

The Eastlake News

Spring 2013

Coming events

Public workshop on designing Fairview Green Street Mon., March 11, 7 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. E. See article, p. 4

TOPS-Seward School auction Sat., April 6, 5-10 p.m. at St. Demetrios Church, 2100 Boyer Ave. E. To register: hodcroft.john@gmail.com.

Public meeting on Eastlake needs, projects and priorities Wed., March 27, 7 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School. Please bring or send your suggestions and reactions. See article, p. 4

ECC spring celebration Thurs., April 18, 5-8:30 p.m. at 14 Carrot Café, 2305 Eastlake Ave. Theme: "It's All Greek to Me." Music, small bites at no charge, \$5 wines, \$4 beers (and/or order off the special menu for dinner or other beverages). See article, p. 2

Public meeting about bicycling. Thurs., April 25, 7 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School. Featuring our own Craig Etheridge, World Cycle Messenger Champion. See article at right.

Public meeting on the future of Eastlake Avenue Mon., May 13, 7 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School. See article, p. 4

Fairview shoreline work party Sat., May 18, 9 a.m. to noon, 1500 to 1900 blocks of Fairview Ave. E. then cookout at Lake Union Park. Sponsored by ECC and Puget Soundkeeper Alliance.

Eastlake tree walk. Sat., June 1, 10 a.m. to noon. Begins at Roanoke street-end park. See article, p. 24

Public meeting on public safety and emergency preparedness Tues., June 11, 7 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School. See article, p. 6

Eastlake Cruise on the Islander Thurs., July 11. Boarding begins at 5:30 p.m., 1611 Fairview Ave. E. Departure at 6:30, return by 8:30. Tickets (\$15, including dinner) at <http://brownpapertickets.com>.

Eastlake's own world champion keynotes April 25 public meeting about bicycling



Craig Etheridge

Please join us Thurs., April 25, 7 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School (2500 Franklin Ave. E.) for a public meeting about bicycling in and through the Eastlake neighborhood. The first part features Eastlake resident and Cycle Messenger World Champion Craig Etheridge, talking about his life with bicycles as a messenger and competitor. (For more about Craig, see the winter 2012-13 *Eastlake News*, at <http://eastlakeseattle.org>.) Come with your questions and ideas, such as about bicycle equipment, pointers about riding and safety, and bicycle conditions and policies (see below).

The second part of the meeting will involve open discussion about making the Eastlake neighborhood more bicycle-friendly, and any tradeoffs this involves. Are street or pathway improvements needed? What is in the City's Bicycle Master Plan for Eastlake Avenue and other bicycle routes? Do bicycle improvements pose any tradeoffs, such as possible loss of parking for motor vehicles? Whether or not you can come, please send the Eastlake Community Council your ideas or questions, to info@eastlakeseattle.org, or c/o 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle, WA 98102-3278, or (206) 322-5463.

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

www.eastlakeseattle.org
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The Eastlake News is a quarterly publication of the Eastlake Community Council. We welcome comments, articles or images for possible publication; please include a contact phone number. Articles may be edited for length and clarity. Articles in the newsletter represent the view of the author and not necessarily the ECC. Please send submissions to info@eastlakeseattle.org or by U.S. mail to the return address on the back of this newsletter. For advertising contact Kevin Haywood, Jr. at advertising@eastlakeseattle.org.

The deadline for ads and submissions is: Jan. 20 for spring issue; April 20 for summer issue; July 20 for fall issue; October 20 for winter issue. Publication schedule is as follows:

Spring - March, April, May
 Summer - June, July, August
 Fall - September, October, November
 Winter - December, January, February

Masthead artwork sketch by Victor Steinbrueck. Other artwork sketches by Karen Berry.

ECC spring celebration is all Greek, Thurs., April 18, 5-8:30 p.m. at 14 Carrot Cafe

Have fun and meet your neighbors at the Eastlake Community Council's twice-annual celebration. This spring our co-sponsor is the 14 Carrot Café (2305 Eastlake Ave. E.) which is opening in the evening just for us--Thursday, April 18, 5-8:30 p.m. The theme, "It's All Greek to Me," is masterminded by owner Eleftheria ("Terry") Proios, born on the island of Leros. Drink \$5 Greek wines, \$4 Greek beers,

order a champagne Mimosa, a sake "bloody Terry," or something without alcohol. Dine on Greek appetizers at no charge, and/or order from the special menu: gyro (lamb and beef) with roast potatoes, spanakopita (spinach, feta cheese, etc.), Greek shrimp quesadillas, Greek salad, or Greek vegetarian lasagna (vegan options by special order). Enjoy Greek music. See you there!

Citizen initiative proposes district elections for Seattle City Council

Seattle Districts Now, a non-profit group with members from throughout Seattle (including Eastlake) is seeking signatures on an initiative petition that would change the nine current at-large City Council positions to a mixed system with seven geographic districts (each with approximately 90,000 of Seattle's 610,000 population), and two positions still elected at-large (city-wide).

Petitions and background are available at Lake Union Mail (117 Louisa St.) and at <http://seattledistrictsnow.org>. Eastlake would be in the same district as Wallingford and the neighborhoods (including the University District, Ravenna, View Ridge, Wedgwood, and Laurelhurst) that are east of I-5, north of the Ship Canal, and south of 85th Street.

If sufficient signatures are submitted this summer, the initiative would be put before the voters at the November 2013 election. The King County Council is already elected by district,

as are the councils of most large U.S. cities. The Seattle proposal comes from concern at the growing influence of money in campaigns, and the desire of neighborhoods to have someone on the Council specifically elected to look out for them. Opponents will point out for example that voters now help choose all nine Councilmembers (if the initiative passes, we would vote in three City Council races—our geographic representative, plus the two at-large positions).

The Eastlake Community Council welcomes input as to whether it should take a position regarding the districts initiative, and if so, what that position should be. Please send your thoughts to info@eastlakeseattle.org or c/o 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle, WA 98102-3278. As in the past, ECC will hold a public forum this fall with debates between the pro and con sides on major ballot measures such as this one would be.



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Public Meetings

Eastlake needs, projects and priorities, Public Meeting March 27

The Eastlake Community Council regularly hosts public meetings about neighborhood needs, projects and priorities. What is needed to achieve a more Sustainable Eastlake? What Eastlake projects do you most support or oppose? Topics likely to come up include traffic, pedestrians, bicycles, buses, parks, drainage, arts, social services, or (fill in this blank!). The meeting is Wed., March 27, 7 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. E. And whether or not you can come, please write ECC soon at info@eastlakeseattle.org or c/o Lake Union Mail, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle, WA 98102-3278.

How to make Fairview Ave. safer for pedestrians while not sacrificing parking? Public Meeting March 11

Fairview Avenue E. is one of the best things about our neighborhood—a quiet, leafy place to walk and enjoy the lake. But Fairview needs improvements allowing pedestrians, bicycles, local traffic, and public parking to coexist safely while solving drainage and flooding problems. A major step in the process is the Monday, March 11 workshop, 7 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. E., but whether or not you can be there, your written comments are welcome and needed (see below).

You can find background on this process at eastlakeseattle.org in the “documents for review” section, including an outline map of Fairview you can print off and to mark up with your suggestions. A 1999 ordinance designated much of Fairview as a Green Street, but means little until the neighborhood agrees on a Street Design Concept Plan and gets SDOT to adopt it. The Plan is needed both to protect Fairview from unwise changes and to qualify for City-funded and developer-funded improvements.

With the volunteer help of an engineer, ECC is drafting a Street Design Concept Plan and will circulate the draft plan for public comment and revision before submitting it to SDOT, triggering an additional comment and revision process before it is made final. Please come to the March 11 workshop, and also send your views to ECC at info@eastlakeseattle.org or c/o Lake Union Mail, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle, WA 98102-3278. Questions? Call (206) 322-5463.

Discuss future of Eastlake Avenue Public Meeting May 13

Your views are welcome and needed at ECC’s second public meeting in a series about the future of Eastlake Avenue—Mon., May 13, 7 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School. In the coming year, the Mayor, City Council, and SDOT will make important decisions about the future of our main street. For background, see the article on p.6 in the winter 2012-13 *Eastlake News*, available at eastlakeseattle.org. Can buses, a possible streetcar, bicycles, car commuters, the planted medians, and pedestrians coexist? Will something have to give—and if so, what? Be a part of the process. And whether or not you can come to the May 13 meeting, please send ECC your views, to info@eastlakeseattle.org, or c/o Lake Union Mail, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102-3278.

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Credit Union Urged to Keep Cuppa Joe Espresso Stand

Cuppa Joe on the Go, the popular espresso and snack stand that since 1996 has been located among the trees on property of the Washington State Employees Credit Union at 1500 Fairview Avenue East has been told that its lease will not be renewed. Members of the public are asking the Credit Union to reverse its decision, as it did in 2004 when the public rallied behind Cuppa Joe in a similar situation. As one customer wrote:

This small business and the other remaining small, single-owner businesses along the south end of Eastlake add immeasurably to the diversity of the neighborhood. When I discovered this gem of an espresso stand tucked in a corner of your parking lot, I thought it was really nifty of a credit union to allow space for a small business that provided a nice service to the neighborhood. I have lived and shopped in the Eastlake neighborhood for more than thirty years. My children attended Seward School, just up the street. ... There is no reason that small businesses cannot co-exist with large ones, allowing at least some of the rich texture of the neighborhood to be retained. I note on your web site that you say: "As a credit union, our involvement in the community is a big part of who we are." If this is true, then you will renew the lease for Cuppa Joe Espresso, and let it continue to be a community asset.

You may sign a petition at Cuppa Joe. Letters and e-mails are even more important, addressed to the WSECU Board of Directors at boardofdirectors@wsecu.org. The postal address is: Board of Directors, Washington State Employees Credit Union, P.O. Box WSECU, Olympia, WA 98507-0099. If you are a WSECU member (and there are many who patronize Cuppa Joe), be sure to mention it. Maybe the folks in Olympia don't realize that Seattle folks like coffee?!



Lauren Campbell painted a woodsy scene on the dome of the trash can in Good Turn Park (Martin Street end just off Fairview Ave. E.). This park was built by the community and is maintained by volunteers. If you would like to help with it or any other park or green space in the neighborhood, please contact ECC at info@eastlakeseattle.org or write to ECC, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle, WA 98102-3278



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Join Eastlake's crime prevention efforts, Public Meeting June 11

Eastlake is among Seattle's safer neighborhoods, but has its share of car thefts and break-ins of homes and businesses. The Eastlake Community Council works with neighborhood residents and businesses and with the Seattle Police Department to prevent and combat crime. We want to hear from you for any suggestions, or if you would like to get involved; contact information is below. A public meeting about public safety (and July 4 planning), with Police Dept. guests, is Tues, June 11, 7 p.m. at TOPS-Seward School.

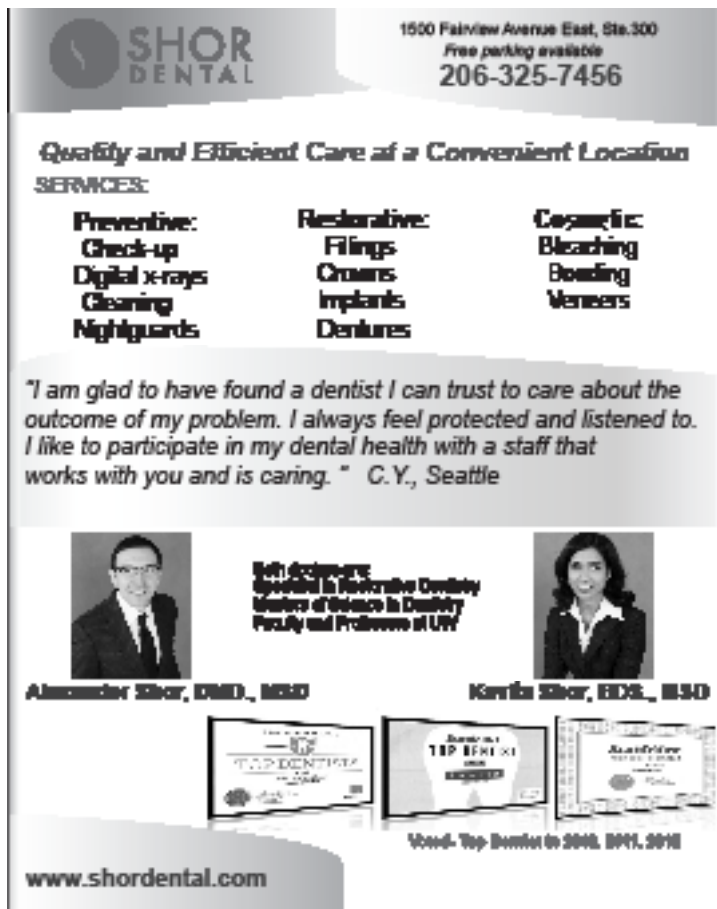
Eastlake became safer on Jan. 17, when a Police SWAT team raided a house at the south end of the 2000 block of Boylston Ave. E. According to the department's web site (<http://spdblotter.seattle.gov>), a 36-year-old man was arrested for being in the possession of two stolen motorcycles, a gram of methamphetamine, six suspected stolen bicycles, and more than a dozen suspected stolen computers. ECC appreciates the Police Department's efforts to keep our neighborhood safe.

911 and (206) 625-5011. Our brave police officers are the first to say that they can't do it alone. They urge you to call 911 right away if you see any law-breaking or expect it to occur imminently. Police can't respond if you don't alert them, and are more likely to patrol our neighborhood if there is a pattern of past calls to 911. Nothing is too small

to report, and a crime need not have been committed. Calls can be anonymous, but it is best to give your name (you can ask that it be withheld from public disclosure). There is a record made of each call; if you plan to request the record, ask the call-taker for the event number. The 911 system has plenty of capacity, so you won't compete with another call that you fear could be more urgent. The operators are professionals who know where to refer your call.

An alternative to 911 is the Police Department's "non-emergency" number, (206) 625-5011. This is for questions about something suspicious occurring in your neighborhood, and you are not sure it is criminal activity; to report a non-emergency crime that did not just occur, and the suspects are not in the immediate area; or to report a nuisance, such as a noise or parking complaint. But please call 911 when you see suspected or actual law-breaking.

East and West precincts. Eastlake is split between two police precincts, with the East Precinct north of Lynn St., and the West Precinct south of Lynn Street. The ECC board has appointed to represent it to the Police Department Tom Pann (resident of the East Precinct) and Terry Waldron (resident of the West Precinct). For their public safety duties, Tom and Terry share a single intake e-mail address, eastlakesafety@gmail.com. Please contact them (as well as




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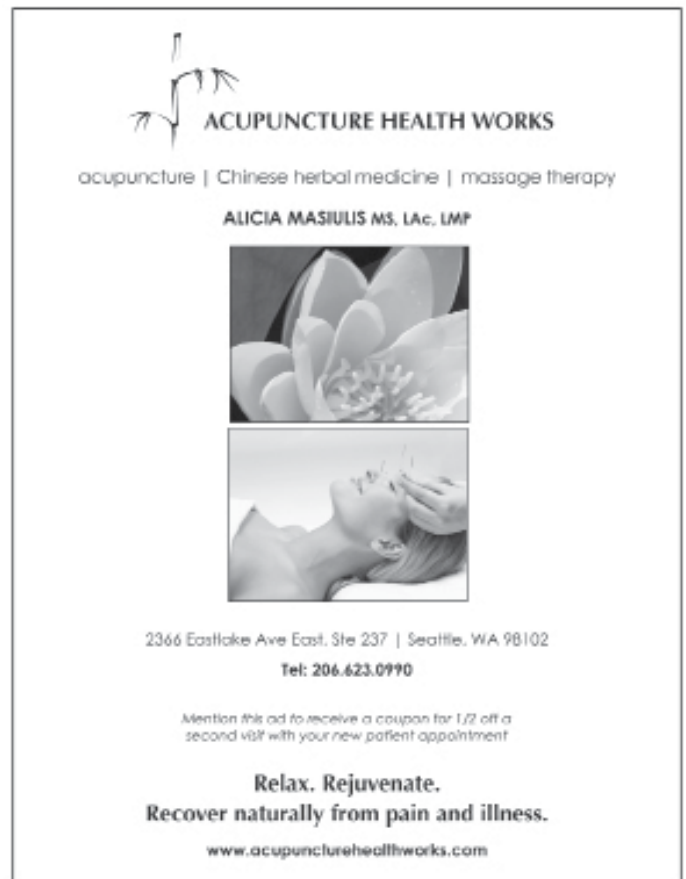


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the ECC general address at info@eastlakeseattle.org) with any questions or ideas about making Eastlake safer, such as crime problems that may need more police presence, or questions about Police Dept. follow-up regarding any crime issue.

Best practices to deter break-ins. Victims of burglary often regret not having taken basic steps to reduce the risk. Cars, homes, and businesses are much more likely to be broken into if desirable loot can be seen through the windows. And many break-ins occur through unlocked doors--even while the owner is gardening outside. A thief recently arrested in Seattle's North end told detectives she was surprised how many people leave their house keys out in mailboxes or on the porch. Experienced burglars can often find a key you think is well hidden under a welcome mat or paving stone, in flower pot, etc.

Door-to-door sales.

While there are reputable salespeople, others use the pretense of sales or requests to use the bathroom, the phone or for a drink of water to gain illegal access to your home. An unacknowledged knock could invite a break-in, but you are not required to open your door, and it may be advisable to speak to strangers through your door. If requested, sellers are required to leave the premises immediately. It is unlawful for any residential seller to attempt to gain admittance for the purpose of selling at any residence with a sign that says, "No agents," "No solicitors", or "no peddlers." Call 911 if you feel intimidated, pressured, or threatened, or think your neighbors may be in jeopardy. Questions and concerns are also welcome at the Police non-emergency number (206) 625-5011 and the ECC addresses of eastlakesafety@gmail.com and info@eastlakeseattle.org.

Upon contacting a prospective buyer, sellers are required to disclose their name, company, and what they are selling; they are required to display on their outer clothing a badge with their photo and who they are soliciting for. All are required to have a Seattle license with the name of the agent and the type of product or service being sold; call (206) 684-8136 during business hours to check if there is a license on record. Read carefully anything you are to sign. Police Department advise not to pay on the spot (funds

often disappear without result), but rather to order from the company or receive a bill upon receipt of the product or service. For any purchase, the salesperson and the contract must state your right to cancel within three days. Never be afraid to say "No." If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Neighbor-to-neighbor cooperation. Eastlake would be a safer neighborhood if more neighbors exchanged phone numbers, e-mail addresses, Twitter and Facebook accounts, and made more effort to know one another. Please take the initiative with your neighbors on mutual alerts and problem-solving about suspicious or risky situations. For advice on crime prevention: <http://www.seattle.gov/police/programs/Blockwatch/default.htm>. "Blockwatch" doesn't have to involve a whole block; there is safety also in cooperation of several residences or businesses, a houseboat dock, or even within a single apartment, condo, or office building.

Organize an August 6 street party. On the first Tuesday in August, block parties are free of the need for a permit or fee. "Night Out" is a national event to help

neighbors meet each other, toward starting a block watch and preparedness team; Police and Fire officers can also drop by. At ECC's encouragement, more of these events are being held than ever before, and they needn't be in the street, or on August 6. It's not too early to start planning for such an event for your own block, dock, or building. For questions, contact ECC.

Report graffiti. Quick removal of graffiti discourages taggers. The City requires landowners to remove it promptly, and promises immediate action on public property. Report graffiti (and water pollution and illegal dumping) at (206) 684-7587; or at <http://www.seattle.gov/util/index.htm>. To join ECC's effort against graffiti: frisky1@mindspring.com.

Contact ECC. The Eastlake Community Council wants to hear your ideas and questions about crime issues and prevention. Please contact us at eastlakesafety@gmail.com and info@eastlakeseattle.org or by U.S. mail at 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle, WA 98102-3278.

Eastlake became safer on Jan. 17, when a Police SWAT team raided a house at the south end of the 2000 block of Boylston Ave. E. According to the department's web site, a 36-year-old man was arrested for being in the possession of two stolen motorcycles, a gram of methamphetamine, six suspected stolen bicycles, and more than a dozen suspected stolen computers. ECC appreciates the Police Department's efforts to keep our neighborhood safe.

Nighttime I-5 grinding ? City Council should restore noise code

Seattle's Noise Code uniquely commits the City Council to protect the public's "sleep and repose," and prohibits noise at night--unless the City allows such noise through a variance. Noise damages health, contributing to sleeplessness and hypertension. Some countries (sadly, even our own) have at times used it for torture in war. At night, noise carries further and is more intrusive, reducing livability.

With no prior notice to the neighborhood, last year the Washington State Department of Transportation quietly applied for a variance, and the Seattle Department of Planning and Development equally quietly granted it, to allow sleep-destroying pavement grinding on I-5 all-night on Fridays and Saturdays this March and April.

The Noise Code allows DPD to issue a temporary variance without public notice or the opportunity for public comment--but only if the noise "does not annoy a substantial number of people and does not endanger public health or safety." The nighttime grinding on I-5 appears to violate those terms of the law, but no one has asked a court to rule on this matter.

The 1978 Noise Code gave citizens the right to appeal noise variances--even temporary ones--to the City Hearing Examiner, and such an appeal by neighborhood groups helped reduce noise from an earlier I-5 grinding project.

But in 2009, then-Mayor Greg Nickels and a unanimous City Council completely eliminated the right to appeal temporary noise variances. (By a narrow 5-4 vote, the Council also gravely weakened the Noise Code by creating a new variance for public construction projects that is appealable only beforehand, with no appeal after a trial year of nighttime noise so that City regulators and the public could have imposed new controls if the old ones didn't work. As a result of that change, nighttime noise from the upcoming SR-520 construction will disturb sleep for years to come.)

The result of weakening the Noise Code was predictable and is now grossly audible. WSDOT and DPD are thwarting citizen appeal rights through many temporary variances, and do not feel the need to consult beforehand with the neighborhood when planning deafening nighttime construction.

Until the Mayor and City Council restore the Noise Code, we will have no assurance of quiet nights. Great cities around the world are working to make it quieter for their citizens, especially at night. But Seattle now does just the opposite, and neighborhoods like Eastlake with major transportation facilities suffer most from the City Council's disregard of its obligation under the Noise Code to protect our "sleep and repose." ECC welcomes suggestions on what to do about this unacceptable situation.

One Street



This photo of the corner of Eastlake Ave. and E. Louisa St. is by Eastlake News graphic artist Karen Berry. She took this photo for an on-line group forum thread titled "One Street." In her comments she notes, "I'm choosing a street a few blocks from my home in Seattle, because 1) I've already been doing this for some of the photos or sketches from photos in the Eastlake News; 2) there are changes coming up (controversy as to whether a streetcar could

run down this corridor...); and 3) it appeals to me. The challenge will be good photography (this is better large). Louisa's cafe is a neighborhood coffee shop - I have had MANY after-rowing breakfasts here. The grandchildren have consumed many of their cookies over the years. Lake Union Mail, the little shop to the right behind the colored tree, is a hub of neighborhood goings on and a handy post office. I've just now mailed 2 postcards."



The Eastlake Community Council on Feb. 14 sent the following letter to the Seattle City Council regarding proposed increased heights for South Lake buildings. Time is short; please send your own letter; email or fax to the Councilmembers (contact info is at the end of article on page 10):

Mayor's proposed south lake union rezone is too high and lacks step-down; City Council must reject height increases close to the lake

To City Councilmembers:

The Eastlake Community Council opposes the Mayor's proposed general rezone for South Lake Union. We support the proposals of the South Lake Union Community Coalition for greatly reducing any height increases and for stepping down the allowable heights toward the lake. While it is good news that Vulcan's "block 59" proposal for further height increases is apparently off the table, this decision does not even begin to address what is wrong with the Mayor's general rezone proposals.

Current zoning in the South Lake Union Urban Center is already sufficient to well exceed all existing growth targets. Only much more modest rezones than the Mayor has proposed can ensure that the diverse and historic South Lake Union ambiance is not overwhelmed and that a wall of downtown-like buildings does not deny the public its current visual access to Lake Union, the Space Needle and the other wonderful features of the area. The blocked views and the shadows caused by the Mayor's proposal would essentially privatize this unique and currently very public urban lake. Please don't let it happen on your watch!

Authentic planning principles and generations of Seattle zoning practice have carefully stepped down building heights in approaching bodies of water. The Mayor's proposed heights so close to Lake Union are much higher than what is allowed along the downtown waterfront, which at most is zoned for 160 feet through the downtown core, dropping off to 85 feet north of University Street and south of Columbia Street. Think about that fact, then please join us in recognizing how radically inappropriate are the Mayor's proposals for South Lake Union.

The current proposals for 240 foot and even 400 foot towers are wildly out of scale for anywhere in south Lake Union. And we are particularly concerned that, amidst that controversy, the City Council must not fail to recognize how destructive of the public realm would be the 125-foot

upzone proposed for just east of Fairview Avenue North, north from Mercer Street to the border of our Eastlake neighborhood. This upzone would be forty feet higher than allowed along the downtown waterfront north of University St. and south of Columbia St.!

Being just a few yards away from the southeast Lake Union waterfront, the proposed 125-foot upzone represents no meaningful stepping down to the lake, and the City Council should reject it out of hand. This dramatic height increase to 125 feet is out of character for the area, and in one blow will negate public enjoyment and access of waterfront amenities built through generations of cooperative efforts by City government, developers, and community groups like ours.

Please reject the Mayor's upzone proposals for South Lake Union and, if any upzoning is to be adopted, please ensure that it is carefully stepped down to the lakeshore. Upzones even remotely similar to the Mayor's proposals will for all time compromise public enjoyment of this unique urban lake, privatizing sunlight and views while losing the diversity that is Lake Union's special charm.

Sincerely,

Eastlake Community Council

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Help get Lakeview Blvd. its missing sidewalk and retaining wall

Between the E. Blaine and E. Howe Street stairs, a sidewalk is missing on the east side of Lakeview Blvd (see photo). Its absence--on what the Seattle Department of Transportation recognizes as a principal arterial--is a risk and barrier for pedestrians who use this area for commuting, exercise, sight-seeing, or to reach homes, businesses, or parks. Lakeview Blvd. is a walking route to downtown via Melrose Ave. and to the University District via either Eastlake Ave. or Harvard Ave. In both directions it offers access to Eastlake, Capitol Hill, and Lake Union.

The sidewalk is especially needed by users of the E. Blaine and E. Howe Street public staircases that extend east from Lakeview Blvd. up Capitol Hill to 10th Avenue East, and west to Lake Union via the Park Department's Colonnade public staircase under I-5. Many people (including members of the Seattle Fire Department) exercise on the Blaine and Howe Street staircases as a circuit.

To traverse this block, pedestrians must either walk in the roadway on the east side of Lakeview Blvd., or make two crossings of Lakeview to and from the sidewalk on its west side. Either way, they face fast-moving traffic, including from the I-5 northbound off-ramp. It's a tragedy waiting to happen. Just 340 feet of sidewalk would solve this problem.

With or without the proposed sidewalk, a retaining wall is needed, as landslides have repeatedly blocked Lakeview Blvd. In the photo, one can see that the hillside has slumped across the curb into the roadway, forcing pedestrians further into the line of traffic and hampering parking that is much needed by users of the stairs and park. A sidewalk without a retaining wall isn't sustainable, as slides will continue.

In past generations, SDOT built retaining walls to prevent landslides, but somehow missed this site which obviously needs a retaining wall. Incredibly, SDOT no longer has a



Lakeview Blvd. between the Blaine and Howe Street stairs lacks a sidewalk and a retaining wall. Note how sliding into the street has covered the curb, posing special dangers for cyclists and pedestrians.

landslide prevention fund, spending only after landslides to repair the damage, and ignoring the risk that someone could be in the landslide's path. SDOT should again be proactive in building retaining walls to prevent landslides, and this block of Lakeview Blvd. is where it should start. Pedestrian funds should not bear the cost of the retaining wall, which is needed whether there is a sidewalk there or not. For more information and additional photos, see the "announcements" section of eastlakeseattle.org.

Please urge a retaining wall and sidewalk on this block of Lakeview Blvd. between Blaine and Howe

streets to Mayor McGinn and members of the City Council, who can be reached by fax at (206) 684-8587, by U.S. mail c/o City Hall, 600 Fourth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104, or by e-mail at mike.mcgin@seattle.gov and the Councilmembers at sally.clark@seattle.gov, tim.burgess@seattle.gov, tom.rasmussen@seattle.gov, jean.godden@seattle.gov, richard.conlin@seattle.gov, mike.obrien@seattle.gov, bruce.harrell@seattle.gov, nick.licata@seattle.gov, and sally.bagshaw@seattle.gov. And please forward a copy of your message to ECC at info@eastlakeseattle.org or c/o Lake Union Mail, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle, WA 98102-3278.



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Happy Belated 50th Birthday Space Needle! Eastlake's Ties to the Needle

by Judy Smith

Many of us living in Eastlake are fortunate to have a view of the Space Needle, and even if we don't have a view, we don't have to go far to get one. Walk down to the lake or up a hill, or find just the right street and you can see the Space Needle.

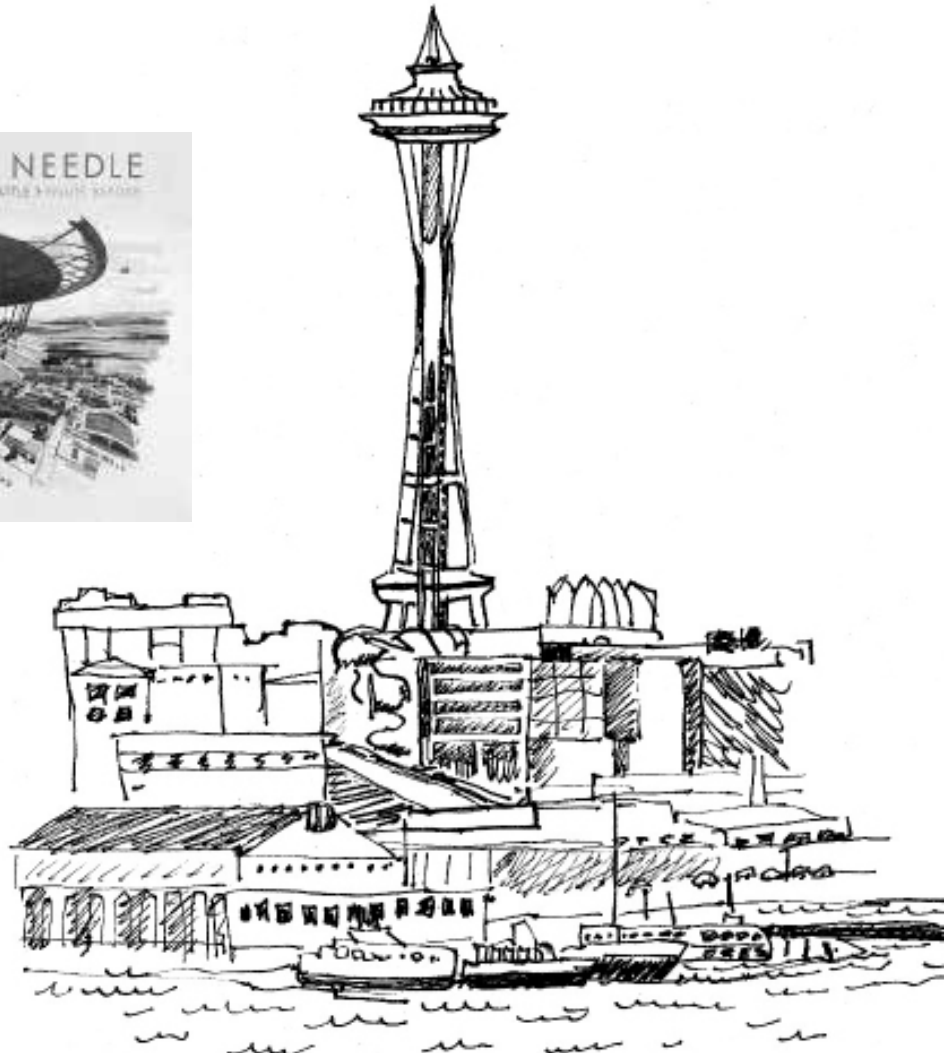
It was built "to reflect the 21st Century, a high-tech age of American leadership and vision just over the horizon," writes Knute Berger in his book *Space Needle: the Spirit of Seattle* celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Needle and also the 1962 Seattle World's Fair.

"Man in the Space Age" was the theme of the Fair, Berger reminds us. The Fair was both a celebration of science and a dream for the future, and it essentially marked, writes Berger, "when modern Seattle was born."

Berger, a Seattle native, former editor of the *Seattle Weekly*, and current *Crosscut* contributing editor, was hired to be the Space Needle's writer-in-residence for six months while he wrote the book. During his stay, he threaded the needle perfectly – weaving together an extraordinary tale of the rise of the Space Needle over our landscape.

Eastlake has at least a couple of ties woven in.

Paul Thiry, the chief architect of the Seattle World's Fair, has an important, early, career-defining tie to Eastlake in the Castlewood condos at 2712 Franklin Ave built in 1929. Originally an apartment building, Castlewood is designated an historic Seattle landmark, important for marking Thiry's departure from the ornate architecture of the past to a more modern style. Thiry would later go to France and study under modernist Corbusier, at which point the break with traditional designs of the past would become complete. He would go



Karen Berry

on to design the Coliseum, now Key Arena, for the World's Fair as well as Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Montlake, both "using innovative concrete technology," according to the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods website.

As principal architect of the World's Fair, Thiry was responsible for, as Berger puts it, "herding architectural cats that included much of the region's best talent, plus outside advisers of national repute. His challenge was to create a coherent, cutting-edge fair that could display new building materials and techniques, and also segue neatly into the everyday Civic Center that would remain after the exposition." Thiry was also responsible for the entire layout of the Fair Grounds

including where to put a concept that was quickly gaining momentum but that was not yet fully realized – a tall tower with a revolving restaurant on top.

The Space Needle design began as a doodle by Eddie Carlson, a Western International Hotels executive, based on his visit to the Stuttgart Tower in Stuttgart, Germany. Carlson "was almost single-handedly responsible for the Seattle World's Fair getting off the ground," notes Berger.

While most of the movers and shakers for the World's Fair were men – it was the Mad Men era after all – there was one woman who played a pivotal role, a free-lance journalist who had also visited the Stuttgart

continued on page 14



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Eastlake's Ties to the Needle cont.

Tower and in fact proposed the idea of a tower with a restaurant on top of it even before Carlson did. In 1958 Erna Kalland wrote in the *Argus*, which Berger describes at the *Wall Street Journal* for Seattle at the time, "Why not choose a tower, as Mr. Eiffel did for the Paris Exposition?"

Ideas for the Space Needle during that time were, as Thiry later put it, "in the wind."

While ideas may have been in the wind, early designs were having a hard time with lift.

One of the architectural cats that Thiry was responsible for herding was John Graham. Hired as the main architect for the Space Needle, he was known for designing the first car-oriented shopping mall, the hugely successful Northgate. As it happened, he had also done work with revolving restaurants. But Graham was having a hard time solving the quandary that had become the Needle design. Early designs "looked like a bagel on a spike, or a tethered balloon in a net, or

Karen Berry



The Castlewood condos on Franklin Ave. were an early Paul Thiry design (1929) marking a break with ornate styles of the past. Thirty years later, Thiry would be designing the fairgrounds for the 1962 Seattle World's Fair.

even a cocktail shaker," writes Berger.

Graham had a talented team of architects working on it, but after a year at the drawing boards, they couldn't get the design to match his vision. Until Victor Steinbrueck stepped in.

Steinbrueck is now famous for saving the Pike Place Market in the 1970s. From 1964 until his death in 1985 on Valentine's Day he lived in Eastlake in the yellow 1889 Victorian farmhouse (also an historic

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Karen Berry

Shortly after nailing the design for the Space Needle, Steinbrueck moved into this sunny yellow Victorian on Franklin.

land mark) at 2622 Franklin Avenue which belonged to his second wife and Seattle actress Margorie Nelson. (Both served on the ECC board, and Victor's sketch of Lake Union still graces this newsletter's cover.)

Prior to that, he lived in the Denny-Blaine Park neighborhood in Madison Valley. At that time, he was a University of Washington architecture professor with a free summer and was hired by Graham to "move the Needle through the conceptual process."

Steinbrueck estimated that he made a thousand drawings or more, but finally the Eureka moment came when he was contemplating an abstract female sculpture his family had owned for many years. It was carved by modern artist David Lemon and called "The Feminine One." Described by Steinbrueck, as being three pronged at the base and tapered in the middle, it provided just the right amount of

tension before reaching skyward. "I knew I was making it hard for the engineers," Steinbrueck admitted as he sketched out the concept over the weekend.

By Monday morning, Graham's architectural firm looked over the design, and "immediately went for it."

"The way the tower narrows, then flares at the top creates drama, defies the almost universal idea that towers are masculine symbols," writes Berger, "as the Needle also consciously incorporates feminine principles."

"The Feminine One," the 20-inch wooden sculpture that inspired the Space Needle now resides in Peter Steinbrueck's office, Victor Steinbrueck's son and former Seattle city councilmember.

Did you know? Like today: housing and parking were big issues in 1962

The I-5 Ship Canal Bridge was just finishing construction when the 1962 World's Fair was to open. Concerns about parking prompted some to suggest using the nearly completed bridge as a parking lot with a shuttle bus taking people to the Fair, running through Eastlake. The idea was argued in the press, says Knute Berger, author of *Space Needle, Spirit of Seattle*, but ultimately never happened. (Incidentally, he notes, many of the steel workers who built the Ship Canal Bridge also built the Space Needle.) Both parking and housing were big concerns, he adds, leading up to the 1962 World's Fair. All around the city landlords kicked out tenants to cash in on apartments as short-term rentals. Some Eastlake apartment buildings were built just for the World's Fair expected short-term housing demand. At least one home in Eastlake turned their second story into apartments for the Fair. But it didn't pan out, says Berger. Many Fair visitors ended up staying with friends or family, and conventions avoided Seattle during the Fair, leaving plenty of hotel rooms available and a glut of housing.



The abstract sculpture *The Feminine One* inspired the Space Needle's design. Photo courtesy of Peter Steinbrueck



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Dueling Architects: Graham and Steinbreuck

Excerpt from the Knute Berger interview for the History News Network by Robin Lindley:

History News Network: I was surprised that legendary Seattle architect Victor Steinbreuck also had a role in the design process.

Knute Berger: Yes. You had two very important architects in Seattle history involved in the project: Victor Steinbreuck and John Graham, Jr.

John Graham did big commercial projects and he was famous for shopping centers. The Northgate Shopping Center became the model for the suburban auto mall. He was thought of as a businessman's architect.

Victor Steinbreuck was very different. He was an academic and interested in urban landscape and in a different scale of people-oriented architecture.

Graham had his staff working on the design of the Space Needle and they'd been working on it for about a year, and Graham still wasn't satisfied with the designs they came up with. Graham hired Steinbreuck for a summer at five dollars an hour and he asked Steinbreuck to come up with a design that was really exciting. And Victor did.

There was controversy between the two of them. The project wouldn't have happened except for John Graham, [who] coordinated the whole project and insisted on a rotating restaurant and the flying saucer look. So John Graham gets the credit, but the Space Needle wouldn't be the beautiful, wasp-wasted, delicate structure except that Victor came up with that.

The earlier versions of the Space Needle were clunky and didn't have that artistic quality. Steinbreuck's inspiration was a sculpture he had at home—a beautiful wooden abstract of the female figure called the feminine one by artist David Lemon. Steinbreuck later said that the shape of the Space Needle mimicked the hourglass figure of Seattle itself. The isthmus of Seattle crests between Lake Washington and Puget Sound and it fans out at the top, narrows at the middle and fans out at the bottom. He added a beautiful artistic dimension and that is a reason the Space Needle has succeeded because it's a beautiful structure to look at.

Steinbreuck and Graham were an odd couple but turned out to be the perfect team—even if they didn't like each other very well.

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Eastlake's Ties to the Needle cont.

The Space Needle has often been called America's Eiffel Tower. It's not a superficial comparison.

Paul Thiry was born of adventuresome Parisian parents who raised him in Alaska. It's not clear to what extent Thiry played in the connection between France and the Fair, but the connection was definitely there.

"France was the largest foreign exhibitor at the Fair," writes Berger (among other things, the food court had a French restaurant that served frog legs). "The Paris-based BIE [Bureau of International Expositions] had made the fair possible," says Berger, "and French cuisine still set the culinary standards to which the Needle aspired."

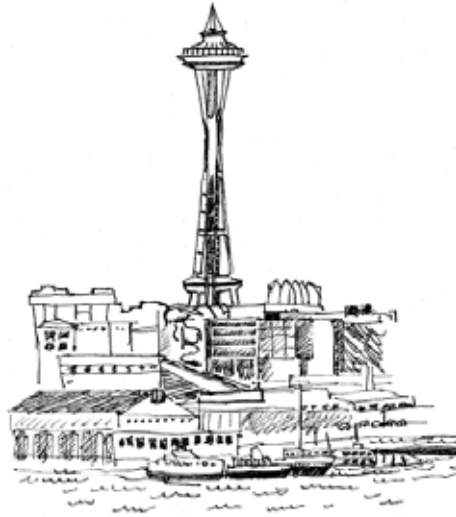
The French influence also was in pride of region, and the Space Needle was ahead of the curve in eating local. The restaurant at the top of the Space Needle showcased NW cuisine (with prices on a par with Canalis) and Northwest cocktails (who wouldn't want to try a drink named "Haystack in a Needle"?)

Eiffel Tower restaurant employees were rooting for the Space Needle's grand opening. "The head of their restaurants, André Pignarre, had offered to bring an entire kitchen crew to Seattle to prepare the Needle's opening-day dinner if only they would kindly send a Boeing 707 to fly them in," writes Berger. "Western Hotels and Eddie Carlson politely declined."

Generously, Pignarre sent Bordeaux, cognac and liqueurs from the Eiffel Tower's own "caves" for the Space Needle's belated celebration of the Eiffel Tower's 70th birthday.

"The bottom line," Berger writes, "was that the Eiffel Tower acknowledged the Needle as a kindred spirit."

At a talk last fall, someone asked Berger if he was worried about the development and zoning happening around Lake Union and the Needle. He said he was, noting that part of the appeal of the Eiffel Tower is that it is set off by the parks and open space



around it. (He is especially concerned that the new up zone near the lake itself will block many view vistas.)

Both structures, he notes, are totemic symbols of their time and their city's rise to eminence.

The Eiffel Tower celebrates the Second Industrial Revolution and the great rise of the railroad system, while the Space Needle celebrates the Space Age, the 21st Century, the rise of science and technology.

They're both in categories by themselves, said Berger in a phone interview. Both have that "it," whatever "it" might be. Berger thinks that "it" might not be so much that they are towers, because lots of places have view towers, but because they were a reflection of their time's technology and culture. Both gave their fair-going public the "thrill of visiting the future."

The actual 21st Century may not be as futuristic as the Jetsons, that well-loved 1960s TV cartoon show, whose "skypad" apartments were inspired by the Space Needle. We're not flying around in individual rocket packs yet.

But we do have wireless phones with computing capacity greater than the first rockets in space (and the 1962 World's Fair and Space Needle were the first to celebrate and launch that wireless technology).

Berger's book is a great reminder of how amazing it is to have the Space Needle in our view.

Victor Steinbrueck's own writing about the Space Needle for a sketch he did of it in one of his famous sketchbooks (*Seattle Cityscape*) belies the role he played in designing it, taking a completely self-effacing and objective view (and generously giving all credit to John Graham):

Seattle has gained another landmark and symbol as a result of the Seattle World's Fair of 1962 with the erection of the six-hundred-foot restaurant and observation tower called the Space Needle. Rising two hundred feet above the highest hill, it would be recognized as a landmark because of its height alone since it is visible from many locations. Although a higher position, perhaps atop Queen Anne Hill or Duwamish Head, would have been more spectacular, the present site is surprisingly pleasant in the cityscape as an accent to the gap between Elliott Bay and Lake Union. The graceful form, which repeats the hour-glass shape of the city, is derived more from esthetic sources than from structural inspiration. The firm of John Graham and company, Architects and Engineers, developed the project for the privately owned Space Needle Corporation as an extremely feasible financial enterprise.

Victor Steinbrueck



From Wattle to Watershed

Stacy Levy, the artist, who almost 20 years ago did Eastlake's beloved glass cornerstones, also helped celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Seattle World's Fair last year with a six-month project under the Space Needle called "Straw Garden: From Wattle to Watershed."



Straw Garden wattles beneath the Space Needle based on Le Notre's design for Versailles.



Straw Garden used erosion control wattles. The long tube-like wattles, which are made of coconut fiber and seeded with native flowers, were artistically arranged in forms, "based on Le Notre's design for Versailles [and] other Baroque garden influences," according to Levy's website.

At the end of the six-month exhibit, the wattles were donated to environmental restoration projects including the Eastlake Community Council's shoreline work to stem erosion and replace invasive weed species. For more information about Stacy Levy and "Straw Garden: From Wattle to Watershed," see www.stacylevy.com.



In above photo, Stacy Levy, left, is seen with St. Marks Green belt Forest Steward, Robert Hayden, Lake Union Drydock official Jim Francis, and ECC board member, Joey Baumgartner. Above left photo, Joey Baumgartner and ECC volunteer, Patty Jatkoski, install the wattles on Lake Union shore.




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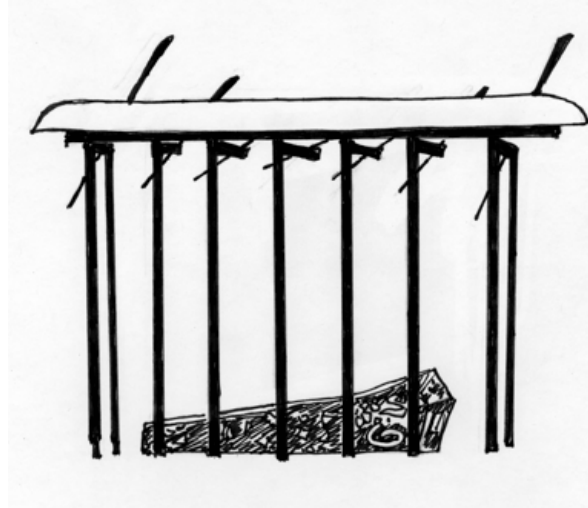
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Karen Berry

In memoriam



Dick Asia (shown in this 2008 photo with his wife Kim Christie and his boat, the Skookum Maru), was a longtime Eastlake resident who attended Seward School and served on the board of the Eastlake Community Council. Dick was a successful real estate agent who previously served in the Peace Corps in Nigeria. He loved piloting the Skookum Maru, a 40-foot Japanese-made wooden northwest trawler. Dick passed away on December 23 at the age of 70. The family has suggested that memorial donations be made in Dick’s name to The Center for Wooden Boats, 1010 Valley Street, Seattle 98109. ECC has made such a donation; we will miss you, Dick.

MOST POPULAR PLACE IN TOWN

ECC congratulates **TOPS-Seward School** and the **School District** on voters' approval February 12 of the operating and capital levies, the latter to fund needed improvements at TOPS. The ECC board unanimously endorsed the levies and allowed the ECC logo to be used in the "yes" campaign. Also, see front page for information on the **April 6 TOPS auction**, an important source of funding for the TOPS library, computer lab, Kindergarten playground renovation, Readers Workshop, and programs in music, art, science, and theater. Please attend and bid high; it's for a great cause.

ECC welcomes the **14 Carrot Café** as the latest host for its spring celebration (on April 18--for more, see pp. 1 and 2 in this issue). Thanks to **Siam on Eastlake**, **Louisa's**, **Pazzo's** and **Ship Canal Grill** for hosting similar events in previous years. At the popular events, ECC purchases "small bites" for the public, the restaurant offers reduced prices for beer and wine, and dining continues off the regular menu. ECC welcomes inquiries from other restaurants to host its upcoming fall and spring celebrations. ... December's **ECC holiday cruise** was our first sellout. Thanks to the volunteers who helped, and especially to **Champagne Cruises** (www.champagnecruise.com) for generous donation of the Islander. And please join us on the Thurs., July 11, **ECC summer cruise on the Islander** -- tickets available at brownpapertickets.com. ... ECC has tentatively chosen Sat., July 20 for our annual free **movie in the park**, probably the animated classic **WALL-E** (suggestions welcome). ...

Congratulations to **Blind Pig Bistro** (2238 Eastlake Ave E., 206-329-2744, blindpigbistro.com) for being honored twice in *Seattle Times* food critic Providence Cicero's December column on the "best bites of 2012"-- once for its raw Hamachi crudo with Serrano chilies, apple, and chives, and once for its oysters with grapefruit and pimento ice. ... ECC recently heard from legendary restaurant owner **Gerry Kingen** that the old **Red Robin** site (3272 Fuhrman Ave. E.) will this summer become the second location for **Pecos Pit Slow Wood-Smoked Barbecue**, a much-loved joint that for thirty years has been located only at 2260 1st Avenue (near Sears and the Starbucks HQ). In November, the *Stranger* highlighted **Borsalino's Pizza and Pasta** (32412 Eastlake

Ave., 206-323-4444) for its happy hour (M-Th 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.) remarking that the restaurant "throbs with a distant and heavy glamour." On the heels of this news the ECC just learned that, sadly, **Borsalino's** will be closing with a new bistro taking its place. The new bistro will have big shoes to fill.

Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA) invite one or more volunteers to steward the I-5 Colonnade off-leash area to keep it clean and safe. Stewards recruit other volunteers and lead them in occasional work parties and work with the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation, including participating in a quarterly meeting with stewards citywide. They receive up to \$100 per quarter for expenses, and may apply for additional funds. COLA is working with ECC and the City on major improvements for the off-leash area, and stewards will participate first-hand in these decisions. For questions or to get involved, contact COLA (pj123r@yahoo.com, 206-913-7261) and/or ECC (contact info below).

This spring when you see the beautiful blooms, join us in thanking **Corrine Hollister** who again this year with financial support from ECC spearheaded beautification efforts, personally planting 600 bulbs on public rights of way and business entrances. Her efforts included 170 bulbs in the median on Eastlake Ave. near Boston St., another 170 bulbs in the median north of Allison St., 50 bulbs in the traffic circle at Franklin and Hamlin Streets, and 60 bulbs in the planters along I-5 on Boylston Ave. Hollister

is a certified arborist, trained in horticulture and landscape design. Her business, **Earth Dance Design** (117 E. Louisa St. #128, 206-779-3118, earthdancedesign.com) offers landscape design, installation, garden maintenance, consultation, and coaching, with particular emphasis on sustainability. Thanks also to **14 Carrot Café**, **Louisa's Café and Bakery**, and **Pazzo's** for adding bulbs to their planters this year; and to anyone else who's done some planting on public land or in your yard that gets busy people to stop and smell the flowers.

Jim Francis, a Vice President at **Lake Union Drydock**, stars in a fascinating video history of the company, viewable at www.lakeunionhistory.org/Lake_Union_Drydock.html. In a bit part, his sidekick in the video is your columnist. Vaun Raymond produced, directed, filmed, and edited the video, funded by 4Culture, King County's Cultural Services Agency. ... Eastlake is the headquarters of **SeniorHomes.com** (2722 Eastlake Ave E., 206-905-8774), providing advice and listings for seniors and their families about independent



Local actress Betty Gard is featured in videos publicizing the internet startup Evergram, a personalized online keepsake album of video, audio, and text messages created by friends and family, and delivered on special occasions. Gard plays the grandmother of a girl getting married. The videos can be seen on Evergram's website (<http://www.evergram.com>), Facebook, and YouTube.



You can now find Eastlake Community Council on Facebook. Find out the latest news about the ECC and become a fan by clicking Like on our Page.

or assisted living, adult family homes, nursing homes, and memory care.

State and City laws authorize **Alcohol Impact Areas** (AIAs), in which the state **Liquor Control Board** can prohibit sale of fortified beer or wine, inexpensive sources of alcohol favored by chronic public inebriates. The existing AIAs downtown, on Capitol Hill, and in South Lake Union and the University District entirely surround Eastlake, which is in the “donut hole” where sale of these products is still allowed, thus attracting the dysfunctional behavior that prompted these AIAs elsewhere. The Eastlake Community Council board recently requested that the City and state initiate the process for including the Eastlake neighborhood in an Alcohol Impact Area. The agencies will conduct an extensive public process with ample opportunities for anyone to support or oppose the idea. The ECC board welcomes your thoughts (contact info below).

Seattle’s Department of Transportation and its Department of Planning and Development continue to review **Ride the Ducks’** proposal to build for its amphibious vehicles a shoreline ramp on land that it owns just south of **Terry Pettus Park** (Newton street end). It’s not too late to comment or get involved. For info and ECC’s own comment letter, see the announcements section of the ECC web site, eastlakeseattle.org.

ECC invites local **doctors, nurses, paramedics, and others with first aid training** to join our confidential list to be contacted during a neighborhood-wide emergency. Please respond to 801-243-2136 or jeremythueson@gmail.com and info@eastlakeseattle.org. **Ham radio or satellite telephone operators** are also invited to let ECC know how to reach them in a future emergency. Another way to help prepare for an emergency are **short, free training courses** by the Seattle’s Office of Emergency Management: www.seattle.gov/emergency or (206) 233-7123; please let us know if you have taken one.

Thanks to Julie Hughes of **Northwest Administrators** (2323 Eastlake Ave. E., <https://www.nwadmin.com>) for donating her computer skills in an impressive redesign of the Eastlake Community Council’s membership and dues data base to make it more user friendly. The improvements will enable ECC to do a better job of thanking members and donors, and letting people know when their dues are up for renewal. ... In the January 20 **Pacific Magazine**, *Seattle Times* health reporter Carol M. Ostrom tells the inspiring story of how **Dr. Belding Scribner** (longtime resident of Portage Bay Place, just east of the University Bridge) with UW mechanical engineering professor Wayne Quinton in 1960 invented the “Scribner shunt” that made possible kidney dialysis that has saved so many thousands of lives all over the world.

Mention here does not imply endorsement by the ECC, writer (Chris Leman), or editor. To submit news items, for questions or to volunteer: info@eastlakeseattle.org or c/o ECC, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle 98102-3278, or (206) 322-5463.

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Small steps toward reducing big noise from I-5 traffic

Stemming from the Sept. 13 meeting with WSDOT and our state legislators that ECC organized with nearby neighborhoods, there is modest progress in reducing traffic noise from I-5. All recognize that noise from the Ship Canal Bridge is particularly serious. In response, WSDOT in February moved the opening of the express lanes on Saturday and Sunday mornings to be one hour later (to 8 a.m. from the previous 7 a.m.).

ECC realizes that the real burden of noise on those living closest to the Ship Canal Bridge is the express lanes' weekday hours of 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. Thus ECC is proposing to WSDOT that these hours be shortened to become 6 a.m.

to 10 p.m. For further noise reduction, ECC is also asking WSDOT to explore reducing express lane speeds on the Ship Canal Bridge to 40 miles per hour before 7 a.m. and after 9 p.m., and to exclude trucks and motorcycles from the express lanes before 7 a.m. and after 9 p.m.

ECC is also seeking improved noise insulation on the bridge, and resumption of efforts to complete the noise walls. To be involved in these efforts, or to comment on them, contact ECC at info@eastlakeseattle.org or c/o Lake Union Mail, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle, WA 98102-3278 or call 206-322-5463.

(See also related article on page 8.)

Horse-drawn dog and cat ambulance that served a pet hospital near the intersection of Eastlake Avenue and E. Aloha Street.



The Eastlake Community Council appreciates the financial support of Bristol-Myers Squibb for preserving and promoting our neighborhood history. Patty Vandenburg in the company's ZymoGenetics division sent us this charming photo, taken in about 1910 near where ZymoGenetics is today (in the reused Lake Union Steam Plant originally built 1914-21). It's of a horse-drawn dog and cat ambulance that served a pet hospital near the intersection of Eastlake Avenue and E. Aloha Street. The lettering on the ambulance (unfortunately not visible in this photo, but visible in the original) says: "Dr. Geo. H. Yates Dog - Cat Hospital. Ambulance. 1322 Aloha St., 8 Eastlake Ave." Note the small dog sitting next to Dr. Yates. Photo is courtesy of the Pemco Webster and Stevens Collection, Museum of History and Industry, where you can purchase the photo (image no. 1983.10.7558).

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Field Guide to Eastlake Characters

by Diana Wurn



Official Name: Ben Howe

Nickname: "Car guy"

First Sighting: If you lived in Eastlake decades ago, you may have spotted a 15-year-old Ben Howe learning how to be a mechanic at his very first job at Ralli-Round Seattle on Fairview Avenue East. The shop opened in 1967 and is still in its original location. Howe worked off and on at Ralli-Round for ten years and then moved on to become a Toyota Master Diagnosis technician. Along the way he also worked at various shops including Mercedes and European specialty shops. He spent a lot of his time and money racing Alfa Romeos.

Local habitat: After testing the waters in construction and then a stint at a big dealership, Howe returned to Eastlake in 2003 and was able to buy the shop that first inspired his love of cars. Howe doesn't look up when I walk in. He's juggling bookkeeping on the computer and handling customers at the same time. He notes "sometimes it's rough" being a shop owner. The shop feels like



a small boathouse, and Howe says that's probably because it was originally built on a pier. According to the locals, he's been known to help out the community in a variety of ways; he helped the Eastlake Community Council greatly by watering native plants in pots for three summers until there was a place to plant them, and he was a big supporter of the Fairview reconstruction, even though his business lost parking places.

Favorite part of Eastlake: Howe likes the water, the diversity of the neighborhood and that we have great local hangouts like Serafina and Siam on Eastlake. He also loves how easy it is to get around by bicycle. Howe commutes from Shoreline on his custom-made road bike in the summer and can get to work in about 30 minutes.

Pet Peeves: As an Auto Master technician he says he's noticed an alarming trend. "Customers are being misinformed by new car manufacturers about when to change their oil. People are not getting their oil changed enough in new cars, and we're seeing the engines blow up." Failures occur when the car is out of warranty and are not covered by the manufacturer, he adds. Howe recommends an oil change in newer cars, with the "fancy" oil, at least every 5,000 miles no matter what the owner's manual says.

Help inventory Eastlake's trees, join the June 1 tree walk

The Eastlake tree project is assessing our neighborhood's trees--what trees do we have, how are they doing, and where could we use more? It's so easy to take trees for granted. Please join your neighbors and tree experts in a walk that gives trees our undivided attention. The walk is Saturday, June 1, 10 a.m. to noon, beginning at Roanoke street-end park (near the corner of Fairview and Roanoke).

Trees provide habitat for birds and other creatures, clean air, slope stability, shade, beauty, and noise insulation. They grace our public spaces, and can greatly increase the value of private property. Agencies are less likely to remove trees on public property if the neighborhood is aware and organized. Property owners are less likely to remove or damage a tree if they know more about it.

You can inventory trees on your property, your block, in a park, or anywhere else in the neighborhood. See the Eastlake Community Council web site, eastlakeseattle.org, for the inventory form and instructions, including books and web sites for help in identifying and measuring trees.

For questions about the June 1 tree walk, the tree inventory, or to get involved: info@eastlakeseattle.org or (206) 473-2849.

Eastlakers contribute to the University District Food Bank

During the recent holiday drive, Eastlake neighbors and friends generously donated 650 pounds of food and other needed items, plus \$200 in cash, to the University District Food Bank. A recent letter states, "On behalf of the University District Food Bank staff, the board of directors, our many community volunteers and the 1000 families that we help each week, thank you for your donations in December 2012." ECC thanks the Eastlake businesses who hosted neighborhood collection sites-Champagne Cruises, Lake Union Mail, Pete's Wine Shop, Ship Canal Grill, and the Washington State Employees Credit Union.

Your contributions will help the food bank continue to serve our neighbors in Northeast Seattle during 2013. Donations throughout the year can be made directly to the University District Food Bank, by mail to 4731 - 15th Avenue NE, Seattle WA 98105 or online at <http://www.udistrictfoodbank.org>.

Become an ECC Member and/or Make a Donation

The Eastlake Community Council is volunteer, so dues and donations go a long way, and your involvement is welcome and needed.

name(s) _____

street address or PO box _____

city, state, zip code _____

phone: _____

e-mail: _____

- Household Membership \$35
- Student / Senior / Low Income Membership \$10
- Business Membership \$75
- Donation \$_____

Today's date: _____

Please send this form with a check made out to ECC to:
ECC, 117 E. Louisa St. #1, Seattle, WA 98102-3278

Or you may join and pay by credit or debit card or just volunteer at <http://eastlakeseattle.org>

For questions: info@eastlakeseattle.org or (206) 322-5463.



Be a cornerstone for your community Volunteer!

We invite you to check off one or more interests (need not be a member or donor to volunteer):

- Help with web site, data base, social media, or video
- Art walk or public art
- Parks and open spaces
- Traffic and parking issues
- Bus/transit service
- Review building proposals or legislation
- Crime prevention or emergency preparedness
- Neighborhood history or photography
- Door-to-door newsletter distribution
- _____ (suggest something new!)

The Eastlake Community Council membership is open to all who live, work, or own property in Eastlake.