seeking funding for this safety improvement that would square off the intersection and separate pedestrians and bicyclists.

Shoreline trail connection between Edgar St. and Hamlin St. The neighborhood plan calls upon the City to study, with stakeholder input, this reconnection.

Fairview shoreline pathway south of NOAA. While a pathway and plantings are now in place between NOAA and Lake Union Drydock, two view platforms are needed, and the pathway should be extended south to Fairview Avenue North. Also, the Parks Department should install three water spigots.

Kiosks. The neighborhood plan calls for more kiosks and/or bulletin boards.

Trash and recycling cans. Anticipating the growing number of users of the Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop Trail, the neighborhood plan also calls for more refuse cans throughout the route in Eastlake.

Submerged parcel. The neighborhood plan calls for preserving as open water the submerged parcel that is in front of the Fairview Ave. N. trestle and the ZymoGenetics (historic Steam Plant).

Street-ends. The neighborhood plan calls for: (1) at the Boston street-end the exploration of a possible walkway and/or viewing platform that would allow pedestrians to pass on the west side of Fairview Avenue E.; and (2) a possible street-end park or other enhancement of the Allison street-end.

Restoration of planting strips. The neighborhood plan calls for removal of paving and the revegetation of paved planting strips.

E. Shelby St. The neighborhood plan calls for a hill-climb on the E. Shelby Street right-of-way east of Eastlake Ave.; and a pedestrian half-signal or crosswalk nearby at Eastlake Ave.

Remove crossing prohibition. Pedestrians should no longer be prohibited from using the sidewalks on the north side of the Roanoke Street bridge over I-5, our neighborhood's closest walking route to the northbound route 9 bus.

Missing sidewalks. Needed on E. Allison Street between Eastlake Ave. and Fairview Ave. E.; on the east side of



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Eastlake's Neighborhood Plan ...*Continued from page 11*

Lakeview Blvd between the Howe St. stairs and the Blaine St. stairs; on the south side of Fuhrman Ave. E. on the west half of the block between Fairview Ave. E. and Eastlake Avenue E.; and on the east side of Fairview Avenue E. between Fuhrman Ave. E. and E. Martin Street.

Traffic signals. The neighborhood plan calls for a full traffic signal at the intersection of Eastlake Ave. with East Allison Street; a pedestrian half-signal at Eastlake and Howe; a quicker walk button response at the pedestrian traffic signals across Eastlake Ave. at Louisa and Boston street; and improvements in the traffic signal at the intersection of Lynn St. and Eastlake Ave.

North Gateway. The neighborhood plan calls for a major art work and an occasional open air market at the north gateway under the freeway at the intersection of Harvard and Eastlake avenues.

Colonnade pedestrian access at the elbow of the switchback trail. The park design would be enhanced by creating an opening in the railing at this point. Currently, users who are entering the park from the northwest cannot enter the switchback trail, and users of the switchback trail cannot exit the park here without having to climb further uphill and then backtracking.

Colonnade south linear connection to downtown. In 1999, the Eastlake Neighborhood Plan Stewardship Committee called for the new Colonnade open space to include a trail on WSDOT land along and beneath I-5 south to E. Aloha Street, greatly improving the park's southern access to and from downtown and South Lake Union.

Louisa Arborway improvements. In addition to the lighting that is now in place, the neighborhood plan calls for landscaping and art improvements and for correction of the continued drainage problem.

Public art. The Eastlake Neighborhood Plan calls for extending the "cornerstones" sidewalk art on addition street corners; and a major art work in the North Gateway.

School access. It remains to be seen whether the School Board's June 2009 assignment reforms will correct recent years' denial of access by children to public schools such as Montlake, Stevens, John Stanford, and TOPS-Seward.

Your comments are needed. The Eastlake Community Council welcomes your comments on or additions to the community-generated Eastlake Neighborhood Plan, and the extent to which we should allow the City to ignore or change it. Please write to: Eastlake Neighborhood Plan, c/o ECC, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle, WA 98102, or info@eastlakeseattle.org or phone (206) 322-5463. Come to a public meeting on the plan, tentatively schedules on Nov. 11 at Seward School. Contact us for confirmation.

The Cute Little Puppy

I like dogs, always have. No dog is wagging a tail for me at the moment when I come home but I'll get to experience that again someday I hope. Lots of folks in this neighborhood have dogs so you'd assume that most of them must like their dogs, too. There are hundreds of canines walking their owners through the neighborhood. They often end up chatting about the latest dried food, identification chips, fur care and the best spot to launch some tennis balls for prompt retrieval. Very similar to mommies and daddies with the little toddler in tow who meet up at Rogers playfield to discuss newly discovered ways to handle parenthood successfully.

Sometimes you have to wonder though: Why owners would leave their precious little friend sitting on a balcony or porch on a hot summer night waiting for mommy or daddy. Were they out on a date night in an air-conditioned theater and had no idea that Fido was barking for several hours to make them return home and fill the water bowl or just be there? The barking goes on and on, and now other doggie buddies chime in because one of their friends is in distress so it seems. So the otherwise quiet atmosphere of Eastlake at night with 2-4 lonely dogs on porches and fenced backyards can quickly turn into a security prison with vicious guard dogs.

Most of us who are not blessed with the company of a little furry friend and have jobs which require us to get up early are not too fond of listening to the late night howling show. For folks who have kids this kind of neglect is not a viable option and it makes you wonder how we can afford to leave our oh-so-beloved canine without proper care. Is it because they can't speak and tell neighbors about what's going on at home so they can call animal protection services? Or is it because we have so many really important things going on in our lives that we think it's perfectly acceptable to keep a few neighbors up at night? And beware talking to me about the barking the next morning! "He/she never does that"..., "Don't make a big deal about it"..., "I have my rights"..., "So what if a cute little puppy barks a little?"

It's actually true that it's not a big deal if it happens once or twice. Just like that annoying baby with colic which cried for 3 days in a row last fall... But then again: You could just try to make sure your dog is inside, feels safe, has enough food and water and maybe a neighbor around with a key when things get out of hand. Just a thought!

Respectfully

Your dog-loving but irresponsible owner/tired neighbor

It's Property Tax Appeal Season Again

By Charlie Walsh

Every year homeowners in Eastlake and neighborhoods around the country receive notices in the mail that their property tax assessment has gone up above the market value of the home. The gut reaction is "there's no way I could sell my house for that much".

Unfortunately, most homeowners leave it at that. They pay their bill grudgingly and try to forget about it. A lot of homeowners may not even realize how much they're over-paying because their mortgage company pays the property taxes on their behalf and then adds it to their statement each month.

All King County homeowners receive an assessment notice in the mail between April and September of each year. The mailings are intentionally staggered over the course of the summer and the first batch went out in the middle of June this year, about 8 weeks late. Homeowners have 60 days from the date of their mailing notice to file a notice of intent to appeal their assessment.

How to Appeal Your Property Taxes

Don't be afraid! Yes, the property tax appeal process can appear intimidating at first but this is real money people! In order to prove your case for a lower assessment to the

Board of Equalization, you must present 3-5 comparable homes that support your case. This means finding nearby homes that are similar to yours in square feet, lot size, bedrooms, bathrooms, etc, and sold for less than your home is assessed for.

Read the fine print. Many homeowners will start by typing their address into a web service like Zillow to get a long list of about 40 comps and picking the ones that seem best at first glance. Unfortunately, this often leads to their comps being disqualified and their appeal case being unceremoniously thrown out.

Why? There are a number of reasons comps are disqualified during an appeal hearing. For starters, the King County Assessor evaluates your home's value as of the January 1st assessment date each year by looking at comps that sold PRIOR to that assessment date. Therefore, in order to successfully appeal, the homeowner must also submit comps that sold PRIOR to the assessment date as well. Zillow's data is constantly updated to attempt to determine a real time market value, so most of the comps you see displayed for your property sold AFTER January 1st, 2009 and would be disqualified by the assessor.

And that's not all. Homeowners are not allowed to submit comps that sold as part of a foreclosure, short sale, inheritance or divorce transaction, donation to charity, or any other non arm's length transaction. Yet all of these transactions are technically "sales" and show up in official records. Unfortunately if you look up comps on Zillow or ask your realtor to pull a list of comps for you, many of these important details get lost. It's not their fault after all. Zillow and your realtor aren't property tax appeal specialists, so they have no reason to understand all the fine print.

As you can see there are some hurdles that homeowners have to deal with when appealing their property taxes. Regardless, no one should have to pay more than their fair share of property taxes, so it's worth spending a little time on. The number of property tax appeals increased over 200% from 2007 to 2008, so it seems folks agree with me.

Walsh is a resident of the Eastlake neighborhood, former Eastlake Community Council Board Member and Treasurer, and occasional contributor to the ECC Newsletter. He is the Founder and CEO of ValueAppeal, a new startup based in Eastlake and whose web site is www.ValueAppeal.com. ValueAppeal is a simple online tool that homeowners use to appeal their property tax assessments.

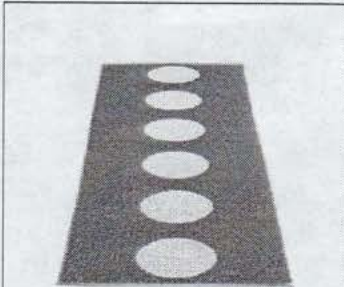


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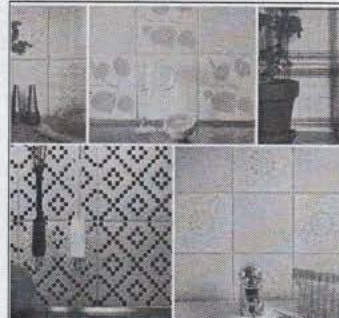
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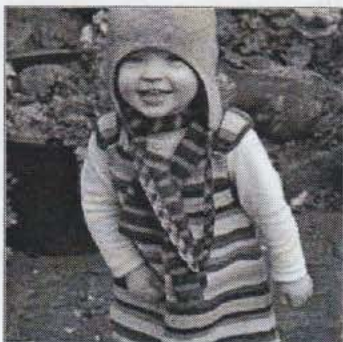


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Editorial Note: We are pleased that more and more Eastlakers send articles and photos to be published in the Eastlake News. We would like to thank them for their contributions, but at the same time point out that these articles represent the view of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

Editorial

We welcome comments, articles or images for possible publication. Please submit documents to info@eastlakeseattle.org.

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